

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

PA-T3-2019-00001
1511 HWY 99 N

From: Michael Slowikowski <michaelslowikowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Planning Commission - Public Testimony <PC-public-testimony@ashland.or.us>
Subject: "July 28 PC Meeting Testimony"

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear city of Ashland planning commission and applicants .

I am writing to express my concerns about the safety of our city and its existing occupants including those of us in county land. I feel that your proposal to annex this long strip of county land is tearing yet another part of what I love about living at 1384 Frankhill Rd, a rare piece of rural county land where we still enjoy the pleasures of observing the many forms of nature in the oaks, the few pines spared by past fires, the animals that hunt each other and battle for territory in the buckbrush and tip over our trash cans. We curse them weekly, but living here with them and with minimal urban growth allows us a piece of mind. I worry that soon the city will absorb my neighborhood as well and to get across the highway, much less to work will be a daily feat of survival. I would also guess the property tax will increase beyond what is already increasingly tough to keep up with.

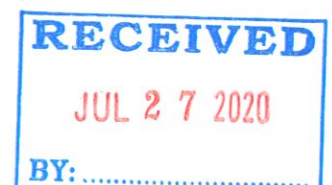
I feel that your proposal is taking a premature money-shot into the very uncertain future, and threatens to gouge at my habitat that I share here in county outskirts of Ashland with the creatures I love including my human neighbors.

I feel that you are jumping at this opportunity to make a few bucks for a few people and expanding the city limits, meanwhile downtown is turning into a ghost town. Businesses are shutting their doors after putting their years of love and service in our town, but someone will always come to replace that vacant space.

The only thing that has added to my piece of mind though these trying times since April when I started my work season doing botany surveys this year was the sudden lack of traffic as I drive for an hour to two hours to various pieces of BLM lands. This was the 1st time I have experienced being able to get in the north-bound lane with relative ease from the stop sign at the North Main intersection since the extra lane disappeared some years ago. It gave me the feeling I had when our family moved here in the summer of 1973. Like the "old" west, which is what attracted my Polish immigrant Dad, who fell in love with this special piece of country and the city of Ashland the second he laid eyes on it's beautiful valley.

Before the COVID crisis it was usually a long wait at that intersection and as cars accumulated and as the tense minutes ticked by, one would have to creep out into the middle divider area during the rare break in south-bound traffic just to wait while nervous north-bound vehicles speeded past like the inhabitants of a shook-up ant farm. Then you eventually find a break, pop the clutch feverish with adrenalin, angry and ready to start the day as we used to know it.

I'm sure my neighbors on Ashland mine, North Main, Frankhill Rd, Patrick Lane, Fox Street, Cedar Way would agree that our living area is maxed out and the road system is not adequate to support the amount of daily traffic as it is and are worried as I am that the 400, maybe 600 more

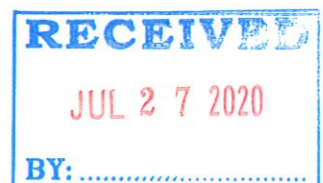


cars from this proposed development at 1511 Highway 99 will add a much larger element of danger to the morning/afternoon kaos that already is a problem at the North Main intersection for the existing residents trying to get to and from work each day, that is if we still have jobs to go to by then. And for the people who move into your new apartments, how can you project at this point and time if there will be a place for each of them to work, to contribute to a community that is presently falling apart. Take a look around at our town. Is there a place for them other than "staying safe", "staying inside" their new homes?

Thank you all for your time

Much love and hope

Michael Slowikowski



From: Michael Slowikowski <michaelslowikowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 03:52 PM
To: Derek Severson <derek.severson@ashland.or.us>
Subject: NW Ashland Apartments Proposal

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hello Derek,

I have been a resident of Ashland for 45 years, most of that time living at 1384 Frankhill Road , where I moved with my family in the summer of 1973. Now I live there as a single parent with my two teen-age sons, Alex and Soren. It has come to my attention that a residential development of 196 apartments is being proposed at 1511 Highway 99 North in Ashland, and there may be a route through N Main for the new residents.

That could potentially be 400+ more cars added to the morning/afternoon kaos that already is a problem at the intersection and for existing Ashland mine/N Main/Frankhill Rd/Fox/Cedar Way residents trying to get to the highway and then to and from work each day (w/little mention of increase in local population). I don't like the idea!

I can say as for now the traffic on 199, when I am trying to get to work in the morning, is over the amount the single lane can handle. I can guess the next step would be to re-expand to 2 lanes, because every morning that is the most dangerous part of my 1 to 2 hour commute to the various BLM Resource Areas where I work, just to get across the S-bound lane to the center divider area where I wait for a break in the N-bound lane. I believe one of the reasons for going to a single lane in the 1st place was partly to keep a quaint small town small and manageable.

We pay high and higher taxes each year to live here. If this goes through I will be pulling up stakes to seek greener pastures.

Please contact me with maps to the proposal area and corrections to any misconceptions I may have. I find it difficult navigating the city web page. I would also like to be informed the next time there will be a public hearing on the subject.

Thank you for your time

Respectfully, Michael Slowikowski

