

## Sophia Cassam

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**From:** Jim McNairy <jimmcnairy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 18, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Subject:** Support for Comp Plan Update, Section B, Element 6, Transportation

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### Support for Comprehensive Plan Update, Section B, Element 6, Transportation

Dear SJ County Council and Planning Commission,

On behalf of the **Old Military Road Trail Committee (OMRTC)** on San Juan Island, I'd like to give a ringing endorsement to several aspects of the Transportation Element (Section B, Element 6) of the 2036 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The OMRTC has been spearheading for several years a collaborative project on San Juan Island to create a cross-island multi-use recreational trail connecting the English Camp and American Camp Units of the San Juan Island National Historical Park. **There are a number of provisions in the Transportation Element that align with the OMRTC's vision. They are ...**

#### 6.2 General Transportation Goals and Policies

- 1.
- 2.
3. The Plan prioritizes the creation of separate walking and bicycle trails away from road right-of-ways,
4. both in and out of towns. This emphasis on safely keeping pedestrians and bicyclists away from vehicular traffic, where possible, is well placed. (6.2.A.5)
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Support for e-bikes, which are exploding in popularity and are an increasingly viable transportation
9. option for both commuting and recreational use.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
13. Promotion of bicycle connectivity across the island(s) through a combination of safe road right-of-way
14. side paths and private easements with landowners. This mix of side paths and private easements will be crucial for the OMRT project moving forward, as we look for creative ways to connect via trail already conserved publicly owned land between English and
15. American Camps.
- 16.

#### 6.2.B Transportation Financing Goals and Policies

- 1.

- 2.
3. Goal #4 has Public Works including funding for nonmotorized transportation projects in the road
4. fund budget in the County's 6-year TIP. This element will prove particularly useful as the Town of Friday Harbor and County look for a creative way to build a safe pedestrian and biking trail that will allow locals and visitors alike to walk/ride from the
5. Town of Friday Harbor to the Land Bank's Zylstra Lake Preserve. Once these trail users can safely walk/ride from Town to Zylstra Lake on a dedicated nonmotorized trail, they will then be able to access the OMRT and continue on towards English or American
6. Camps if they choose.
- 7.

## 6.5 Land Transportation Goals and Policies

- 1.
- 2.
3. Maintain a safe road system, while promoting diverse modes of transportation.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety through enhanced public education and outreach.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
11. Continue to implement the principles of the Complete Streets Program.
- 12.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly support the 2036 Comprehensive Plan Transportation Policies and Goals listed above, because of their aim to create safe, healthy recreational opportunities for islanders and visitors alike. By adopting policies that encourage the creation of dedicated pedestrian and bicycle trails, we're reducing the likelihood of tragic accidents between vehicles and pedestrians/bicyclists on our roadways, promoting healthy lifestyles, and perhaps taking a small step towards reducing our island's carbon footprint. It's a win-win-win any way you look at it.

Thank you.

Jim McNairy  
Co-Chair, Old Military Road Trail Committee  
Sponsored by San Juan Island Park & Rec