

To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Comment to post - Fairhaven Village Inn responds to street closure proposals.....



Fairhaven Village Inn responds to street closure proposals.....

Gene Shannon to: transportation, mccabejr, felixian, balten,
richardmsale

03/07/2012 11:13

klinville, Bradley Imus, Chuck Robinson, Connie Shannon, David
Moody, Don Keherer, Fred Haskell, Gene Shannon, Jody Finnegan,
Cc: John Hauter, John Servais, Michael Black, Patrick Uy, Bill Geyer,
Ralph Black, Robin Robertson, Stephanie Johnson, Steve Roguski,
Tina Schwindt, Troy Muljat, Phyllis McKee

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To Whom It May Concern:

Closing streets in the heart of Fairhaven is a really bad idea and further damages the Fairhaven Planning effort and the Bellingham Planning Department.

Notice to the transportation committee: We own the Fairhaven Village Inn and our guests and our other customers actually use these streets to get here.

Thousands of guests who stay at our hotel also spend money in the shops and restaurants in Fairhaven and beyond. If these streets are closed, so will many of Fairhaven's businesses.

For more than five years, the Fairhaven Business Community has been embroiled in a frustrating, time-wasting planning effort with the City of Bellingham. A sliver of light appeared a few weeks ago from the Planning Director in a letter that suggested a fresh start might be happening.

"Good", we all thought. "Maybe now a proper, professional plan for Fairhaven can be developed."

But then the Bellingham Transportation Committee meets and unveils a scheme to close the streets of four main blocks in the heart of Fairhaven and make them into pedestrian walkways.

All this, while there is still no parking plan for Fairhaven and the closing of streets idea wasn't discussed with Fairhaven businesses. Never.

The Bellingham Transportation Commission's website alludes to its purpose as 'long range' and "strategic planning." When out of the blue, the commission starts talking about street closures in Fairhaven, it is like saying the purpose of their strategic, long range plan is to destroy Fairhaven businesses

Gene and Connie Shannon

Owners, Fairhaven Village Inn LLC
