

PLEASE CIRCULATE:

Public Comment is Requested on Proposal for a Road Through Parkview Elementary School Playing Field and Cornwall Park

The City of Bellingham (COB) and St. Joseph Hospital are presenting to the community seven options for new road construction on or near the hospital campus.

Those options include constructing a road through the Parkview Elementary School Playground and through Cornwall Park, which would extend Cornwall Avenue to Squalicum Parkway.

In addition, they are considering connecting the Hospital and James Street Road east of I-5 (an additional option) by building an Orchard St. underpass. If the underpass and Cornwall Avenue extension are both built, it would create a major new traffic arterial that would parallel I-5.

These options would:

1. Take away from the children of Parkview Elementary their only playing field. This would reduce the school site to about 5 acres, about half of current Washington State guidelines for new elementary schools.
2. Place a major road directly next to Parkview Elementary.
3. Cut the children off from access to Cornwall Park.
4. Place a road through Cornwall Park, which is a legacy park and the only significant park on the north side of Bellingham.
5. Put a road through a wetland.
6. Expose the entirety of Cornwall Park to possible ownership reversion to the heirs of the family that gifted the land to the city.
7. Split the Cornwall Park Neighborhood in two, by create and channeling traffic through a new traffic arterial down the center of our neighborhood.

These and other options will be unveiled at the second public meeting held by St. Joseph Hospital concerning the Hospital's expansion plans:

Thursday, December 15, 2005

St. Luke's Education Center (formerly Elks), 3333 Squalicum Parkway

Meeting – 7 to 9 p.m. -- Formal presentation & public comment.

Open House 5 to 7 p.m. -- View displays of options & give feedback.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!

Please attend Dec. 15 meeting, and/or e-mail St. Joseph Hospital spokesperson Sue Sharpe: suesharpe@msn.com and copy e-mails to Bellingham Public Works Director Richard McKinley: rmckinley@cob.org, and also copy John McGarrity, chair of Cornwall Park Neighborhood Association: cornwallparkna@gmail.com

For further information, contact Cornwall Park Neighborhood Association, which opposes extending Cornwall Ave.: cornwallparkna@gmail.com, or 738-9695.