Archived: Monday, June 1, 2020 4:11:06 PM
From: webmaster@shorelinewa.gov
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 3:58:42 PM
To: agenda comments; Mark Apolinar
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Comments
Sensitivity: Normal

A new entry to a form/survey has been submitted.

Form Name:	Comment on Agenda Items
Date & Time:	06/01/2020 3:58 pm
Response #:	547
Submitter ID:	35054
IP address:	2601:602:8b80:2b10:7de9:45ee:27f4:7bed
Time to complete:	4 min. , 17 sec.

Survey Details: Answers Only

Page 1

1. Rebecca Jones

2. Shoreline

3. (○) Meridian Park

4. hello@rebjones.com

5. 06/01/2020

6. Report 9a-8

7. June 1, 2020
To the Shoreline City Council
RE: The 148th St Non-Motorized Bridge

I am Rebecca Jones with Save Shoreline Trees to voice my concerns about the execution of the 148th St Non-Motorized Bridge and the impact it will have on our large significant trees.

In my short time (the last 3 months) reviewing the city's track record of /or allowing others to cut down large significant trees, I have been shocked at the rate that we, as citizens, are losing these assets to our community. In the 2019 posted urban forest plan (page 6), the City of Shoreline recognizes that our urban forest is degrading. We don't have the trees to spare if we are to even maintain our urban forest as it is today.

Shoreline's urban forest is important to all of us as citizens but also is a regional responsibility to maintain and cultivate. In the PNW we are part of a carbon sink and Shoreline's significant trees contribute. Living here implies a responsibility to uphold this for our citizens and our region.

Carbon sinks are areas or trees that take in more carbon than they release. What trees are good carbon sinks? Well, our trees are. Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock and Western Red Cedar to name a few. Large established trees continue to grow at a steady rate, contrary to what one might think. These trees become powerhouses at storing carbon dioxide as they mature. They store 70% of the carbon they are able to in the last half of their natural life. In other words, the benefits these trees provide increase in rate as they mature.

By taking away these net-gain natural assets from citizens, an implied trust is being broken.

What do I mean that an implied trust is broken?
Citizens expect large trees to stay in their communities. Citizens also expect that if a tree is removed that there is a) a good

reason (has lived it's natural life, could fall), b) there will be equitable replacements, c) won't impact their property values and health.

If we look at the big picture, compromising our large trees with each project is landing us in a position of death by 1,000 cuts and we aren't going to notice the impact until it's too late. I implore you to see how each of these large trees are an important net-gain asset to our community. As responsible adults we need to pivot and think of new ways to work on projects that keep all of our large established trees. I believe strongly in the good intentions of this council and the creativity that project leaders can bring to the table to ensure that this can be done.

Using a "get out of my way" approach in regard to our large established trees is outdated and out of touch for the reality of our times. It shows a lack of consideration of the impact on our city and our citizens.
Money and the current trade-offs for removing one large established tree are not equitable to the loss of the tree.

To immediately replace the CO2 offset the annual impact of one 30" (in circumference) Douglas Fir you would need to plant 13 5" (in circumference) Douglas Fir Trees. 1 This doesn't take into account that younger trees aren't offsetting carbon dioxide at the same rate as a large more mature tree. These trees provide so much more in benefits than just being Carbon Sinks but even for just this reason, it's clear that it makes more sense to keep our large established trees.

Again, I am urging this council and project leaders to think creatively, try new approaches and pivot to keep our large established trees while still completing projects. It can be done! I believe in your ability to come up with solutions, your ability to innovate and be a thought-leader in building alongside our large established trees.

Thank you for your time,

Rebecca Jones

1: To immediately replace the CO2 offset the annual impact of one 30" Douglas Fir (580 lbs) you would need to plant 13 5" Douglas Fir Trees (45 pounds CO2 each per year) 45 lbs x 13 = 585 lbs. Does the city have the space or intention maintain 13 more trees? This doesn't take into account that younger trees aren't offsetting carbon dioxide at the same rate as a large more mature tree.

8. (○) Oppose

Thank you,
City of Shoreline
