

From: [Olivia Sontag](#)
To: [Lara Lant](#)
Subject: FW: the bloedel project
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 6:55:16 AM

Hi Lara,

Would you mind adding this to the comments for Bloedel? Thanks!

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-----Original Message-----

From: joanna church [<mailto:joanna88bi@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2017 10:14 PM
To: Olivia Sontag <osontag@bainbridgewa.gov>
Cc: Bloedel Reserve <emoydell@bloedelreserve.org>
Subject: the bloedel project

When we moved to our home in 2005, Bloedel was a quiet garden with very limited parking and they limited the number of visitors so that one's experience was without a lot of "company" on the paths. They have changed a lot in the 12 years.....they have increased the number of parking spaces and encouraged tour buses and others to visit. I understand that this is good for the organization - what it is doing (and they do have more plans for the property that have not been addressed in the current plans) has changed and will change even more.

The Agate Point area has many homes; it has one (only one) access road to the highway; it has eight feeder roads into the main access road (Agatewood Road). Agatewood and Dolphin are the two roads used by Bloedel visitors. Both are narrow, with no shoulders, hills, and tall trees lining most of the way....this makes it dark and difficult to see walkers, joggers, dog walkers, bike riders. It is an unsafe mix to add the number of cars and buses that now service Bloedel during the day and night.

It was with considerable dismay that we looked at the plans for the proposed entry enhancements. Yes, it will help Bloedel; no, it will not ameliorate any of the traffic concerns that we, as residents of Agate Point Road, have. In fact, the plans will add to the problem and actually add to the possibility of accidents. The proposed exit road will interfere with Agate Point incoming cars — we have a left curve/turn to access Agate Point from Dolphin.....the curve/turn is close to the proposed exit from Bloedel... the exiting traffic has no direct view of the incoming from-the-curve traffic. Experience with this proposed public exit was recent - the construction company building the new parking area used this road for ingress and egress. There were documented close calls when the trucks just pulled out without checking for southbound traffic. I'm also concerned about being able to access Agate Point Road after a major event with cars exiting one by one in a steady stream.

Another concern is the bus stop used by Bloedel visitors - the bus stop is on Dolphin - very close to the curve/turn....and the bus stops in the road because there is no shoulder (it's a narrow road). With the new direction of Bloedel - to encourage as many visitors as they can get - this bus makes a lot of stops - to bring people and to pick up people. It would be a much better arrangement to have the bus stop inside the gate of Bloedel to keep the road clear. The current location blocks traffic with no safe way to pass due to the curve. (And the bus is as wide as the traffic lane.)

There are few instances when cars waiting to enter Bloedel have blocked traffic for historic lengths of time; when there are a lot of cars waiting for entry, they also block the road....I'm not sure about what is going to happen to the property where the Wildlife Center sits.....that would be an ideal location for an access-to-Bloedel road.

The other major problem is the egress from Agatewood Road to Highway 305. When there is a large crowd of visitors leaving an event, there are long waits at the intersection of the highway and Agatewood Road. Visitors are not aware of or are afraid to use the slot in the road to wait for southbound cars to pass....so they sit and wait till there are no cars coming from either direction before driving out. Actually, I have been told by workers at Bloedel that that is exactly what they tell visitors - wait until it's totally clear. So the wait to get out can run over 10 minutes depending on the number of cars at a time.

With the buses and the growing number of visitors arriving by car, especially for the special events, we think that some serious consideration should be given to having an exit at a different location - one that would connect to West Port Madison Road. And that leads to the next suggestion: Bloedel and the community of Agate Point organize and present a comprehensive plan to the city of Bainbridge Island and to the Highway Department for a traffic signal at the intersection of West Port Madison Road and Seabold. Perhaps this connecting road could also be used by the community to bypass the highway when traffic is blocked at the bridge...it would give us another access road to the community.