

From: [Greg Thies](#)
To: [PCD](#)
Subject: Comments on Bloedel Reserve permit at Dolphin Drive/Agate Point Road
Date: Friday, August 04, 2017 10:51:18 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

The following comments concern Bloedel Reserve's current application to add an exit driveway from the Reserve's new parking area to Agate Point Road NE, perhaps 150 feet north of Dolphin Drive NE. I understand that Bloedel Reserve wants to convert its current combined entrance/exit at Dolphin Drive/Agate Point Road to an entrance only and route exiting traffic to the proposed new exit near its north property line onto Agate Point Road.

My wife and I have lived on Agatewood Road NE north of Dolphin Drive since 1990 and during that time have seen motor vehicle traffic increase on Agatewood Road, Dolphin Drive, Agate Pass Road and Agate Point Road, with most of the increased traffic evident on Agatewood Road between SR 305 and Dolphin and from Agatewood to Bloedel Reserve on Dolphin Drive. The increased traffic appears to stem to some extent from population growth in the Agate Loop area and, to a greater degree, from increasing popularity of Bloedel Reserve.

We attended a meeting about the proposed exit driveway at Bloedel Reserve on August 1, 2017 that was attended by a few fellow residents of the Agate loop area as well as persons associated with Bloedel Reserve. My wife and I frequently exercise by walking from Agatewood Road along Dolphin Drive and around the loop formed by Agate Pass Road and Agate Point Road and back home, so we are familiar with some of the traffic impacts caused by visitors to Bloedel Reserve. One issue we have seen is cars backed up from the current Bloedel Reserve entrance gate onto Dolphin Drive, creating a traffic obstruction. Note that the current gate is located rather close to the Dolphin/Agate Point Road intersection. One of our fellow Agate loop residents at the August 1, 2017 meeting proposed that Bloedel Reserve consider changing the proposed exit along the north property line into the entrance to Bloedel Reserve, with a gate set far enough east that cars waiting to enter the parking lot would not back up onto Agate Point Road. The neighbor proposed that the current combined entrance/exit be converted into an exit only. I believe that the neighbor's proposal has merit and should be considered by the City and by Bloedel Reserve.

Increased vehicle traffic from SR 305 to Bloedel Reserve adversely affects pedestrian traffic, with the most impact along Agatewood Road from SR 305 to Dolphin and along Dolphin Drive to Bloedel, primarily because the absence of walkable road shoulders causes pedestrians to walk in the paved traffic lane. Small hills along Agatewood and Dolphin cause limited sight-distance for drivers and pedestrians who may be walking in the traffic lane. Given the growth

in vehicle traffic in the Agate Point area, I would like to encourage the City to expedite implementing multi-modal transportation improvements along the Agate loop roads. As you may be aware, the entire Agate loop from the SR305/Agatewood intersection to Dolphin and around Agate Pass Road and Agate Point Road are part of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan's COBI Core 40 calling for 3 to 5 feet of gravel or pavement shoulders on both sides of the roads. I believe that better separation of pedestrians and vehicles will help mitigate the impact of increasing vehicular traffic on these roads.

The current entrance/exit to Bloedel Reserve is downhill at a point where there is a 90 degree turn from Dolphin Drive to Agate Point Road. This hill is sometimes icy in winter. Currently speed limits on Agate loop are 35 mph, though a short distance west and north of the Dolphin/Agate Point Road turn, there are COBI signs indicating 15 mph for the 90 degree turn. As part of its permit consideration, I request that the City consider whether any additional measures are needed to improve safety in the vicinity of current and proposed ingress to and egress from Bloedel Reserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

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