Local warming trends in the climate are causing us to lose what generations before us have enjoyed – cool nights and colder winters, generous snows to feed local rivers and lakes, green forests and world-class fisheries. Rising temperatures would **extinguish** what we love about living here. Coeur d'Alene would become merely a name on a map; a **house**, if you will, no longer a **home** we love. While changes in the Seltice Way project won't stop climate change, we offer the following comments to help mitigate its effects and improve the quality of life.

Since transportation is the #1 driver of local and statewide climate change[1], we need a revolution in its design and application, to provide viable alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle.

Our group emphasizes these 5 points in the Seltice Way project:

- Fully consider all users in its design (pedestrians, bicyclist, transit users, as well as those in vehicles)
- Safety, convenience and access, to encourage multi-modal transportation
- Reduced speeds – keep the speed limit to 35 mph along Seltice
- Reduced auto congestion and idle times
- Multiple access points to the Centennial Trail and Spokane River

Reduced speeds will allow for safe use along Seltice Way. People will not ride a bicycle or walk if auto traffic is going too fast, or is too close. Buffered bike lanes, with only two feet separating bicyclists from motorists, is not nearly enough space for bicyclists or walkers to feel safe. If the travel lane width for auto traffic was reduced from 14' to 10' (as recommended by the Federal Highway Administration), the additional four feet, along with a vertical element every few feet, would not only encourage greater bicycle and pedestrian traffic, reduce congestion and hopefully vehicle idle times, but also help to keep auto speeds down.

If adopted, we believe our design changes would reduce auto-bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities and encourage people to engage in more "active transportation" (bicycling and walking), with multiple health benefits (studies note a decrease in obesity and asthma rates among bicyclists and walkers). A greater sense of community could be encouraged as well, riding or walking, rather than speeding by in a vehicle.

These design changes could also facilitate additional business opportunities to spring up along the route, as people are more likely to stop, shop and visit with each other when biking or walking, rather than speeding by. Finally, with this in mind, we recommend the Seltice Way project facilitate multiple access points to the Centennial Trail and the Spokane River, two nearby natural areas.

ADDENDUM: Coeur d'Alene's average temperature has increased the **fourth** highest of the 121 weather stations in the Pacific Northwest, from 1895-2014. Low temperatures have increased even more – the **second** highest increase in the Northwest during that time span, an average of .42°F/decade.[2]

And the future looks worse, unless we make significant changes, specifically with transportation. A 2010 climate change study of temperatures over the Rathdrum Prairie-Spokane Valley aquifer over the next 50 years, conducted as part of the state's Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning (CAMP) process, projected temperature increases of .56°F-.76°F/decade between 2010 and 2060.[3] At that rate of increase, by 2100, temperatures would be 5°F-6.8°F higher than 2010. We would be living in an arid climate (think Lewiston or Boise), not temperate.

Burning one gallon of gasoline puts ~ 20 lbs. of CO_2 into the atmosphere.[4] Carbon dioxide is a heat-trapping gas. Considering how many tons of coal, oil and natural gas is burned worldwide every year, the amount of CO_2 emitted worldwide is staggering: 36 billion tons in 2014.[5] And that amount is added to the previous years' concentrations. That CO_2 sticks around for "at least hundreds of years" in the atmosphere, acting like a blanket, holding in heat.[6]

We hope these comments are helpful to the design team and will be seriously considered.

Sincerely,

Bill Irving, president
Climate Action CdA, a program of
Kootenai Environmental Alliance

References

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