

November 16, 2020

Dear Deschutes County Commissioners:

Thank you for giving me the chance to speak about the County Road Department's Hunnell Road improvement project. First, on behalf of the Hunnell United Neighbors (HUNS), I'd like to thank Chris Doty and Cody Smith for working with us on the design of the project they hope to undertake, and for hearing our concerns and incorporating our suggestions in their design. We base our comments on Deschutes County's Transportation System Plan 2010-2030.

The HUNs represent more than 180 residents of an area that encompasses Hunnell Rd. We question the designation of Hunnell Rd. as a "Collector" and the justification for this costly improvement project. Recently, HUNS members responded to an on-line survey regarding the project. They were unanimous that this is not an "improvement". HUNs residents are very happy with the present state of Hunnell Rd. and have serious concerns about the dramatic increase in traffic that it would generate and the use of tax payer's funds to implement it. This "improvement" poses a real threat to safety and livability of our area and we see very little "return on investment" of tax payer's dollars.

Before any work begins, Hunnell's designation as a collector should be changed to local road. It serves a very limited number of properties that generate very low traffic volumes. The County has never carried out traffic volume measurements on Hunnell Rd. though it's required to do so every four (4) years. We've measured Average Daily Traffic (ADT). It averages 100 vehicles, a very low ADT normally observed only on local roads, not collectors.

We reviewed Table 4.2.TI page 134 of the County's TSP. In the list of public meetings, we found no mention of public involvement prior to that designation. Residents of Hunnell Rd. and the residential properties immediately surrounding the area were never notified or asked if they agreed with the designation. If public meetings to discuss this had previously occurred, they'd have revealed strong opposition to a collector designation and/or to any improvement of Hunnell Rd.

The HUNS also question whether this project is justified. We've studied the County's approval process used to determine road building and improvements. On page 163 of the TSP paragraph 4.2, it's stated "Deschutes County shall not add any miles of new arterials or collectors to the system unless the following issues are satisfied:

- a. The need for the road can be clearly demonstrated.
- b. The county can financially absorb additional maintenance requirements.

The very low ADT we've measured does not justify an improvement to Hunnell Rd. Funding of roads in Deschutes County was dramatically reduced due to improved