

Mr. Gasawski,

I am writing in response to the recent County approval of the SEPA for the proposed Easton Travel Center. I have reviewed the SEPA documents and have a variety of "common sense" concerns as part of the public comment process.

Projects similar to this proposal have regularly been defeated on appeal by the community and yet again the County appears to be "rubber stamping" the SEPA phase of this proposal. It makes no sense that the County would not publish or otherwise explain how this proposal differs from the previous attempts to gain approval and again place the burden on the community to prove that the studies and explanations submitted by the applicant are either incomplete, outdated or misrepresented. I refer you to the hydraulic analysis and traffic study as two areas that would have severe impacts to those living in and around the greater Easton area if common sense is applied.

Additionally, I have concerns regarding commercial vehicle traffic creating hazardous conditions that could impact the health and safety of residents and visitors to the area. The upper county valley is a narrow corridor that contains the headwaters to the Yakima River and its tributaries as well as Lake Easton State Park, Lake Kachess, and an aquifer that supplies drinking water to the residents and visitors. The potential for contamination to these bodies of water is exponentially increased with a facility of this type located on this parcel. Containment of hazardous materials is not practically addressed by oil/water separation and/or other containment measures. Leaks of hazardous materials during transport are not uncommon, and the risk of an area wide release during a commercial vehicle fire can have long-term impacts to both air quality and groundwater contamination. This does not include the potential of a commercial vehicle fire also causing an area wide conflagration in what is already considered to be high risk for wildfires making homeowners insurance rates increase exponentially over the last decade, if you can get insurance.

Another concern is the local access, both daily and in the event of an emergency. East and West Sparks Road are the only means of egress to I-90 and/or Railroad Street. Both are designated as evacuation routes. Both should be open and available for use by the taxpayers. A single disabled commercial vehicle can paralyze the traffic flow at the proposed ingress and egress areas of the Travel Center. Proof of this is routinely observed several times a year by the residents and visitors to the area. This is a particular problem during the Winter months when I-90 closures and chain up requirements for commercial vehicles are implemented. With the potential addition of residents and visitors at the Marian Meadows project and the potential for additional full-time and part-time residents, the access issue will only get worse over the next decade. None of these impacts are addressed and will likely put the County in the undesirable position of having to fund and manage future road improvements.

Regarding snow, I was unable to find any reference to a detailed snow removal and storage plan. Facilities of this type will be removing snow contaminated with petroleum-based products, or worse, hazardous products from leaking trucks and cargo containers. If the snow is not treated as runoff and stored on impervious surfaces with proper best management practices, the potential for groundwater contamination is greatly increased. I fail to see where adequate storage exists on the site plan.

In summary, Easton is a rural, recreational community where people live for access to all the opportunities it provides. Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, biking, snow sports, swimming, and boating as well as the clean air and water it provides are a few examples. The recent Easton sub-area plan developed in conjunction with the County Comprehensive plan update represents these principles and the community's commitment to maintaining these core values.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Gerber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannon Gerber
Easton Resident