

Andrea - Deputy Clerk

From: Maria DeGoede - La Conner Finance Director <financedirector@townoflaconner.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Andrea Moore
Subject: FW: Thinking "Outside of the Box"

Maria De Goede
Finance Director

Town of La Conner
PO Box 400
La Conner, WA 98257
Phone: 360.466.3125
E-mail: financedirector@townoflaconner.org
Web Site: <http://www.laconner.net>

From: L Clark [mailto:k9walkerwa113@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 8:27 AM
To: Maria DeGoede - La Conner Finance Director
Cc: council_1@townoflaconner.org; council_2@townoflaconner.org; council_3@townoflaconner.org; council_4@townoflaconner.org; council_5@townoflaconner.org
Subject: Thinking "Outside of the Box"

Linda Clark
(360) 391-1431

October 13, 2022

Town of La Conner
Town Planning Commission
Town Council Members

Re: Thinking Outside of the Box

Dear Town of La Conner:

I love this town. Thinking about it the thing I love most is its walkability. Unfortunately, due to very poor planning decisions in the past two years the walkability of La Conner is becoming jeopardized to a major extent.

Thus, it is time to start thinking outside of the box.

The Town has proved its inability to curb speeding in and around town for at least the past 7 years. Looking at past town council minutes confirms the frustration experienced by members of the population in general, but especially those who live along Maple Avenue and Third Street (from Morris Street to the marina). This becomes especially concerning with the Port's desire to expand.

Here's an idea, why not make the Town of La Conner a "golf cart community". There can be exceptions, e.g. for those who already own homes in the community. But otherwise, anyone who visits within the borders of La Conner should be required to use a golf cart.

Here are some ideas:

- The town or a private citizen secures funding to purchase a fleet of golf carts which can be used as a profit-making scenario for the town through rental fees. There are already apps available for bikes and scooters in major cities. There isn't any reason those apps couldn't be adapted for use of a golf cart. The technology allows for scanning of driver licenses if the town so desires, but there are other communities which allow for drivers as young as 12 years old on vehicles such as ATVs or side-by-sides as long as they obey the rules of the road. Often times in these communities the kids use ATVs or side-by-sides as transportation to school.
- Purchase a parcel of property near the bridge as a staging lot for golf carts. In other words (I know this is not a popular idea), but use it for a parking lot so that people living in Shelter Bay, the Swinomish Reservation, Anacortes (etc.) can park their cars and then use a community-provided golf cart rental to come into town. (If I am correct, the newly purchased Jenson property is in this exact area)
- Prevent any traffic from the Rainbow Bridge side (unless golf carts). This would mean that anyone wanting to travel to Anacortes, Mount Vernon, Burlington, (etc.) who live on the Swinomish Reservation side of Rainbow Bridge would need to use Reservation Road (especially the logging trucks). This merely adds a few minutes to a person's trip. If someone from Shelter Bay or the reservation side wants to come into town they can use the aforementioned staging lot and golf carts.
- Require the port to purchase some of the farm land abutting the town to create an artery specifically usable to travel from La Conner Whitney Road to the marina. This seems more necessary as Mavrik Marine builds bigger and bigger boats. This would eliminate nearly all of the marina traffic whose employees seem to find it necessary to speed through town on their way to their jobs.
- Create a permit system so that GRANDFATHERED homeowners within La Conner can properly identify their vehicles. Limiting the number of permits per home to two. **Any new home buyers would need to purchase their homes understanding they will be required to utilize the golf cart system.**
- Turn First Street into a golf cart only street.
- Purchase a portion of the land at the round-about to turn into a staging lot for visitors coming from Seattle, Mount Vernon, Burlington (etc.)
- Since the speed limits in La Conner are already 25 mph and should be enforced as such, gas-powered vehicles and golf carts should not interfere with each other.

The different types of golf carts are innumerable:

- Shuttles holding up to 8 passengers
- Single family holding up to 4 passengers with enclosed bodies allowing for A/C and heat
- Single family holding two passengers with enclosed bodies
- And, of course, traditional two or four passenger styles

These are just a few ideas to get you thinking “outside of the box”. As I come up with further information, of course, I will provide it.

Best regards,

Linda Clark