

From: Cherry Amabisca
13260 NW Bishop Road
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Date: October 20, 2011

To: Metro Council President and Councilors

Re: **NO UGB expansion** *this cycle*

Dear President Hughes and Councilors:

You may not have noticed, but in your packet for the past few weeks, at the very end, is a set of maps submitted by the City of Hillsboro for alternatives for the UGB for industrial use. If you look closely at these maps (and I only included one for reference), you can see why many of us are concerned about Hillsboro's rush to plan new roads not only through urban reserves (which have had no concept plans completed) but also through rural reserves.

You can see on the south side of the Sunset, new arterials spanning the urban reserves from Brookwood Road all the way west to Jackson School Road. Another new arterial goes north, crossing the Sunset up to West Union Road. On the north side of the freeway, this new arterial goes through rural reserve land north to West Union Road. And a new collector road goes from Helvetia Road all the way west to Jackson School Road, cutting straight through urban reserves and rural reserves. Another new collector is north of West Union Road, in rural reserve lands.

We get concerned because first we see a line on the map. That line becomes an expectation that turns into a TIGER grant which becomes a funded road, all before concept planning and citizen involvement occur. These lines lead to expectations about where urbanization will occur. Then, once they are built, it justifies urbanization, "Well, we already invested in the infrastructure, we need to urbanize this farmland." These roads through urban reserves and rural reserves are not just lines on a map drawn in by a traffic engineer - they lead to expectations about where the city wants urbanization to occur. They create a domino effect: speculators are poised, farmers feel pressured, and a defacto urbanization accelerates as farmers realize their land will be carved up for roads.

It is this kind of premature planning that makes citizens skeptical about the intentions of their governments. Based on these partial maps, the City of Hillsboro has been busy carving up farmland both in urban reserves and rural reserves - how much more have they planned that they have not shared with citizens? Why are they jumping the gun and planning new roads before involving citizens in concept planning?

On another matter, I'd like to invite you and the members of the audience to attend a screening of a documentary about one of Helvetia's century farms, the Gates farm. Pam and Spencer are 4th generation farmers of their 309-acre farm and Spencer is a descendent of Joe Meek. You have seen them testify before you in favor of rural reserves. They have been filmed for the past year by a filmmaker from Northwest Filmmakers as the urban and rural reserves process has played out, putting their 125-year-old farm under the threat of urbanization. It is a free screening, open to the public, starting at 6:00 p.m. with a reception for the filmmakers and at 7:00 p.m. with the screening. We hope to see you there!