Tom Reynolds

I am a 78 year-old man who regularly walks the Heritage Park trail either round the lake or up the switch back trail up to the Capitol campus. I walk once ot twice a week and when I walk I park at the Marathon Park parking lot. It is my favorite place to walk in the city. There is no other large parking lot around the Heritage Park/Marathon Park area. (There is a small lot next to 5th Ave on the north side of the lake. This lot has spaces for between 8-10 cars).

I have been monitoring the development of this project since we moved to Olympia in December of 2022,and I joined two Zoom information sessions organized by Enterprise Services where folks were encouraged to put forward ideas on use of the park area an trail in the future. Many folks, like me, spoke about the important of keeping access to the trail open as much as possible. We were given very few specifics about what was actually planned; although we were told that the bridge from the Marathon Park parking area would need to be rebuilt and we knew that access from the parking area would be closed during the rebuild.

On October 29, I attended the Department of Ecology hearing on the final draft of project design with timelines and many more details. I was completely shocked to hear that the plan envisions closing Deschutes parkway for 6 or 7 years, and with it all access to the park trail from the Marathon Park parking area. This could well limit my access to the park trail, possibly for the rest of my life.

Please reconsider the closure of Deschutes Parkway for such an extensive period.

The hearing I went to on the 29th was poorly attended, and I wonder how many folks who regularly use the trail, especially those who are over 50, know what is actually planned. I also wonder what the City of Olympia thinks about this closure, and what the impact will be on traffic flowing to and from central Olympia and west Olympia. There was a comment at the hearing that trucks working at the project will cause considerable noise and possible air quality issues. But no specfics were given. I plan to ask my council rep what the city thinks the impact of closing Deschutes Parkway for 6-7 years will have on traffic and congestion in Olympia.