

Is completion of San Juan Boulevard good or bad for Samish & Puget Neighborhoods?

This seemingly simple question has lots of moving parts. The answer is likely to be different if you are, say, a real estate developer, a driver who hates heavy traffic on Lakeway Drive, a city planner, or a Samish or Puget neighbor who doesn't think the residential street in front of his or her house can handle heavier traffic.

Maybe you're not sure how you would answer this question. Maybe you would like more information on the history and current events surrounding San Juan Boulevard. Maybe you're sure of your answer but need some details filled in. If so, come to an informational meeting on Thursday, May 16, sponsored by the Samish Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. We'll have some of your fellow neighbors provide some historical and current context about how and when the San Juan Boulevard concept originated, what's happened since then, and where it sits right now.

There is a Comprehensive Plan amendment proposal docketed for review by the city in a Type VI process which, whether accepted or not, will impact the future of Samish Neighborhood. The board has not taken a firm position on San Juan Boulevard. In our effort to represent the consensus of our neighborhood we welcome your comments and questions. Please understand that we won't have all the answers. Some answers are unknowable at present. One such unknowable is: How will traffic from unplanned (for now) extensive new housing development along the top of Samish Hill get into downtown or Fairhaven and back home again? Another is: Does the city still believe, as it did in the 1990s, that a direct road connecting Yew Street and Samish Way is needed to accommodate growth and relieve traffic on Lakeway Drive?

If you're interested in these issues please join us on May 16, 7-9 PM at Carl Cozier Elementary School* at the corner of Lincoln & Lakeway.

The idea for the San Juan Boulevard Project is at least twenty-five years old and was originally proposed by the city as a Yew Street/Samish Way connector. This old map illustrates the original concept.



*This facility use is in no way connected to or reflective of the mission or beliefs of the Bellingham School District.