

Bridge Congestion Options Offered
Itemizer-Observer
01-24-07

Traffic congestion causes agitation.

In turn that can result not only in road rage, but also domestic violence as a ripple effect.

Our urban planners need to take this into account when it comes to the horrendous backup of traffic almost daily on the Marion Street Bridge.

That bridge was built during the 1960s for peak traffic of 65,000 and now handles 100,000 vehicles daily. With the infusion of new homes in West Salem and vicinity, that crunch gets only more intense. The only winners are tow-truck companies and morticians.

One short-term alternative is to have Paterson Street made into "State Route 221A" and then extended between Glen Creek Road and Seventh Street.

This would let traffic to flow directly to Edgewater and completely bypass Wallace Road.

Another possibility would be to allow the empty railroad bridge to have a reversible express bus lane from West Salem into downtown, thereby not getting caught up in the Marion Street Bridge congestion.

This last idea can be coupled with a city parkade in Wallace Marine Park.

If Itemizer readers are sufficiently concerned, they can help make this happen.

B. Lee Coyne
West Salem

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