

Judy Fleagle – Public Comment  
October 26, 2020

“Peggy, I am sharing the letter I wrote to the newspaper and they printed regarding decorating the Bridge Steps. I tried going to the Webinar register number printed in the paper but my computer would just tell me the Internet was not working, yet I could get email. So I’m forwarding to you. Hope that’s okay! Reason, there’s a PAC Meeting today. I saw an article about it in the paper Saturday.”

Judy Fleagle’s Opinion piece shared in October 14 Siuslaw News:

### **Against decorating bridge steps**

I read in the Sept. 16 edition of the Siuslaw News that the bridge steps art project is being resurrected. The idea is to turn the steps leading between Old Town and the bridge into an art installation. Making them “a canvas” on which to create art, making them “eye-catching and interactive”

A “wow’ experience.

First of all, I’m against decorating them. While they may not be technically a part of the bridge and not protected from decoration as the bridge is through its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, they are considered a part of the bridge. To everyone they are the bridge steps.

At the top, within only a few feet, is fast moving traffic. The stop sign located right there says 30 mph and traffic is moving faster. An art installation attracts and invites usage of all ages. I would worry about old folks being distracted by art underfoot and stumbling and falling.

And of children charging up the steps into traffic. I think safety is a good reason to be against this “interactive art installation.”

I have stumbled on these steps when climbing them at dusk. So I am for putting the money into better lighting and better landscaping around them. Keep them swept and weeded and replace the center railing — but don’t decorate them.

Because of the two books I’ve written on the historic coastal bridges and the fact that many people refer to me as “The Bridge Lady of the Oregon Coast,” I feel I have to speak up.

—Judy Fleagle, Florence