

Marin Independent Journal

Spotswood should listen to other planners

Once again, IJ columnist Dick Spotswood has presented himself as the foremost authority on transportation systems.

Just where does he get his data that says the housing near transit, shops and services doesn't reduce trips in suburbia? Is he still reading Randal O'Toole, from the Koch Brothers-funded Cato Institute?

Maybe he should read architect Ellen Dunham-Jones, who has actual credentials in the field. Her book, "Retrofitting Suburbia," talks about redeveloping dead shopping malls, reinhabiting big-box stores and regreening paved over areas.

He could Google the hundreds of projects that are already on the ground in suburban areas across the country, where they have put in train systems, improved walkability, provided connected bike routes — all resulting in reduced trips.

Or maybe he can just look in our own backyard of San Rafael where there are a number of affordable apartments where the residents have only one car or no car at all, and generate far fewer trips than the average single-family home.

— *Wendi Kallins, Forest Knolls*