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From: cvm <cvanmaren@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 11:35 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Spending on anti-climate action #25-0240

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I am writing about some fairly big expenditures the city is considering that seem to ignore that we have an ever-worsening climate crisis and dozens of climate action steps waiting to be accomplished as quickly as possible. I am specifically thinking of the air service fund and the budgeted marina.

One of the top goals in our Climate Action Plan is reducing community vehicle miles traveled to cut down on transportation emissions, one of the top drivers of global warming. To do this, we need to quit funding and encouraging high-carbon travel (cars and planes) and start prioritizing low-carbon travel – buses, trains, and bikes. A major step to reach our VMT reduction goals is getting more people to ride public transit, but we cannot wish our way to more transit ridership. There must be improvements to schedules, frequency, and routes and it doesn't look like the new regime in Washington is planning to help pay for it. How could the airline fund money and the marina money be better spent to expand transit?

It seems like we spent a good amount of money and community effort to create very good and comprehensive plans, but then we don't do all we can and depend upon grants to make the plans work. That's not going to cut it, I fear.

The airline money would actually take us backward in reducing dangerous emissions. Wouldn't it be better to promote non-air travel, improve public transit access to the Amtrak station, and promote bus and train travel to larger air hubs in Minneapolis and Chicago?

The city is doing some great things to help reach our climate action goals including solar installations and the recent Green Homeowners United partnership. But, we need to prioritize this plan above all things. This will not fix itself. We are just a grain of sand on the beach, but if we don't do all that we can as quickly as we can, we are dooming our community and our future to a hellish end if you believe climate scientists.

Please reconsider how we are spending our resources with climate action as a priority. If we continue on our current path, our days of leisure air travel and pleasure boating are numbered. Please make every decision with the urgency that the current crisis demands.

Cathy Van Maren

<https://insideclimateneeds.org/news/04022025/james-hansen-research-documents-global-warming-acceleration/>

<https://sustainability.stanford.edu/news/ai-predicts-earths-peak-warming>

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/nations-must-close-huge-emissions-gap-new-climate-pledges-and>

