

4/3/18

City Manager Michelle Greene
City of Goleta
Suite B
130 Cremona Drive
Goleta, California 93117

Dear Manager Greene,

My name is Hib Halverson. I live in El Encanto Heights. I vote in every election. I use cars and trucks and, occasionally, a bicycle for transportation, however, as I'm in my late-'60s, the amount of bike riding I do is becoming less each year.

In re: construction of traffic circles (i.e.: "roundabouts") at the intersection of Kellogg and Hollister and at SR 217 and Hollister, as well as, the narrowing of Hollister through "Old Town": I'm opposed to the City of Goleta spending what will likely be millions of dollars on those two projects.

Traffic circles will increase traffic congestion. They will not make biking or walking more safe than do intersections controlled by traffic signals. The City of Goleta has no traffic collision data to support the idea that Hollister's existing configuration is unsafe for bicyclists and pedestrians, so why do we need traffic circles? In fact, not only are traffic circles less safe for both cyclists and pedestrians than are signaled intersections, they are not compliant with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" which makes them difficult for disabled persons to navigate not to mention leaving the City open to lawsuits.

I visit Old Town at least once a week to do business with establishments such as: Larry's Auto Parts, O'Reilly Auto Parts, AutoZone, Wendy's, Alpha Thrift, Copyright Printing, Goodland Guns, The Habit, Gordon and Grant, Four Wheel Drive and Fabrication, FedEx, UPS, Spud Nuts Donuts, A-Ok Power Equipment, Bob Wooliver's Tire Service, Goleta Valley Paint and others. If the City narrows Hollister to two lanes, traffic congestion that creates will convince me to not do business in Old Town and go other places, perhaps outside the City, where access by automobile is easier. Or, I will buy the goods and services I previously purchased in Old Town from sources on the Internet.

Narrowing Hollister will make living in surrounding areas less safe because, in the event of a disaster such as earthquake, tsunami, wildland fire (think the Panted Cave or Thomas Fires) or flood, if U.S. 101 is closed or congested, Hollister will become a route people will take to escape the disaster or evacuate from areas affected by it. Narrowing Hollister will make escape or evacuation much more time consuming. People could die during escape or evacuation attempts from areas adjacent to Hollister if the street is modified to reduce traffic flow or stop "cut throughs". On the same note, narrowing Hollister will increase response times for either Station 11 or Station 13 if their units need to travel on Hollister to reach incidents at opposite ends of Old Town. That is another example of how unsafe the Council's want of a 2-lane Hollister Avenue will be.

My belief is that much of the impetus to narrow Hollister Avenue comes from the Council wanting to construct bike lanes. As I said above, Goleta has not data to support the idea that Hollister in its current configuration is unsafe for cyclists. The City has stated there are about 24,000 vehicle trips per day on Hollister. Even if there were 250 bike trips per day on the same part of Hollister, the ratio of vehicle to bike trips would be about 100 to 1. It is unconscionable for the Council to spend what will likely be a substantial amount of money to benefit only 1 of every 100 residents of the city.

Rather than spending my tax money on building traffic circles, narrowing Hollister and building more bike lanes, all of which will have questionable value to a majority of Goleta's citizens, I want Council to spend the City's infrastructure funds on maintenance of its existing roads. I can cite numerous examples of Goleta streets which are cracked, potholed or crumbling.

I have suggested this idea to Council in prior letters, and I'm writing it to you, now; I want the City to fix the roads we already have. Also, if the City has so much money to spend, the Council should use it to build Fire Station 10. That will improve response times to where I live and make El Encanto Heights a safer place for me to live.

Regards,



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