
STG Downtown Comments

From Debra Woods [REDACTED]
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To Planning <planning@cityofsebastopol.gov>

To the Planning Department:

I appreciate the work the City has done to present four design options for downtown and the intention to create a more vibrant, welcoming Main Street. I also appreciate that two of the options maintain one-way traffic, which I believe better supports pedestrian safety and downtown circulation.

That said, all four options reduce Petaluma Avenue between Highway 12 and McKinley Street from two lanes to one. I am concerned that this lane reduction will increase congestion on a key downtown corridor regardless of which option is selected, making access more difficult for residents, visitors, and local businesses.

I also have concerns about converting streets to two-way traffic and adding mid-street crosswalks. Two-way traffic increases conflict points and unpredictability for pedestrians and cyclists, and mid-street crosswalks in this setting may slow traffic and add congestion without meaningfully improving safety.

While I understand the desire to add parking along Petaluma Avenue, I believe downtown parking needs would be better addressed through additional parking elsewhere or by considering a parking structure, rather than narrowing a primary access route.

Additionally, I encourage the City to carefully consider the impact of allowing a Grocery Outlet downtown, as a high-volume grocery store could further strain circulation and detract from Sebastopol's unique character.

I do want to express my strong support for the expansion of the Joe Rodota Trail. This is a much-needed improvement and an excellent example of an investment that aligns with the City's goals for safe and comfortable walking and biking.

I appreciate the City's efforts and encourage continued refinement of the plan to improve safety, access, and downtown vitality while minimizing congestion and preserving the character that makes Sebastopol special.

Thank you for your consideration,

Debra Woods

Sebastopol resident