From: Eloise Meyers Thompson [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 7:27 AM
To: Public Comment Received For City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Cc: Engineering <engineering@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Traffic PD <traffic@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Request for City Council Agenda Item: Traffic Safety at Hayden Avenue Near SunRidge School

Dear Sebastopol City Councilmembers,

I am writing to ask that the City Council put traffic safety on Hayden Avenue near SunRidge School on the next available meeting agenda.

There are serious safety concerns on this stretch of Hayden Avenue, where drivers frequently travel at high speeds, including during school hours and after dark. SunRidge School sits at the intersection of Hayden Ave and S. High St, where neighborhood and cut-through traffic mixes with vehicles entering and leaving the school, young children and families walking to and from school, and local residents navigating the neighborhood on foot. Yet there are very few measures in place to slow traffic or protect pedestrians.

There is only one crosswalk, which is not lighted. There are no speed limit signs, let alone reduced school-zone speed limit signs, on Hayden. There are no stop signs on Hayden to direct traffic from all approaches at the intersection. During school drop-off and pickup, the volume of cars forces drivers to navigate cautiously, but outside those hectic periods, cars speed through the neighborhood with little to slow them down.

It shouldn't take a serious accident for the City to address these problems. Children as young as four are walking in to school here, and their safety should be a priority. I'm asking the City Council to put this issue on the agenda and discuss practical ways to make this area safer, including:
- Evaluating a four-way stop or other appropriate traffic controls at the intersection by the school.
- Adding clear, visible school-zone speed-limit signs and flashing warning signs.
- Installing additional crosswalks at locations that better serve children and families walking to school.
- Improving crosswalk visibility with lighting and high-visibility markings.
- Evaluating traffic speeds and volumes and considering traffic-calming measures such as raised crosswalks.

The current situation deserves attention. The combination of speeding, school traffic, limited pedestrian infrastructure, and the use of Hayden Avenue as a neighborhood cut-through for private and commercial vehicles creates an unnecessary risk for school children and everyone else who lives and walks in this neighborhood.

Please put this issue on the next available City Council agenda so the Council can discuss concrete steps to improve safety around SunRidge School and the surrounding neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and attention to this neighborhood safety concern.