

## STG Downtown Comments

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From Elsa Sze [REDACTED]  
Date Sun 2/8/2026 9:05 AM  
To Planning <planning@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Hello Planning Team,

I am writing to provide feedback on the downtown streetscape alternatives. I have already voted, but I want to share a specific safety concern that dictates where my family spends our time and money.

We moved to Sebastopol for its charm, but as parents of young children looking to purchase a home here, the **Main and McKinley intersection** is a major deterrent. Currently, we avoid the downtown core and stay near The Barlow because Main Street feels like an industrial highway rather than a neighborhood.

**There is one specific scenario that haunts us as parents:** standing at the corner of Main and McKinley with a stroller, watching a massive commercial semi-truck inch through a left turn while we are legally in the crosswalk. The sight of a toddler in a stroller positioned directly in front of a heavy industrial rig is harrowing. Even if the movement is "legal," it makes our town look like a highway junction. No parent should have to feel that level of anxiety just to cross the street to grab a coffee or visit a local shop.

**I strongly advocate for Alternative 3 (Walkable One-Way) and urge the City to include the following:**

- **Human-Scale Buffers:** Alt 3 is the only option that prioritizes the **widest possible sidewalks**, creating the physical distance necessary to separate our children from heavy traffic.
- **Through-Truck Restrictions:** I urge the city to work with Caltrans to implement an ordinance restricting "through-truck" traffic, directing non-local heavy freight to stay away from this downtown area.
- **The "Street Diet":** Reducing travel lanes is the only way to physically signal to drivers that they are in a "People First" zone, not an expressway.

We want to be long-term homeowners and patrons of Main Street businesses, but our safety is non-negotiable. **Alternative 3** is the only plan that treats Main Street like a destination worth staying in.

Sincerely,

Elsa Sze  
[REDACTED]