
STG Downtown Comments

From joe schwall [REDACTED]
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To Planning <planning@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Planning Commission:

I would like to address the proposed changes to bike paths downtown. I am an experienced cyclist and have cycled downtown Sebastopol and its neighborhoods for over 30 years, and I DO NOT support dedicated bike lanes downtown. Downtown traffic is slow and can safely accommodate bicycles sharing the road. I am skeptical that dedicated bike lanes actually reduce injuries to cyclists because the greatest chance of injury comes at points of interaction, typically at intersections or driveways, which are not reduced by lanes. In fact, I think points of interaction can become more awkward and problematic with bike lanes, especially Fully Protected and two-way bike lanes. I also think that dedicated lanes are counter-productive to the long-term goal of increasing bicycling as transportation. In the long run, the more that bikes are considered just another vehicle on the road, the sooner bikes will become just another widespread mode of transportation.

However, since downtown bike lanes will likely remain in our future, please at least consider not moving the Pet Ave bike lane to the west side. The flow of bikes into and out of downtown (beyond the map boundaries) comes from the right side of the road. Moving the lane to the left side on Pet Ave will increase the car/bike interactions approaching from the south and at/near the Main/McKinley intersection.

Thanks for your consideration and for your work.
Joe Schwall