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## STG Downtown Comments

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From Laura de la Roz [REDACTED]

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To Planning <planning@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Hello, I have a few thoughts about the proposed changes to Sebastopols downtown area, regardless of which option is selected. These come from someone that lives just outside of town who loves to park and walk/shop around downtown Sebastopol regularly.

1) Crosswalk on Main Street between McKinley & Hwy 12. - This is a terrible idea! This is a very short block with crosswalks at each intersection. It is easy to walk to the corners to cross. A crosswalk here, if it's like the new crosswalk from the park to the barlow, will be a nightmare & add to traffic delays and traffic congestion.

2) crosswalk changes on Petaluma Ave between McKinley and Hwy 12. - There is no need to add a crosswalk from the pedestrian area around the plaza and the currently empty block where there may someday be a hotel. The newly created crosswalk at the corner of the plaza it just a few steps away from this propelled crosswalk. I also think removing the crosswalk next to Screamin Mimi's is a terrible idea, people are creatures of habit and they will jaywalk there regularly. They most certainly I'll not walk to the traffic island, then cross over to Depot St. There will be major issues with jay walking here.

3) Left Bike lane on Petaluma Ave. - Left bike lanes are dangerous, especially with out of towners driving through town on their way to other locations. This is dangerous as drivers are not trained to look out for bikes on their left. Most concerning is how the left bike lane meets Main Street on McKinley. How are bikers elected to turn right? Stop and walk their bikes in the crosswalk? That will never happen. It also creates a dangerous turn for bikes coming into downtown on Main Street, turning onto McKinley. How are the bikers expected to turn here? They can't ride with the flow of traffic as they'd be turning across traffic. This seems to again force cyclists to stop their bikes, wait for a crosswalk to move safely across traffic. This will cause delays and potential accidents when cyclists and drivers don't understand how to cross. Must cyclists will not stop riding and will come up with some dangerous way to get across traffic. Plus add in the fact that many local drivers know they can turn left off of McKinley onto Main Street on a red light, which could cause some danger for cyclists.

Lastly, I'm all for making downtown more pedestrian/walker friendly but I guarantee you that if there's traffic congestion due to traffic changes, increased driver delays leading to more car exhaust, cars honking due to poor traffic flow: who will even want to sit and enjoy a bench or table on main street? I certainly avoid sitting at any outdoor tables on main street currently.

Thank you for your time in reading my concerns.

Laura de la Roz  
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