
STG Downtown Comments

From Tracie Holland [REDACTED]

Date Sun 2/8/2026 9:01 AM

To Planning <planning@cityofsebastopol.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I was going to take the survey, but after reviewing each option, none seemed like an improvement. The proposed reduction of traffic lanes and the addition of multiple midblock crosswalks would make vehicular travel through downtown nearly impossible. Perhaps that is the goal—to make downtown so inhospitable to vehicles that only bikes and pedestrians are welcome. While that may be a nice fantasy, it is not realistic for those of us who have jobs we must drive to and children we need to pick up and drop off at school.

As a parent who drives through town multiple times a day to drop off and pick up my children from school, I do not believe any of the options are improvements. Every option removes vehicular traffic lanes, which will only result in increased congestion. It sometimes takes me up to 16 minutes to drive less than two miles from my home to my children's school. That is ridiculous. Traffic on the south end of town has become significantly worse since Petaluma Avenue was reduced to one lane to accommodate a rarely used bike lane. The last thing the city needs is fewer vehicular traffic lanes.

The additional crosswalk proposed on Petaluma Avenue between Depot Street and McKinley, as part of the Piazza Hotel project, does not make sense. Are we really saying people cannot walk less than 200 feet to the corner? I have a better idea: design the hotel so that pedestrian egress is at the corner of McKinley and Petaluma—problem solved. The only way I could see this additional, unnecessary crosswalk as a benefit is if a member or members of the city council or planning commission were receiving a kickback for its installation. The same applies to the additional midblock crosswalk suggested on Main Street between McKinley and Highway 12.

The existing pedestrian hybrid beacon on Petaluma at McKinley does not function well. A crosswalk should be intuitive and not require special knowledge or "training" for either pedestrians or drivers. I regularly see it misused.

I do like the idea of expanding the plaza, but where are cars supposed to park? As it is, on weekends, holidays, or even a random Tuesday afternoon, finding parking downtown can be difficult. This brings me back to my original concern: there seems to be an unrealistic vision of a downtown without vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tracie Holland