



DATE: May 25, 2022
TO: Planning Commission Members
FROM: Brian Halvorson, Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Public Comment: Public Hearing Item # 2

Attached is public comment that staff received on May 23, 2022 from Lompoc resident Ron Fink.

From: [Ron](#)
To: [Weigel, Cherridah](#)
Cc: [Halvorson, Brian](#); [Haddon, Stacey](#); [Alarcon, Christie](#)
Subject: Public comment for Item #2 on the May 25th Planning Commission agenda
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:36:49 AM

Please accept this a Written Communication and Public Comment for Item #2 on the May 25th Planning Commission agenda “the Lompoc Streetscape Multi-Modal Improvement Plan (GR 18-01)”.

This is an aggressive plan to repurpose and beautify a primary traffic corridor (Highway 1 route through Lompoc) to include “bicycling infrastructure on H Street or Ocean Avenue” and adds sidewalks and landscaping to improve streetscape appearance.

While improvements are needed along this route I would urge caution when you consider this plan.

Some things to consider during your discussions and before you make any recommendations to the City Council are:

- Caltrans is planning to resurface Ocean Avenue from Seventh Street to H Street within a year as part of a major repaving project. How does this plan change or add to this project?
- Considering your personal experience traveling this route during your daily activities; do you think it’s wise to try and incorporate a bicycle lane/route onto this busy traffic corridor? The majority of bicyclists are recreational and travel during daylight hours; so does a large amount of daily vehicle traffic.
- Our road system was designed and built decades before bicycles entered the transportation realm; the result is that unlike in Europe and elsewhere where bicycles were always a part of the traffic scheme you will be now sacrificing vehicle traffic lanes primarily for infrequent recreational cycling. The result will be increased congestion daily during peak traffic periods.
- There are some landscaping elements along this route currently; the City of Lompoc is challenged to try and maintain the current landscaping. So, if you add more landscaping elements how will the city staff be able to maintain it considering ever-present budget concerns?
- “Traffic calming” equals traffic congestion. Other cities, specifically Santa Barbara, who implemented traffic calming measure in the downtown area succeeded in constipating traffic flow.
- Another traffic calming concern is that truck traffic moving missile components to south Vandenberg Space Force Base use Ocean Avenue as an access route. You should assure that this route is maintained in a condition that allows the free flow of truck traffic, some with wide loads, to support the space access mission of VSBF.

I have read the Findings of Fact and you could certainly make a case that this proposal meets the technical merits of the resolution; however it is incumbent upon you to consider the long-term impact to daily drivers, commercial drivers and future city budgets that this proposal will create before you finalize your recommendation.

Ron Fink
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