

From: Steve Chappell <steve@aggi.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:28 PM
To: Rich Constantine <Rich.Constantine@morganhill.ca.gov>; Larry Carr <Larry.Carr@morganhill.ca.gov>; Yvonne Martinez Beltran <yvonne.martinezbeltran@morganhill.ca.gov>; Rene Spring <Rene.Spring@morganhill.ca.gov>; John McKay <john.mckay@morganhill.ca.gov>
Cc: Michelle Bigelow <Michelle.Bigelow@morganhill.ca.gov>
Subject: Objection and opposition to 6/3/2020 City Council Meeting Items 11 and 15
Importance: High

City Clerk, please add to the official City Council Meeting Agenda Items and Record.

2 June, 2020

For the 3 June 2020 City Council Meeting
City Council Agenda Item(s)

15. PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING MONTEREY ROAD COMPLETE STREETS/LANE REDUCTION AND USE OF DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SPACES

AND

11. REJECT BIDS FOR THE EAST MAIN AVENUE BIKE LANES AND SIDEWALK PROJECT AND REBID THE PROJECT WITH MODIFICATIONS

Morgan Hill City Council and Morgan Hill City Staff-

Submitted herein is my objection and opposition to any further discussion, plans or actions with our Downtown thoroughfare of Monterey Road between Dunne and Main. I am Objecting and asking each of you to take off and not take any further action or approvals of (and in whole) to Agenda Items 15 and 11. I am requesting these items are removed without further discussion, planning or action by the City Council or City Staff.

I'm going to outline just 5 core areas of why the City should accept this request for removal of these items, and is Failing it's Residents and Businesses by continuing to repeatedly "re-brand" this previously failed project many times. I'm happy to provide many more at your request, but here is just five:

1. For the last 20 years the City Council has placed "preferential treatment" of the Downtown area over any other Business District in Morgan Hill.

The Downtown Area from Dunne to Main on Monterey Only brings in the least amount of Tax Revenue to the City. Those of us who own businesses and also collect Sales Tax Revenue outside that area make up the bulk of what Morgan Hill receives **by a multiple of 19x**, or in simpler terms, 95% of the total collections to the city come outside the entire DT area of influence. Yet, even though we collect the most, we get the least attention including aged and failing infrastructure like Data / Telecommunications, Poor Streets condition and lack of maintenance. Compared to the Downtown area that collects the least, everything is meticulously maintained and constantly far better than outside that area. This is Preferential Treatment to the lowest Tax Collectors in the entire Morgan Hill City Limits. Why? Why do you give the most attention to those who collect the least amount? This smells and looks like Corruption at the very root of it's essence, and you all look bad for allowing it to happen over and over again. Stop Doing That.

2. Even after Multiple Failed Attempts, Wasted Taxpayer Funds and Projects later Bulldozed, the City continues to waste our Money.

This isn't a new idea, it's a **Re-branded Failed Idea**. And it's failed many times. Not in particular order, but lets review just a few of the Failed Projects spending Taxpayer money frivolously over the Downtown Monterey Area:

- A. Large sums of money was completely wasted on the "original" 3rd Street Promenade to later only be bulldozed. Return on that Investment, (Negative).
- B. The City attempted restricting traffic to "calm" the Downtown Area. Return on that Investment, again, (Negative).
- C. The City installed Speed Bumps to slow traffic through Downtown. Return on that Investment, (Negative) again after they were removed for another failed project.
- D. The City spent funds on a Traffic Redirection Campaign (Don't drive through it, drive to it", again, with (Negative) Return on that Investment that lasted for Months.
- E. The City spent funds on a dedicated then "Sharrow" Bike Lane, again, (Negative) return on that Investment.
- F. The City "created" part of this issue by allowing easement so close to the street except for newer developments. On top of that, instead of increasing easement in older areas, the City "Narrowed" that ability by Widening the center Median. The City should have narrowed the median, widened the sidewalk areas and left two lanes in each direction alone.

The City has spent countless hours, countless resources and meetings again to re-sell us on another failed project after failing multiple times prior with poor planning and lack of foresight. How about we just stop repeating failed projects over and over again and focus on what's really important, not spending anymore of our money on your future failures.

3. Monterey Road is a Major Thoroughfare, it's not some dinky side street that needs revitalization.

Our Downtown Area and Monterey Road was not designed or built to be restricted. It was originally a Highway, and still is in some areas as it's namesake, Monterey Highway. It connects the Northern end of our town to southern end, it provides through right of way traffic to ALL Major arteries and major East to West roads in Morgan Hill. It's a big deal. When you restrict it at any point, you choke and constrict not only the downtown traffic but the lateral North to South traffic flow as well. Restricting Downtown chokes the traffic as seen many times prior, and when the City previously experimented with their failed plans above.

4. The City is Scapegoating the COVID-19 Crisis to push this project through, and for all the wrong reasons

Most non-restaurant Downtown merchants I've spoken to object to this new plan. They object because a road restriction will once again "hurt" their business, not help it by making them more inaccessible. This latest attempt to scapegoat COVID-19 on all the Downtown Problems and a Road Restriction being the fix is also wrong. Eating establishments that have outside dining will always have outside dining. If they want to expand, the City can allow them to do that on the existing sidewalk, side streets or parking lots. No One is Going to Sit on the Hot Street inches away from cars and at peril of their own life for a Cheeseburger or Meal of Fish. Out of nearly 400 Residents I personally spoke to about that plan, they all stated they would not sit on or near the street at all. If you want to stimulate downtown eating, then give them more sidewalk easement, not less parking or shoving them to the street.

5. The City of Morgan Hill is in a Fiscal and Fiduciary Crisis Mode. Penalizing Residents with another Failed Project will not fix that.

The City and Council need to STOP SPENDING MONEY. Many of you up on that bench are the reason we are in this mess. You have overbuilt and under-funded many areas of our City, and trying to put more lipstick on this pig won't make the pig any prettier. STOP SPENDING MONEY before you turn this City into a soon to be had Bankruptcy case. Again, STOP, STOP, STOP SPENDING OUR MONEY.

In summary, I'm asking you to cease on any further actions or approvals to let City Staff work on MONTEREY ROAD COMPLETE STREETS/LANE REDUCTION AND USE OF DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SPACES as well as cease all activity and City Staff work on MAIN AVENUE BIKE LANES AND SIDEWALK PROJECT.

Cordially,

/s/

Steve Chappell

Morgan Hill Resident and Morgan Hill Business Owner