

Item # 15

**AGENDA DATE: 06/03/2020
SUPPLEMENT # 3**

From: [Karl Bjarke](#)
To: [CC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #15, June 3, 2020 Council Meeting
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:21:46 PM

Mayor Constantine, Members of the City Council, Christina Turner,

Re: Agenda Item #15, PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING MONTEREY ROAD COMPLETE STREETS/LANE REDUCTION AND USE OF DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SPACES

I strongly urge the City Council to direct staff to start the process of implementing a permanent complete streets configuration along Monterey Road through the downtown. I frequent the downtown regularly and especially enjoy the outdoor dining experiences our fine restaurants have created. During the pilot project of 2014/15 the residents of our community were able to experience the quiet and calmness of our downtown with fewer automobiles. In addition, families could actually ride their bikes into town without hugging the curb and fearing close encounters with cars and trucks. There is no question that the ambiance of our downtown improves considerably with fewer cars and more pedestrians.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, I believe that all communities in this country have experienced a permanent change in how residents go about their business and leisure. It's incredible how many more people have discovered the fun of walking and riding a bike to get around. This is an opportunity for the City to capture and preserve a downtown where traffic calmed can co-exist with families roused. Our downtown will be the envy of the Bay Area. City staff should coordinate the permanent implementation with the completion of the Hale Avenue Extension project.

Respectfully,

Karl Bjarke

240 Fox Hollow Circle

Morgan Hill

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From: [Lisa Bjarke](#)
To: [CC Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Rich Constantine](#); [Larry Carr](#); [Yvonne Martinez Beltran](#); [John McKay](#); [Rene Spring](#); [Chris Ghione](#); [Christina Turner](#); [Maureen Tobin](#); [Leslie Little](#); [Edith Ramirez](#)
Subject: Revisiting Complete Streets
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:27:03 PM

Mayor Constatine and Members of the City Council,

I would like to express my support for reconsidering the Complete Streets program. I realize many have commented that it didn't work the first time, so why on earth would it be considered again? Well, at the end of the initial project the Council noted "that it would like the Project to be reviewed in the future upon completion of future congestion management projects, including the Hale Avenue Extension Projects". Admittedly those have not yet been completed, but no one at that time could have foreseen a worldwide pandemic and a prolonged shelter in place program.

I was in the minority five years ago in that I was (and still am) in favor of the program. Monterey Rd was much more pleasant for dining, walking, and biking during the pilot project. With reduced traffic, there was reduced noise which made dining and walking much more enjoyable. As a cyclist, having a protected bike lane through downtown made it safer for everyone and encouraged more people to get out on their bicycles.

As the shelter in place rules are relaxed and people feel more comfortable going out to eat, I believe a large majority may still want to dine outside. The initial rules are only to allow outside dining or takeout service. There are so many unknowns about what our lives will be like in the near future, but having more outdoor dining space available just seems like a no-brainer. I believe revisiting this now makes sense.

Thank you,

Lisa Bjarke

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From: Jodi Hall <mtndiva@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:47 PM
To: Michelle Bigelow <Michelle.Bigelow@morganhill.ca.gov>
Subject: Public comment for tonight's meeting

From Jodi Hall of Bike Therapy:

Good evening Mayor, City Council, Staff and Community.

I support the Complete Streets program as a way to give restaurants the space, literally, to recover from this pandemic, and as an initiative that will improve the downtown feel and the experience for our community and hopefully inspire tourists to come back to our wonderful area. Imagine being able to stroll downtown and see people again. Imagine relaxing at one of our great restaurants and actually seeing people again. Imagine the scenario where restaurant staff has room to breathe - literally - and be as safe as possible - while serving our community.

There are some great ideas floating around about how to achieve a comfortable flow for both diners and pedestrians. Using the extra lane for more sidewalk space for pedestrians means a much more pleasant dining experience for staff and customers.

The best cities are walking cities. The most sustainable cities are walkable cities, with easy accessibility for residents, tourists, neighbors, families, couples, and our young people. Worldwide organizations dedicated to the city development have done much research and proven that walkable cities can help revitalize the economy.

With traffic at a minimum right now, there is no better time to put this into action.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: Teresa Crue <teresa.crue@gmail.com>

Date: June 3, 2020 at 6:07:08 PM PDT

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>, Michelle Bigelow <Michelle.Bigelow@morganhill.ca.gov>

Subject: Monterey Road

I, as well as a large percentage of Morgan Hill residents and businesses, do not want to change Monterey Road. I urged you to listen to us. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Renee Roberts <renee@designfactorygraphics.com>

Date: June 3, 2020 at 5:57:16 PM PDT

To: John McKay <takuhog@yahoo.com>

Subject: Downtown Lane Reduction

Hi John,

I would like to send my support on the downtown lane reduction issue. Can you forward this on to whoever it is supposed to go to. Thank you.

Hello,

I would like to express my support for reducing the lanes in downtown Morgan Hill. I think it is a great idea for so many reasons.

Over this past year with so many new places to go and things to do around downtown, I notice many more people walking around, hanging out, meeting up with friends and families, taking walks and biking to enjoy all downtown has to offer. Sometimes really crowded in a good way (at least before the pandemic). And we are proud to show it off to our visiting friends. So reducing to one lane each way will make it safer for everyone, especially families with children. And create a more pleasant overall feeling with less noise and smelly traffic.

I think that now that everyone has had a chance to get familiar with using Butterfield, it is the preferred route for most people that want to just get through town.

Now would be the perfect time to implement the new lanes. Now that traffic is less, and also I've seen suggestions on NextDoor and other social media about getting the town back together by dining outside at local restaurants, even closing some streets to do it. So if it is a good idea for now, it's a good idea!!

I urge you to implement this as soon as possible. Thank you for listening.

Renee Roberts



DESIGN FACTORY PRINTING & GRAPHICS
16965 Monterey St. #114, Morgan Hill CA 95037
408.686.0780 • www.DesignFactoryGraphics.com

From: "lbeasley@beasleydirect.com" <lbeasley@beasleydirect.com>

Date: June 2, 2020 at 7:01:53 PM PDT

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>

Subject: I support closing 1 lane each way downtown for a limited time to support downtown businesses

Dear MH City Council members,

As a downtown (2nd Street) property owner, I wish to express my support for a very limited time Monterey lane closure downtown to support downtown restaurants and businesses. This needs to be limited... until September, Labor Day, and should not be the only thing the city does to support these businesses. There are many things the city can do to help these businesses by offering events, tastings, and other support. The city should also consider direct financial support as well. Without restaurants the downtown dies. A vital downtown is key to a thriving city life.

Even if indoor seating is opened up soon, many folks will still only want to eat outside for awhile and that should be accommodated until everything settles down.

However this needs to be limited. People have trouble trusting the city council (for good reason) and you need to be very clear on your promise of the goal to support the restaurants and businesses and make the lane opening and closing date clearly marked on signage and communicated to the community and make good on your promise.

You would also do well to support the businesses by pressuring Dr. Cody with County of Santa Clara to re-open businesses fully. The woman has gone rogue. I was in Cambria two weeks ago. Completely open beaches and restaurants and no Covid outbreak reported so far. How about that!

Best regards,
Laurie Beasley

From: "HerrLeClair ." <herr.leclair@gmail.com>

Date: June 3, 2020 at 6:14:09 PM PDT

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>

Subject: I am in favor of the Road Diet Plan in Downtown Morgan Hill

In my opinion, Morgan Hill should join the progressive lead of many cities that are realizing the community benefits of reducing or eliminating through traffic in their core downtown areas.

mike

From: [Russ K](#)
To: [CC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Downtown Lane reduction
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 9:32:44 PM

After attending the entire city council meeting regarding the downtown lane reduction.

1. I applaud the council taking seriously the impacts many small businesses are facing with the current Covid 19 issues.
2. This is **not** the time to undertake anything that doesn't directly address assisting hard working small business owners to keep the legacy they have built alive.
3. This is **not** the time for some members of the council to try to leave a legacy of this project if 67% of residents surveyed do not support it.
4. This **is** the time for the city to take a hard look, like a strong small or large business would do, at actually cutting costs while increasing revenue without raising taxes. This is typically done by reducing staff (not just part time recreational employees) taking a hard look at stream lining processes, eliminating waste and rewarding department managers for reducing expense and budgets while increasing productivity. Simple fiscal responsibility without the standard government thinking that we will just tell our citizens to pay more taxes or fees. Eliminating the practice of spending entire budgets just so you can get a larger budget next year.

Thank You,

Russ Keller

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From: [D. Muirhead](#)
To: [CC Public Comment](#)
Subject: comment downtown lanes
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 8:57:40 PM

With respect to the "will/will not work" and we "do/do not want".
Please repeat the comment that the City Attorney made at the town hall.
If I heard correctly, he had businesses suing to halt the project who
later become supporters once the project was completed.
thanks Doug Muirhead, Morgan Hill Resident

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From: [Russ K](#)
To: [CC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Lane reduction downtown
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 7:18:30 PM

The lane reduction in the downtown was tried before and appeared to cause only traffic jams and frustration.

Was any data gathered that suggests that the previous lane reduction provided an economic or lifestyle enhancement to the whole of Morgan Hill?

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