

Danielle Staude

From: Barbara Jacobs [barbara.parissite@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 10:29 AM

To: Danielle Staude

Subject: Land Use & Mobility Working Group

Hi Danielle,

Thanks for your continuing support in easing the way for Mill Valley pedestrians!

Lots of us would rather walk than drive. Any effort to facilitate this is greatly appreciated.

Barbara Jacobs

Danielle Staude

From: Donald Herzog [geotech1@pacbell.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 7:20 PM

To: Danielle Staude

Subject: Comments for The Mobility Committee

I would like to offer the following comments in case I am unable to attend the meeting of the rescheduled Mobility Committee meeting next Tuesday. I am a Professional Civil Engineer who has lived and worked in Mill Valley for 48 years. I live above Boyle Park and also own an office building on Miller Avenue and a rental house on E. Blithedale.

Item 36 (which may be eliminated) says “Relieve traffic congestion on East Blithedale and make East Blithedale safer for bicycles and pedestrians by coordinating signal timing from Park Avenue through the Highway 101 interchange;--“ This implies that there is an E. Blithedale / Park Avenue intersection.

Item 36 says “shifting some in-and outbound trips to Miller Avenue and Camino Alto by reconfiguring certain streets and intersections and appropriate signage,--“. Thirty years ago, westbound E Blithedale at Camino Alto was re-configured so that only one lane at the intersection continued onto westbound E Blithedale. The traffic backed up to the Freeway and there were frequent accidents as drivers barged into the E Blithedale lane. I and several other Mill Valley Engineers successfully petitioned the City Council to abandon that failed experiment. Hopefully, it will not be implemented again. Those of us who live in the Boyle Park, Sycamore Park and the Golf Course neighborhoods must use E. Blithedale, and do not want measures which artificially impede our access.

Items 67 discusses a “local shuttle service”. A local shuttle service has been promised by almost every candidate for the City Council for as long as I can remember, but has never been found to be feasible. A shuttle makes a good “sound bite”, but isn’t realistic.

I strongly support Item 10. The Mill Valley/ Corte Madera Corridor Study indicates that the Alto Tunnel would be used by 1.8 Million Bicyclist per year, and would result in a significant transportation modal shift. The tunnel is the only ADA accessible route between Mill Valley and the rest of Marin, and is the only route which is suitable for children, the elderly, walkers, and bicycle commuters. A previous tunnel collapse destroyed a house and damaged Underhill Road in the 1980’s. Tunnel collapse is continuing as the tunnel timbers rot. Reconstructing the tunnel will permanently stabilize the tunnel, and will protect the adjacent houses and improvements from future collapse. If it is not reconstructed as a multi-use transportation route, the County estimates that it will cost \$11.5 Million Dollars to abandon the tunnel.

Item 36 “Consider an evaluation of opening Hamilton Drive to two-way traffic from the Public Safety Building to the Redwood Highway frontage road.” is incredibly important. Opening Hamilton to two way traffic would relieve enough traffic from E. Blithedale to make a real difference in traffic flow.

It is going to take bold and politically difficult actions to make a real difference in the traffic which is strangling our town. Here are some which should be considered:

1. Support an engineering feasibility study of widening the bottleneck section of E.

Blithedale in front of Whole Foods.

2. Reconsider the Traffic Signal at E. Blithedale and Kipling. The major backups on E. Blithedale started when that light was installed.
3. Support studying the feasibility of providing bike lanes (at least during the day) on E Blithedale between Camino Alto and Alta Vista. This would result in traffic calming, would improve traffic flow around bicyclists, and would make the street safe for kids going to Park and Middle Schools.
4. Strongly support a safe network of bike paths and pedestrian routes connecting into a regional system in order to promote transportation modal shift.

I strongly support workforce housing. However, each housing unit results in several additional vehicle trips each day that our gridlocked roads simply cannot accommodate. Serious traffic improvements are required if we are going to provide additional dwelling units.

Yours truly,

Donald Herzog
45 E Manor Drive
Mill Valley, CA

Danielle Staude

From: Hilary Hyde [hilshyde@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:41 PM

To: Danielle Staude

Subject: MV Transportation

I have lived in Mill Valley almost 30 years, and am very interested in our city's transportation policy for the next 28 years. I favor multi-modal transportation choices which will promote a healthy and safe community. I urge those working on this issue to strive to make all our streets safe and more comfortable for cyclists and pedestrians, especially our children. The city of Mill Valley cannot do enough to get kids on bikes in bike lanes on as many streets as possible, as well as offer comfortable pedestrian opportunities. It is no secret that traffic in Mill Valley has become horrible, and at times grid-lock dangerous. This traffic makes our town unattractive and unmanageable. I urge the city to reverse this trend and do whatever you can to get people walking and biking. Thank you for your consideration.

Danielle Staude

From: Nancy Muggoch [nmuggoch@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:14 PM
To: Danielle Staude
Subject: Slowing traffic on E. Blithedale

Dear Land Use & Mobility Working Group:

In April of 2004 I was crossing in the crosswalk next to Park Elementary School when a car hit me. I came away shocked, frightened with some nasty bruises but, fortunately, alive. Being younger and more athletic than I am now, I was able to bounce myself off the car in such a way as to prevent a city crew having to scrape my body off the road. Ten minutes before, I had been in that crosswalk holding the hand of my seven year old daughter. She, and I holding her, would never have been so lucky.

Everyday I try to cross that street to walk my dog or go to the library,shop downtown. And every day speeding cars refuse to stop, hit the gas and generally make it clear that my life, my dog's life or my now teenager's life mean less to them than two minutes time. I see bad behavior by drivers all over Marin County, it certainly isn't just a Mill Valley issue. Look at the death of Haily Ratliff in Novato on her bike, or the man who lost his daughter and his leg there, as well, a few years ago. I see less of it in Fairfax, where they instituted crosswalk lights after a woman in a wheel chair died there and in San Anselmo which followed suit.

San Anselmo was the smart city, they learned from their neighbors and prevented deaths. So, who will Mill Valley emulate? San Anselmo? Or shall it be Novato? Will it take a Park School Elementary student dying before something is done to slow drivers down and force them--or at least make them consider--obeying the law and sharing the road with pedestrians and bicyclists? Please fullfill your obligation to the community you live in and care about and do something serious about the safety nightmare E. Blithedale has become.

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Nancy Muggoch, RN, NP,
18 Thalia St,
Mill Valley, CA

Danielle Staude

From: Tim Amyx [tim@tam.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 6:51 PM
To: Danielle Staude
Subject: Land Use working group meeting WEDNESDAY

Hello Danielle,

We've met and chatted a few times - I'm currently the president of the Mill Valley historical society. I'm writing however on behalf of "myself" as a citizen, and not under the banner of the MVHS.

I will not be able to attend the LAND USE & MOBILITY WORKING GROUP meeting tomorrow night. I do however fully support what they (All concerned citizens for bike and pedestrian safety) are striving for and I'd like to toss my hat into the ring and echo their goals - making BIKING and WALKING in Mill Valley (in the future) safe and practical. I encourage you and the members who have pull to listen carefully and continue to make Mill Valley a great (and safe) town to live and commute in.

regards,

Tim Amyx
Mill Valley, CA

(415) 383-8936

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