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Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 5:27 PM
To: TrafficEng <TrafficEng@cityofsanrafael.org>
Subject: Written comment - BPAC meeting 6/5/2024

I'm not able to attend tonight's meeting in person, but I hope to listen in via zoom. I also really hope we will be able to make comments via zoom again in the not too distant future. I really appreciated that ability when we had it during and after the pandemic.

I just wanted to offer a written comment on the agenda items. I'm really pleased to see closing the north south greenway gap through downtown is being worked on. I feel like closing this gap will make North South travel by bike in SR dramatically better and more accessible to people of all cycling levels. So it's wonderful seeing a push to closing that gap especially in light of this new transit center work. I think a particular point of importance is making crossings smooth when filling this gap. The worst part about how it is now is the various crossings through this section have no signals for people on bikes, making it a winding, treacherous, and slow section that only experienced riders would put up with. The permanent solution needs to be smooth and accessible to people of any ability level.

Additionally, I see that adding more protected/improved cycling routes for the East West direction through downtown is another item. I just want to voice that I'm very pleased to see interest and movement on this as well. I feel like traveling SR North to South has been pretty good with the exception of the several block gap through the downtown area, but East West has felt kind of non-existent for a long time. As someone that likes to bike downtown for errands, eating out, hair cuts, or Pond Farm for a pint I would really appreciate improvement in the East West direction as well.

Now from previous meetings and discussions I understand there are a lot of challenges to making 4th street itself a better bike way for the length, so that perhaps 5th might be an alternative route option. I think that could work, but if the cycling route isn't on 4th itself, it should still have increased traffic calming / speed reduction so when people turn off from a cycle route on 5th to access shops and restaurants etc on 4th, that it feel at least safe and comfortable enough to bike for a block or two on 4th. Additionally traffic calming on 4th would do the double duty of making it safer for people walking as well.

Anyway, those are my thoughts. Thank you for your continued efforts to make San Rafael a better place to walk and bike. As someone that grew up in rainy Eugene OR, a place with fantastic biking / walking infrastructure despite having really miserable weather for much of the year, I feel like San Rafael just has so much potential with our amazing weather, beautiful environment and cute little downtown... if we build it and make it accessible to people of all ability levels, I think people will really embrace it. SR has so much potential!

-David Seltzer