

March 21, 2025

File No: 16.01.307

Subject: Second and Fourth Street Intersection Improvements Project

The following is a list of the questions and comments received by City Staff related to the Second and Fourth Street Intersection Improvements Project. These comments were received by City Staff between February 25th, 2025 and March 14th, 2025, and categorized based on similar topics. Staff are drafting responses to all questions received from the community regarding this Project and will be providing those responses on the Project's website.

1) Communication:

- a. Regarding Project Community Meeting held on February 27, 2025; frustration with transparency on the format of the meeting, especially during the Council Chamber informational session where there was not a question-and-answer period streamed online.
- b. Suggestions for hybrid formats to encourage public engagement and feedback for participants both online and in the room.
- c. Comment received thanking staff for their dedication to the project, communicating transparently with the community, meeting with community members, and explaining and listening to input from the immediate community.
- d. Comment received that the open house format of the meeting has been used by other agencies for collecting feedback on other transportation-related projects impacting San Rafael.

2) Project History and Goals:

- a. Comment acknowledging that the primary goal of the project is to create a safer intersection for all road users but especially bicycles and pedestrians.

3) Existing Intersection:

- a. Suggestion that Greenfield Ave./West End Ave./4th St. intersection should receive additional consideration regardless of left turn lane.



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- i. Concerns that the Greenfield Ave. left turn signal is too short with existing traffic.
 - ii. **Request** that the left turn lane at Greenfield Ave. be lengthened to accommodate more queuing.
- b. **Request** for incident reports for the intersection and KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) statistics to be made accessible.
- c. **Request** for pedestrian and bicycle usage at intersection be made accessible.
- d. Concern about pedestrians having long crossing and unsafe timing at current intersection.
- e. Vehicles currently need to utilize bicycle track to come/go from driveways along 2nd St.
- f. Concerns about east-west visibility traveling north on Marquard Ave. towards intersection.
- g. Comment about needing longer red light for eastbound 2nd St. traffic to allow exit of driveways.

4) **Proposed Design Overview – Vehicle:**

a. **Overall Intersection:**

- i. **Question** if the traffic lights at intersection would be timed with lights further east on 2nd St.

b. **Westbound Left Turn Lane from 2nd Street:**

- i. Preference from residents living south of intersection along Marquard Ave., West End Ave., Fremont Road, Upper Fremont, and Trost Road for retaining the left turn lane. Feeling the proposed design overlooks potential unintended consequences.
- ii. Support for the removal of the left turn lane to help simplify traffic flow and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.



1. Support for the removal of the left turn lane as it creates opportunity for a pedestrian and cyclist refuge.
- iii. Concerns about emergency vehicle access or delay to Marquard Ave.
- iv. Concerns about increased backups, congestion, and unsafe pedestrian/bicycle crossings at Greenfield Ave., West St., and E St. if left turn is eliminated.
 1. Concerns about re-routed traffic crossing the bicycle track at West St. where there is no signal.
 2. Concerns about narrow lane widths on West St., E St., and Jessup St. with re-routed traffic causing back-ups.
- v. Concerns that "hairpin turn" at Marquard Ave. and Fremont Road already causes delivery trucks to get stuck when traveling from West St, removing the option to turn left at Marquard Ave. would elevate this issue.
 1. **Request** to provide signage to limit size of trucks on Marquard and Fremont.
- vi. Concerns about bicycle exposure to vehicles making the left turn into Marquard Ave. Would like consideration for providing a bicycle buffer at intersection.
- vii. The justification for removing the left turn lane is unclear.

c. East Bound West End Ave to 2nd Street Merge:

- i. **Question** if the merger from east bound West End Ave. to 2nd St. would be restored.
- ii. **Question** if the signal for the merger to eastbound 2nd St. would remain.
- iii. Concerns over vehicles speeding along West End Ave. heading to access eastbound 2nd St. from Greenfield Ave.

d. Northern Business Access Only Lane:



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- i. Concerns over “business access only” lane being used as pass-throughs by vehicles.
- ii. Comment that Resident would like to see parking opportunities along lane.
- iii. Comment that “significant” traffic calming measures are needed to reduce speeds along lane.
- iv. Concern over back-ups on 4th St. caused by new traffic light.

5) Proposed Design Overview – Pedestrian:

- a. Comment that proposed intersection helps with pedestrian/bicycle crossing.
- b. Comment on optimizing signal phasing to minimize pedestrian delay.
- c. **Question** about how long the pedestrian crossing would be.
- d. Comment about an additional western pedestrian crossing for a more ‘complete’ intersection design.
- e. **Question** if westbound 2nd St. to eastbound 4th St. slip lane could be raised to continue to allow emergency access while improving connectivity to 4th St.

6) Proposed Design Overview – Bicycles:

- a. Comment that bicycles reportedly do not stop at traffic signals and travel at a higher rate of speed along cycle tracks, raising safety concerns.
 - i. **Questions** about enforcement for bicyclists speeding or ignoring signals.
 - ii. Comment about needing traffic signal for bicycle traveling east-west along bicycle cycle track.
- b. Comment about way finding signs towards San Anselmo.
- c. Comment about continuing the green bicycle lane along 4th St.
- d. **Request** for cleaning the current bicycle track.
- e. Comment to consider “bicycle calming”.



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- f. Concerns over electric bicycles using existing bicycle track.
- g. Comments to avoid low visibility, low lying objects or barriers that could impact bicycle movements. The intersection is very dark at night.
- h. Comment that crosswalks should be wide enough to allow bicycles and pedestrians to move side-by-side.
- i. **Request** for consideration of automatic bicycle detections at traffic signal.

7) Project Funding:

- a. **Questions** about the overall cost of the project, where the funds are being received from, when those funds expire, and if there are alternative funds available if the grant funding is insufficient.

8) Visual Impacts and Gateway Improvements:

- a. **Questions** on whether the landscaping will align with nearby areas (e.g., San Anselmo).
- b. **Questions** about improvements to landscaping and whether trees will be removed.
- c. **Question** about if gateway improvement would include art, plants, lighting or attractive signage. Who would maintain and who is responsible for deciding on what is included?
- d. **Written request** to protect trees in existing medians to the west of the Project.
- e. Concerns about existing median landscaping between West End Ave and 2nd St. needing additional maintenance.
- f. Comment on desire to expand landscape medians and add additional street trees.
- g. Concerns about ongoing lighting and noise with surrounding homes resulting from the completion of the bicycle track and new signal near at E St.

9) Parking and Signage:



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- a. Complaints about cars parking too close to intersections (West and E St.), creating safety hazards.
- b. Comment on desire to remove of street parking along West, E and Jessup St. to handle traffic flow.
- c. **Requests** for adding red curbs, clearer signage on parking zones, and more police/parking enforcement.
- d. **Request** for improved "Keep Clear" signage at Greenfield Ave and West End.
- e. **Question** if existing parking spaces on the corner of Greenfield and West End Ave would remain.

10) Next Steps for the Project:

- a. Concerns about staging and sequencing impacts during construction.
- b. **Request** for better communication and coordination based on lessons learned from the 3rd Street Rehabilitation Project.
- c. **Request** for weekly email updates and transparency about project timelines and staging locations.
- d. **Question** about who or what body will make the final decision on the design.
- e. **Question** on if design will go to City Council for public hearing and comment.
- f. **Request** for an updated timeline on the project's website.