
RE: 2nd/4th/Marquard intersection - Utility box at Marquard/West End

[REDACTED]

 1 attachment (192 KB)

IMG_1667.jpg;

Hi Victoria,

RE: Your request to provide a copy to BPAC – Please send any future information you would like shared with BPAC to TrafficEng@cityofsanrafael.org (copied). I will make sure this email and attachment gets to BPAC.

Thanks,
Joanna

Joanna Kwok (she/her) | **City of San Rafael**
Assistant Public Works Director
Department of Public Works

[REDACTED]

Hi Grey,

I have previously met with DPW staff on-site to discuss the problem with the Utility Box on Marquard at West End Ave blocking visibility of bicyclists traveling eastbound on West End Ave to vehicles on Marquard at the West End/Second Street intersection. This is a serious concern because bicyclists tend NOT to stop at the stop sign on West End Ave, possibly because the sign is too high or it is shaded by the tree above making it less visible or bicyclists are simply making their own judgement about whether they need to stop. I don't know how much difference you think a stop "light" will make at this intersection since I think there will always be bicyclists who rely more on their own judgement and don't understand the dangers of this intersection.

The utility box needs to be moved to open up the visibility at this intersection and reduce the possibility a bicycle/vehicle collision. However, in a recent conversation with you, I understood you to say that the box may be reduced in height but that it won't be moved. The utility box is ~82" high, as measured from the street. I drive a small sedan and my eyesight is at ~45" above the street so

reducing the height of the box will not improve visibility from a sedan unless it is reduced by over half. It's not only the height of the box but also the width, being too close to the intersection, that blocks visibility. I would be more than happy to meet with you on-site to show you what I mean, like I have previously done with other DPW staff.

If you don't plan to move the utility box, then moving the crosswalk from the west side of Marquard to the east side may not be a good idea. By moving the crosswalk to the east side, you are forcing more bicycles to cross Marquard in front of traffic that has compromised visibility because of the large utility box on the west side of Marquard. Currently, bicyclists are forced to stop before Marquard and turn left to cross the intersection when going to Fourth Street. This safety of stopping bicyclists at this intersection will go away if you reroute bicycle traffic to the east side of Marquard and create a greater possibility of contact between a bicyclist and a vehicle. I suggest you consider leaving the crosswalk on the west side of Marquard to maintain safety at the Marquard/West End/Second St intersection.

See attached photo. Please provide a copy of this email to BPAC.

Thank you,

Victoria



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