

City of San Rafael City Council  
1400 5<sup>th</sup> Street,  
San Rafael, Ca 94901

December 17, 2020

Re: Proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lindaro Driveway Closure

Dear City Council Members,

I am a homeowner near the border of the Gerstle Park / Bret Harte neighborhoods for over 20 years and have worked in the West End neighborhood for over 18 years.

I was informed by my neighbor that the City Council is making a final decision about closing the driveway at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Lindaro into the public lot near Walgreens. I had not heard of this being proposed, so I went to the city's website and searched for it. The only reference I could find was on the public works department's website.

It is not listed as a current project; however it shows up under the Frequently Asked Questions under the Third Street Corridor Rehabilitation area as "what improvements will be done at the parking lot adjacent to Walgreens at Lootens and Lindaro". There is also an interactive map showing this driveway closing. These are the only references I can find to this driveway closure. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Rehabilitation project does not show this driveway being closed. On page 15 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Rehabilitation Final Report shown on the Public Works website there are proposed improvements to the the driveway and the crosswalk area across Third Street. Also on Appendix A, Exhibit 4, the driveway is shown as remaining with proposed improvements. There is an existing traffic report but I find no information referencing how traffic will be impacted by the closing of the driveway. I do not find any reference to how, why, or who is proposing this driveway closure or any studies done to justify its closure.

This parking lot acts as a direct link between the Gerstle Park / Bret Harte neighborhoods to the downtown area. I can go from my house directly down Lindaro to the parking lot, which allows me to park and access my hair salon on 4<sup>th</sup> street, the nearest pharmacy to my home (Walgreens), and any number of restaurants in the area. This minimizes time spent in traffic, reduces emissions, and limits the need to cross multiple intersections to support local businesses downtown. When I leave the parking lot, I again have a direct route back to my home, or can access 2<sup>nd</sup> street if I need to get to the freeway or to the east side of San Rafael. By closing this driveway, you will force local residents to exit to a side street (Lootens) and then through multiple intersections in order to return to their neighborhood. This increases traffic needlessly, and increases the possibility of pedestrian / bicycle conflicts.

By keeping the driveway open, you encourage Bret Harte / Gerstle Park residents to use a direct route to the downtown area from their neighborhoods to patronize downtown businesses and minimize possible conflicts with pedestrians and bicyclists. Closing this driveway will increase traffic needlessly and will negatively impact local businesses. I encourage you to follow the proposed improvements to the driveway as outlined in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Corridor Improvements Final Report project and not close this driveway, especially in light of no information being readily provided to the public as to the reasons for this closure.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Ross

[REDACTED]

San Rafael, CA 94901

ph [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

cc: Public Works Department