

City of San Rafael City Council
1400 5th Street,
San Rafael, Ca 94901

January 6, 2021

Re: Proposed 3rd and Lindaro Driveway Closure; 3rd Street Rehabilitation Project

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

In regards to the proposed driveway closure at 3rd and Lindaro, I have had a bit more time to research the information on the Public Works website.

I have emailed Bill Guerin at the Public Works department and also Mayor Kate Colin about where the information justifying this closure is shown. I have not had a response from either as of writing this letter.

There is a section on the Public Works website under the "Third Street Corridor Rehabilitation and Safety Improvements" page called "Project Documents". Here you can find pdf's of the presentations given at the August 25, 2020 Community Working Group Meeting and the Sept 23, 2020 Community Meeting. The August 25th meeting pdf doesn't show any reference to the driveway at 3rd and Lindaro being closed. However, on the Sept 23 meeting pdf, it is shown, on page 21, as a graphic only (no text calling attention to the proposed closure). The graphic is labeled "Intersection Enhancement". This label says to me that improvements are proposed to the intersection, similar to the documents shown in the 3rd Street Rehabilitation Final Report dated June 3, 2019, not a closure. This graphic, due to its lack of text pointing out the closure of the driveway, is misleading.

Now, I ask you, is it reasonable to assume that a poorly titled graphic included in a community meeting approximately one month prior to when the City Council is asked to approve this considered "adequate notice " to the community? I say it is not. There is no information justifying why this driveway is now being shown closed, no reference to comments generated by the August 25th community meeting giving a reason for the closure, and no traffic study showing how traffic will be affected on the surrounding streets and intersections because of this closure. The staff report from Public Works generated for the Nov. 2, 2020 meeting has one sentence referencing the driveway closure. I know from personal experience that Staff reports are usually generated about three days before the City Council meetings, so again there's very little chance that someone from the public has access to this recommendation before the meeting occurs. The staff report does not seem to be included on the Public Works website.

A person who attended the August 25th meeting may not have caught this change, if they happened to attend the Sept 23rd meeting, because there is no text on page 21 "Intersection Enhancement" graphic calling for this intersection to be closed.

I ask you all to reconsider the approval you've granted, as clearly the public, let alone the surrounding businesses, did not have adequate notice of the intent to close this driveway. A traffic study should be conducted and reviewed to determine how the adjacent streets will be impacted by this proposed closure before anyone agrees to it. And again, I'd like to see documentation as to why this driveway should be closed. The public cannot adequately comment or provide feedback when the reasons for the closure and its impacts on the surrounding streets have not been provided to them.

Sincerely,

Jeanne and David Ross

[REDACTED],
San Rafael, CA 94901

cc: Public Works Department
April Miller
Bill Guerin
Rafat Raie