



June 21, 2021

Bill Guerin
Director of Public Works
City of San Rafael
San Rafael, CA. 94901

RE: 2nd/3rd Street Improvements

Dear Bill,

With a construction manager on board, we hope that you will take another look at all possibilities for saving the valuable London Plane Tree in the 2nd Street median that welcomes those entering San Rafael from the west.

Following the last Council presentation on this project, I discussed several possibilities with project manager April Miller:

- Consider decreasing the speed along the combined section of 2nd and 3rd Streets for the two blocks east of the 4th Street intersection to 25 mph, which is the speed posted for the remaining portions of these two streets through downtown San Rafael. This would decrease the distance needed for traffic to transition to the new lane alignment proposed east of West Street, potentially resulting in fewer parking spaces lost from retaining the tree. It would also increase the safety of all users of these blocks—pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and those parking outboard of the new bike facility—a goal repeated frequently during the Council meeting.
- End the median immediately east of the drip line of the tree, further facilitating a safe lane transition.
- Explore lane dimensions and restriping that would avoid removal of the tree.

For reasons stated in our previous letters, Sustainable San Rafael continues to believe that this magnificent tree contributes greatly to the overall character of this portion of the 2nd/3rd boulevard and the project as a whole, outweighing the value of parking a few additional cars in a stretch of public right-of-way already dominated by automobiles. The City's 'complete streets' policy calls instead for balancing traffic, bikes, pedestrians, and natural elements.

Thank you for your further consideration.

Sincerely,

William Carney
President

cc: Mayor Kate Colin