



Public Comment Received for the
Transportation and Circulation Regular Meeting
of April 25, 2024

[illegible]

PUBLIC COMMENT 1 - Item One: Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project

From: [Larry Rennacker](#)
To: [Nammi Vuong](#)
Subject: Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project April 24, 2024 Transportation Committee Comments
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:18:50 PM

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Hello Transportation Committee!

To cut to the chase for over five months I have been repeatedly asking city staff for a detailed step-by-step Gantt type project schedule to help me understand why it will take over five years to complete Vision Zero Cliff Drive project that involves no actual road construction. Can someone please provide this schedule? It would be helpful to know project phasing (cannot be done all at once – who goes first), and to know projects in the queue ahead of this one.

Background

I walk across Cliff Drive between Meggs and Flora Vista ~ 5 times a week. You know, that part of Cliff where there are no crosswalks across that four-lane express way for 10 city blocks. As such, I have actively been pushing for the Cliff Drive safety improvement project, AKA Cliff Drive Vision Zero project, for over ten years. Back in 2021 I exchanged several emails with Derrick Bailey regarding the failure of the project to secure funding at that time and how to strategize for future funding.

I was gleeful when the project funding was finally announced in December of 2022. But I was more or less stunned when the city announcement said that because of public and environmental review it hoped to begin construction in 2027.

Since November of last year, I have been going around and around with city staff (Jessica Grant) trying to get a detailed project Gantt type schedule explaining why it will take five years to get this project started.

The initial announcement said it would take that long because of public and environmental review. That made no sense because this project had undergone extensive public review and the environmental review would be trivial at best (I have 35 years of CEQA experience).

Then staff said the lengthy schedule was needed to complete a list of tasks: survey, drawings, utility, stormwater issues, SBCC coordination, construction contracts, etc but with no timelines or who was supposed to do what and by when.

I again requested that schedule earlier this month and staff said the schedule for the four project phases is dictated by State funding:

1. *Preliminary design and environmental review: August 2023 through April 2025*
2. *Final Design (construction level drawings): June 2025 to February 2027*
3. *Right of Way: June 2025 to February 2027 (documentation of permanent and temporary construction easements)*

4. Construction Begins: Summer 2027

I am not trying to be cranky, but first the city says the 2027 date is caused by public/environmental review, then it is due to a list of stuff that has to happen, and then because of state funding dictates. What is the basis for the delay? I assume that answer would get flushed out by a step-by-step project schedule that has to be done in any event.

And the first phase has me dumbfounded. Preliminary design and environmental review to be completed by 2025? Back to square one? The project is been in the design phase for over five years and is well past preliminary design, and as discussed, environmental review is trivial. What is going on here?

So, to sum up I am still looking for a project task/funding level chart to help me understand why it will take until mid-2027 to get this project started. My interest is most certainly **not** to micromanage this project. My primary objective is to avoid getting killed crossing Cliff Drive and the sooner the better.

Finally, I am looking ahead. Prolonging the how long it takes to complete projects like this almost always results in higher costs and can and has killed projects. Part of my interest is looking at ways we can/should expedite projects like this in the future.

Thanks for your time. Questions/comments welcomed.

Regards

Larry Rennacker

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Santa Barbara, CA 93109

805.680.9476

PUBLIC COMMENT 2 - Item One: Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project

From: Mike Maybell
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Nammi Vuong
Cc: Nikki Ramage; Colleen Hurley-Bates
Subject: Cliff Drive Vision Zero project Public Comment

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Vision Zero Project Administration.

I hereby am submitting a cut and paste from our Church, Free Methodist Church of Santa Barbara and their non-profit corporation, Cliff Drive Care Center. This is not because I do not want to think for myself. On the contrary many of us members have spoken at great length and as a result have reached a consensus.

(Below please find the cut and paste discussed above which I endorse)

The City of SB is trying to make Cliff Drive safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists, and we are grateful for this goal and fully support the City's attempts to do this.

We are aware that one of the best ways to reduce speeds on a road is to narrow the road, and we appreciate the City's attempts to reduce traffic speeds on Cliff Drive.

We want to balance the safety improvements to the street and the traffic speed reductions with the need for parking on Cliff Drive.

Concern 1: The area in front of the church and toward City College is losing parking due to the trees, corners, exclusive use for the bus stop, and spaces near the driveways, etc. We would like to see as much parking maintained as possible in front of the church. We have seniors and those with mobility issues who park in front of the church, and losing parking means they have to park farther away and walk farther, or have to park across the street and then navigate across Cliff Drive.

Even with the new crosswalk, having to make the walk across Cliff Drive is difficult for those who have mobility challenges.

Concern 2: The area on the other side of Santa Cruz toward Carrillo is losing significant amounts of parking. The area in front of the homes is losing some parking, but when you continue past those few houses toward Carrillo, the design includes no parking between Salida del Sol on the Carrillo end to the houses by Santa Cruz on our end.

That is a major loss of parking on our side of the street which means that families with children and seniors would all have to park on the other side of Cliff Drive and cross the street to get to the church building. If they can maintain some parking there, even with breaks for trees, etc, that would be better. It would be better for children and seniors to have the option of parking without crossing Cliff Drive for their safety.

Sincerely,

Mike Maybell
Past Chair, Board of Directors,
Cliff Drive Care Center
& Grant writer
805-215-7766

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.avast.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7CNVuong%40SantaBarbaraCA.gov%7C5730313b80d642895c7708dc65777015%7C58e327d6b5bd44c9988aacf283190b62%7C0%7C0%7C638496810877489453%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=P8fNQ9ggrbhsPI8u1jcKM8KGMgci4kvwpAG5AibAYuw%3D&reserved=0>

PUBLIC COMMENT 3 - Item One: Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project and Item Two: Milpas Street Crosswalk Safety and Sidewalk Widening Project

From: [Robby Nielsen](#)
To: [Jessica Grant](#); [Derrick Bailey](#); [Nammi Vuong](#)
Subject: Feedback on Milpas and Cliff Dr. Projects for TCC Meeting 4/25/2024
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:18:01 PM

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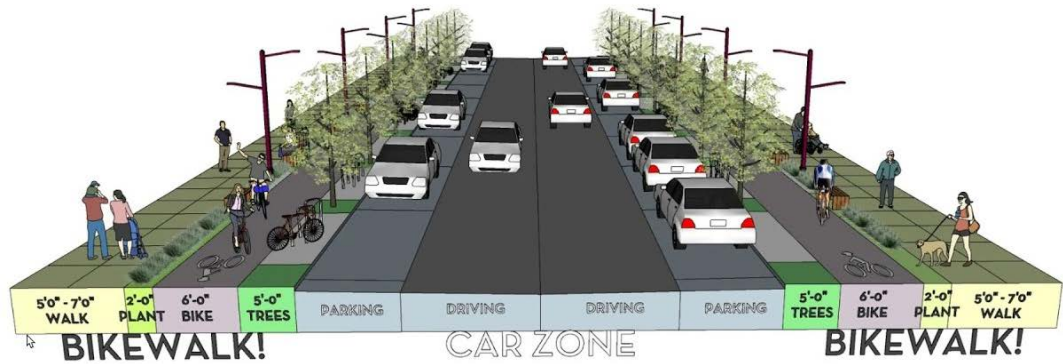
City Staff and Committee Members,

General feedback:

- I am very happy the city is investing in pedestrian safety improvements.
- I believe both these projects to be very worthwhile.
- I want to encourage Jessica, Derrick and the rest of their team to keep fighting the good fight even when faced with people who want to prioritize vehicle throughput over our communities safety.
- Please don't compromise the goals of these projects if the feedback doesn't align with the project intent.
- The instagram and youtube posts are well done. Good job, keep it up.

Milpas feedback:

- I live at the top of Milpas and transit it everyday.
- We have an amazing opportunity here to:
 - Connect the east side of Milpas with SBHS and SBJRH
 - Connect the milpas corridor to the ocean for all people (without use of a car)
 - Improve the look, feel, and function of one of the most important streets in town.
 - I believe all proposed changes to milpas will be great improvements over the current state.
- I am still concerned the corridor will not be as safe as desired with the proposed plans.
 - I believe the design speed of the proposed road still feels closer to the 30-40 mph typical of current observed traffic than the 20-25mph desired safe speed.
- I would like the city to share their analysis on opting to stay with signal lights and left turns instead of transitioning to roundabouts.
 - My understanding is that roundabouts (not traffic circles) are both safer and higher throughput than signal lights.
 - The roundabout at las positas and cliff is working well. I'm really excited for the bird refuge roundabout, that's going to be great! Why not Milpas?
 - I believe transitioning to roundabouts would allow removal of the center turn lane.
 - Cars would only have to double back a single block to turn into a drive and would not have to turn across traffic which is safer.
 - Removal of the center turn lane should allow for protected bike lanes on both sides.
 - Removal of secondary lane will narrow crosswalks significantly and make the street design feel like 25mph
- I would like Milpas mid block to look like this with narrow center median:
 -



- I would like Milpas intersections to generally look like this, scaled down to fit the intersection.



- This is the best picture I could find of a single lane roundabout with crosswalks and bikes lanes. [Heres the video.](#)

Cliff Drive Feedback:

- We take our dog to Douglas most days of the week. I run on cabrillo, cliff, and las positas frequently.

- Amazing intent with this program. Super happy the mesa is going to become part of vision zero.
- I LOVE the reduction of two lanes to one lane each direction northwest of Oliver
 - We should extend this one more block (or even further!) south-southeast until after the camino calma intersection.
- I love the large raised planted buffers to protect the bike lane.
- Seems like good progress since the community meeting at Monroe.

Lastly,

I wanted to reiterate the important work Jessica and her team are doing for our community. It's hard work and people probably usually show up only with complaints. These projects we see happening all around town feel like true progress.

-Rob

805-451-9876

PUBLIC COMMENT 4 - Item One: Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project

From: [Doug Ranck](#)
To: [Nammi Vuong](#)
Subject: Public Comment re. Cliff Drive Improvement Project
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024 5:15:20 PM

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To whom it may concern,

While we applaud many of the improvements to be made in this development project, we do have concerns about the significant number of parking spaces we will lose in front of the Free Methodist Church, 1435 Cliff Drive. On Sundays and throughout the week, many senior citizens and those with mobility challenges (roughly 50-75 per week) presently can safely access our church on the Cliff Drive level. In the new plan, many of these spaces will be gone, forcing this population to park farther away at their own peril.

We respectfully request that some thought be given to how to strike a compromise so that safe and available access will be available to those who need it most.

Thank you,

--

Doug



Rev. Doug Ranck

Associate Pastor of Youth and Pastoral Care

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PUBLIC COMMENT 5 - Item One: Cliff Drive Vision Zero Project

From: [Nikki Ramage](#)
To: [Nammi Vuong](#)
Subject: From Gil and Joy Robledo for Tonight's meeting
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024 4:50:28 PM

You don't often get email from nikki@fmcsb.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

This is a written public comment for tonight's meeting:

Greetings! We have been active at Free Methodist Church of Santa Barbara for almost 30 years. As you may know, FMC is a healthy growing church body with young families with kids, teens, college aged and Seniors aged 90 and over. We have people on our grounds almost every day of the week.

Our concerns about the proposed plans center around SAFETY & ACCESSABILITY for the SENIOR LUNCH ATTENDEES. The lunch & program draws about 90-100 Seniors city-wide. Attendees have to exit their parked car and go up onto the sidewalk to enter. People use walkers and wheelchairs and have limited abilities. ANY DELETION of current parking spaces on Cliff Dr. creates a HARDSHIP for the elderly who want to attend! We cannot have placement of new trees on Cliff result in LESS places for Seniors to park! (We would like additional safety devices along the Cliff Drive side of the church, such as grab bars that would help people get up from street level to sidewalk, or flat yellow Handicapped spots where curb was before.)

Thank you for hearing our urgent plea to SAVE THE PARKING! We really want to continue serving the Santa Barbara Seniors!

Dr.& Mrs. Gil Robledo/Senior Lunch volunteers

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Nikki



Rev. Nikki Ramage

Associate Pastor of Adult Ministries and Spiritual Growth

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