

General Public Comment - McGavin

Please accept my public comment for the **REGULAR MEETING OF THE PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MARCH 6, 2024:**

Please view attached photo for clarification

Each morning when I drive my youth to school there is a horrible back up of cars that use the bike lane on Ely Rd (between Juliet Drive and the student parking lot at Casa Grande High School) as a car line - either for parents dropping off their students, or the students trying to get into the student parking lot. Most recently, on the morning of 2/27/24, it was backed up completely between Juliet Dr & the parking lot. This meant the students who were riding bikes to school (I saw 3 on 2/27 morning) had to ride up on the sidewalk, alongside walking students, to safely get to school. It believe it would be prudent of the city to install those green cone/dividers (like on Rainier, McDowell, etc) to prevent the cars taking over this lane. I recognize that doing this would mean the cars would back up on Ely Road, but **these kids riding their bikes deserve a safe route to school**. It might also slow down the traffic on Ely in this area. On the morning of 2/27/24, there was a 2-car accident where student drivers of both vehicles sustained injuries and both cars had to be towed. Having cars clog the bike lane, and quickly swerving to get into the bike lane to line up, causes others to rush through Ely and make hasty decisions in that specific area. I'm surprised there haven't been more accidents.

Please consider making the recommendation to the City of Petaluma to install those green cone/dividers (like on Rainier, McDowell, etc) to prevent the cars taking over this lane. The same could probably be a consideration for all the bike lanes adjacent to Casa Grande High School, which during the day become all-day parking spots for students or drop-off / pick-up car lines for parents.

Thank you -
Susanne McGavin
Petaluma resident

On photo attached:

- The green line designates a bicycle lane on Ely Road.
- The red line designates the area (between Juliet Drive and the entrance to Casa Grande High School) where cars take over the bike lane during drop off/pick up.