

Kendall Sawyer

Subject: City Council Public Comment 3/13/23

From: Kathryn Shedrick

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:16 PM

To: -- City Clerk

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Hello,

My public comment to the City Council does not appear online with the other public comments. I am attaching a pdf of my comments to this email. I do hope that you will post it as soon as you can.

Best,
Kathryn Shedrick

Kathryn Shedrick

www.linkedin.com/pub/kathryn-shedrick/64/91a/266/

Date: March 13, 2023

To: Mayor McDonnell, City Council of Petaluma and City Manager Peggy Flynn

From: Kathryn Shedrick, Cool Petaluma Block Leader, 5th Street South

Re: Goals for Active Transportation + Community-Led Demonstration Process for FY2023 -2024

Thank you for your continued commitment to including members of our community in setting goals and priorities for our city.

As a resident of the upcoming **5th Street Neighborhood Greenway**, I am pleased that 5th Street has been identified for a quick-build traffic-calming project. I strongly support the specific elements that are being proposed in order to make it a safe, slow, quiet street. However, the proposed project already falls short of its two other goals, a street that is “inviting for walking, biking and rolling” and an “inspiration” for future Greenways in Petaluma.

Due to its location within Petaluma’s Urban Heat Island and its wide 42-foot swath of roadway, Fifth Street can reach temperatures as high as 120°F, not exactly “inviting” for human activity. The proposed elements (striping, traffic circles, bulbouts) do not address the current conditions on the street and can hardly be called “inspiring.”

Given the urgency of the climate crisis, as recognized in our own Climate Emergency Framework, the City can no longer afford to use the same siloed approach for projects such as the 5th Street Neighborhood Greenway. If we truly want to create a model for other Greenways, we must create a Greenway that addresses our most pressing environmental challenges—the Urban Heat Island, stormwater runoff, habitat loss, drought—and is actually worthy of emulation.

I urge the City to use the Fifth Street quick build to lay the foundation for **Petaluma’s first community-led demonstration project**, with the goal of restoring 30% of the current hardscape to nature by 2030 (30 x 30 initiative). A coalition of neighbors and organizations (Cool Petaluma, Daily Acts, ReLeaf Petaluma, Safe Streets Petaluma) is already coalescing around the Fifth Street Greenway as a model for a more collaborative type of small-scale neighborhood project, as a viable alternative to slow-moving, expensive Capital Improvement Projects. I ask that the City, like other cities around the country and Bay Area, prioritize the creation of a process, handbook, and toolkit for such community-led demonstration projects. I also invite you to **Imagine Your Greenway: 30 x 30** (date TBD), a collaborative community event during which we will envision possibilities for a greener way.

Urgent, unprecedentedly complex issues need bold, innovative, holistic solutions. Enough Climate Talk. It’s time for Climate Action.