

Kendall Sawyer

From: Ali Gaylord

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:13 PM

To: -- City Clerk

Subject: March 20 City Council Meeting- Consent Item #2

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

I write to request the City Council consider a modification to Item #2 on the Consent Calendar authorizing the award of contract for pavement restoration on Garfield Drive to include striping of Class III bicycle facilities in the repaving project.

The staff report details the scope of the repaving project and the inclusion of traffic calming measures such as removal of the center lane, addition of crosswalks, ADA ramps and bulb outs. The use of edge lines is included in the project scope as further traffic calming to create the feeling of a narrower road and thus slowing motorists speeds. However, the installation of bicycling facilities, either a striped bike lane, or at minimum, sharrow markings are not included in the scope.

Garfield Dr. is not a proposed bike route in the 2008 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, however, that plan is out of date and currently being updated. Adding a Class III bike lane using sharrow markings would minimally change the scope of the paving project with a small added cost for the paint for the sharrow markings. The roadway width and usable area for parking and driving would be unchanged.

The opportunity to add a bikeway at this newly repaved 1.5 mile street should not be missed. Garfield Dr., as noted in the staff report, is a major connector for several community assets such as Weissman Park and schools. There is an existing bike lane on Ely Blvd. S and Sonoma Mt. Parkway, however, that highly trafficked arterial and many community members including school children don't feel comfortable riding in that bike lane. The only other slow or non-motorized bike alternative is the airport buffer path, but that leaves an unpaved gap not suitable for cycling along the airport property.

Petaluma's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030 should include the installation of bike facilities whenever repaving is completed in order to encourage non-motorized transportation. Please consider requesting staff modify the paving contract to include the installation of a Class III bikeway along Garfield Drive.

Thank you,

Ali Gaylord