

From: [Josh \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: A Comment for City Council Members
Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 9:13:25 PM

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Hello,

I made a public comment at tonight's City Council meeting about bike lanes along North McDowell but ran out of time before completing my comment, so I wanted to submit my comments by email in hopes they could be forwarded to the Mayor and Council Members.

Dear Mayor McDonnell and Council Members,

My name is Joshua Lincecum and I am a Petaluma resident. My family lives in the Midtown-Payran neighborhood along Lynch Creek Trail. I currently work at a local community health center.

I want to start out by expressing my appreciation for all the work you and the city staff are doing to make North McDowell a safer place for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. North McDowell is an important thoroughfare for moving our city's residents and I support the efforts you've already taken in improving this important part of the city's infrastructure.

My family uses the bike-lane infrastructure of Petaluma on a near daily basis for grocery shopping, accessing Friedman's hardware store, and going to parks and playdates.

I'm also a bike commuter. I previously worked near the Marin Civic Center and biked and used SMART for my commute to and from work everyday. For the three years I worked there, I used the train everyday. That meant 5 days a week, there was one less car on our highway contributing to traffic, contributing carbon emissions, and consuming fossil fuels.

In April I began my current job which is near the North McDowell extension by Redwood Highway. The only safe way to get to my job is by car. While I now work in Petaluma and my office is much closer I don't feel safe commuting by bike along North McDowell. Cars travel at speeds of at least 40 miles per hour along North McDowell. If I were biking and was involved in a collision with a car at that speed it would likely be fatal. Exposing myself to that risk everyday is out of the question.

While the current proposal for class II bike lanes is well-intentioned, I fear without the mentioned pylons, this would make our city less safe for cyclists by exposing them to unsafe driving conditions. As others have stated, the National Association of City Transportation Officials recommend protected bike lanes for any road where speeds exceed 25 mph. Having unprotected class II bike lanes along the proposed route would just incentivize riders to use bike lanes that are not safe according to nationally accepted standards.

As a person who routinely uses the biking infrastructure of our city and as a person who would daily use the bike route currently under consideration, I would not use unprotected bike lanes on North McDowell and I would discourage my friends and loved ones from likewise putting themselves at risk. I encourage the City Council to consider the public comments made here

today and decide to build safe, protected bike lanes along North McDowell.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments and for all of the diligent work you do for our community.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lincecum