

October 16, 2023

Dear Mayor McDonnell and City Council,

Street design is an under-appreciated aspect of a safe, healthy, climate resilient community.

In 2022, following several years of Council action supporting Complete Streets (2016), Carbon Neutrality (2019), and Vision Zero (2022), you adopted a Safe Streets Policy Platform and made Safe Streets a top priority for our city. Your leadership gave city staff a policy directive to implement projects that improve the health and safety of our people and our planet.

We elected you to set and oversee the implementation of a policy vision. Safe streets advocates helped bring in City Thread and their Accelerated Mobility Playbook (AMP). The AMP advises setting clear bold goals and building a community-wide "Coalition of Everyone" to support those goals. That AMP work has begun, and is being integrated into the City's Active Transportation Plan.

Meanwhile, important street work proceeds, as it should. City staff have been hard at work designing and developing projects that align with the council's policy direction, and we commend city staff for embracing the council's policy directive. Staff have also gone to great lengths to engage neighbors.

But we are having trouble here, and it needs your immediate attention. Unfortunately, neighborhood pushback has slowed and even sidelined good projects. It is a bad precedent for a small number of neighbors to be able to undermine sound public policy, but that is exactly what is happening.

For example, D Street connects thousands of people living in Midtown and East Petaluma to downtown and Helen Putnam Park. D Street connects thousands of people living in West Petaluma to downtown, and eventually to shopping and recreation east of Highway 101. Each day, hundreds of children cross D Street on their way to school. D Street has 14% parking utilization, indicating that the houses on D Street have plenty of on- and off-street parking. Without question, adding upgraded bike lanes to D Street is wholly aligned with the city's safe streets policy. However, pushback from a small number of D Street neighbors is compromising what is good for the larger community.

Please stand behind your safe streets policy and support your staff in implementing your policy. Your staff need to know that they have your full support, or the many well-intentioned projects that have been identified can and likely will be stalled because of pushback from neighbors. Additionally, please give staff direction to also adopt a complete streets approach, as defined by the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, including wayfinding, street trees, and the full suite of traffic calming and ADA measures with all street paving projects.

The recently completed North McDowell repaving is a great example of how spending additional money on design, safety, beautification, and connectivity can make a huge difference. As a result of you setting a higher standard, we have closed critical sidewalk gaps for seniors, added safe crossings in key locations, and made the entire stretch of street safer for *all* modes of transportation.

The individuals and organizations who've signed this letter understand that we must do a better job of educating the community, and we are ready to help in this endeavor. We all have a role to play. Your staff are doing their job, and they need your full support.

Please support your staff and stand behind your safe streets policy.

Respectfully,

The undersigned community members

1	A. George Beeler	AIM Associates
2	Abigail Smyth	Safe Streets Petaluma
3	Adam Wiskind	Concerned West Side Neighbor and Parent
4	Allison Ford	I live in Santa Rosa, where I have been working with Bikeable Santa Rosa to encourage safe, low-stress streets in our city too! I'd love to know that Petaluma is doing the same so we can move freely around the county, and feel safe when visiting your beautiful city. Thank you!
5	Amy Goldberg	
6	Ana Onieva Ruz	McNear school
7	Andy Ferguson	Cool Petaluma
8	Andy Shrader	Petaluma resident
9	ANN CEGLIA	none
10	Ann Edminster	Petaluma Climate Action Commission, Climate Action Petaluma, Climate Roundtable
11	Barry Bussewitz	Petaluma Urban Chat
12	Bernie Album	SafeStreetsPetaluma member
13	Beverly Alexander	Freeways are for speed; local streets are for safety. People need to get used to the idea that getting somewhere fast is not the highest priority.
14	Beverly Schor	home owner directly off D Street
15	bike rider	
16	Bill Wolpert	Green Building Architects
17	Blake Hooper	Community Member
18	Bob Stires	
19	Brian Sullivan	Form to Finish Construction

20	Brianna Wolf	I live one house off D Street
21	Bruce Hagen	Safe Streets Petaluma
22	Caitlin Quinn	none
23	Charlene Marie	None
24	Chelsea Wills	cyclist/parent of little kids who I ride to school
25	Christina Panza	Safe Routes to School Director/Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
26	Cici Piotrkowski	Avid walker on D Street and all around the neighborhood, and always dodging young bikers on the sidewalks.
27	Colin Thomas	
28	Craig Coss	Petaluma resident & recreational cyclist
29	Dale Axelrod	
30	Dale Sartor	retired Petaluma resident
31	Daniel Lyke	none
32	David Devincenzi 🚲	Petaluma resident
33	David Felix	None
34	David Garti	City of Petaluma Climate Action Commission
35	David Powers	Resident
36	Davis Everett	Resident of Petaluma
37	Deb Fox	As a parent, a bike rider and an active citizen in Petaluma, I want to really advocate for our city council to support our staff and the Safe Streets Policy so that we can continue to be a city that leads by example for our children, our community, and our planet.
38	Deborah Garber	none
39	Debra Amador Delarosa	I work for Blue Zones Project Petaluma, but I am first a resident of this community.
40	Derek Douglas-Hecker	Bike Petaluma
41	Devon Sampson	
42	dusty resneck	biker
43	Elizabeth Burson	D Street homeowner
44	Emily Shartin	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
45	Erica Blaauw	McNear Elementary and Petaluma resident wanting bike lanes!
46	Erin Devincenzi	Citizen / Petaluma
47	Eris Weaver	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
48	Gail Steiner	Individual

49	Gerald A. Thompson	Petaluma resident
50	Geoge Beeler	
51	Gillian King-Bailey	NA
52		I support this letter and encourage the City Council to direct Staff to fund and complete quick build projects that further the ATP
53	iliana madrigal hooper	Self
54	Jason Sanchez	Vida Health
55	Jestin Brooks	Bike Petaluma
56	Joanna Paun	Petaluma City Schools Board
57	Jon Bonanno	I am a concerned tax payer, worried that Petaluma is not doing enough to solve the climate crisis.
58	John Posson	D St resident
59	Joseph	Community
60	Joshua Benson	Westridge Knolls Homeowner and parent of children who love to bike to school
61	Justin Carter	
62	Kate Sheehy	resident, parent
63	Katherine Gregor	YIMBY (Yes in my back yard!)
64	Kathryn Shedrick	
65	Kelly Bond	PBAC member
66	Ken Cushman	Concerned citizen
67	Kevin Southey	We try to ride our bikes 365 days a year. We take our kids to school on bikes
68	Kristi M. Hudson	Community member
69	Kristin Walter	We need to make hard decisions now for a brighter future...safe and beautiful bike lanes are a priceless asset.
70	Larry Modell	Enthusiastic bicycle commuter

71	Lila Beck Rainier home owner	Although I am in total favor for safe streets, I don't agree how you have painted the Rainier homeowners so negatively. We are the stakeholders who are affected by such poor design. i don't feel safe going in or leaving my drive way because the car lanes are so pushed out into the streets that I don't feel like I could always see a car coming when leaving the driveway or bikes passing by me when I am entering the driveway. Furthermore, my car/cars parked on the streets are more vulnerable at getting hit by speeding cars. I already lost two cars who were hit many years ago. I stand in favor for two Bike lanes to be done on the opposite side of the street where there are no drive ways which in itself would be the safest for biciclist. 2nd option to put back our cars closes to the side walks and a 2 ft protective lane between the cars and bike lanes on each side. These two designs have already been used in many areas. If they are safe for those places why not Rainier. If the design on Maria is considered safe, why not Rainier. Also, the best option would be to redirect the bike lanes to Professional drive where there are less drive ways and less cars that travel on this street.
72	Lily Verdone	Petaluma resident
73	Lisa Ludwigsen	Concerned petaluman
74	Lisamarie	Cool Petaluma
75	Mady Cloud	Petaluma City Schools Board Trustee
76	Marjorie Helm, LCSW	We appreciate the hard work of Public Works staff who are making active transportation safer for all ages!
77	Marlene Slutsky	None
78	Mary Dooley	Resident
79	Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Green	none
80	Matt Maguire	Pesident, Friends of Lafferty Park
81	Maureen Maguire	watching your action on this for future voting
82	Maxene Spellman	None
83	Merissa Maclaine	Westridge resident and parent of teen bikers
84	Michael Dollar	None
85	Morgan Bellinger	none
86	Nadia Flanigan	McNear Elementary
87	Naomi Crawford	Lunchette
88	Natalie Delyon	McNear Elementary parent
89	Nathan Spindel	Resident at D St & Grossland Way
90	Ned Orrett	None
91	Nicholas Hess	Leghorn Wine Company
92	Nichole Warwick	Blue Zones Project Petaluma
93	Nickola Frye	Petaluma Senior Advisory Committee, Rebuilding Together Petaluma

94	Nicole Camarda	Chair, Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
95	Olivia Hogya	Petaluma resident
96	Pedro Gonzalez Aparicio	Safe Streets Petaluma
97	Pete Gang	Safe Streets Petaluma
98	Railey A Album	Petaluma Senior Advisor Committee member
99	Rev. Daniel Green	St. John's Episcopal Church (for identification purposes only)
100	Sharon Kirk	Individual
101	Shawn Hogya	Petaluma Resident
102	Sheila L. Baker	None
103	Sheldon Gen	Petaluma City Schools Board of Trustees
104	Stephanie McAllister	Petaluma citizen
105	Steven DeLue	None
106	Tammara Norman	Please remember that street trees and landscaping are not only beautiful but functional; traffic calming for motorists plus shade for pedestrians make for a safer and healthier community.
107	Teddy Herzog	I drive a lot, walk everywhere and also ride a bike
108	Terry Murphy	None
109	Tom Devlin	50 year Petaluma Resident
110	Tonya Parnak	Founder 350Petaluma
111	Traci Di Stefano	Petaluma resident and cyclist
112	Trathen Heckman	
113	Tyler Hagen	
114	Vincent Hoagland	Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition
115	William Ray Yeager	Homeowner, Cyclist, Native Petaluman
116	Xela Dollar	None

117	Yana Sorokurs	I agree with the key point of the letter ALMOST 100%, because there are two parallel concepts in play around the Safe Streets initiative. Of course I applaud the initiative. But the point that "neighborhood pushback has slowed and even sidelined good projects", while largely true and important to examine, has another side to it with all of the dedicated efforts, submissions, presentations, engagement specifically around the Rainier Neighborhood Proposal. In the case of Rainier (as opposed to D Street), residents are in fact the #1 stakeholders, being the most impacted (both positively and negatively) by the project with significant issues. The engaged stakeholders are not a few. The other parallel concept in play here is the incredibly adept and thorough work done by City Thread and its Accelerated Mobility Playbook (AMP), which emphasizes the importance of community engagement and coalition in order for the Safe Streets Initiative to achieve the best results for everyone.
118	YES	Cyclist