

From: [Roberta](#)
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Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item #8
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I am finding it hard to understand the rationale behind the proposal to replace the Class II bike lanes on Morris Street with a share-the-road configuration. Have there been incidents, accidents, or complaints that have not made their way into the news? And who in the bicycling community suggested that share-the-road on this kind of city street is actually viable and safe? In fact, studies have shown otherwise.

Over the years, I have bicycled frequently on northbound Morris Street; I have never experienced an issue with the presence of the RVs that have more recently been parking there. It used to be cars, now it's RVs---not substantially different. On rare occasion I have felt the need to ride on the left edge of the bike lane to anticipate an opening vehicle door, but never to move into the traffic lane. Drivers have sometimes adjusted their position in their traffic lane to pass, but have not needed to cross into the lane for oncoming traffic. As a driver I have experienced the same when passing cyclists traveling in my direction.

I have also experienced that Morris Street has become more heavily used in recent years, especially on weekends when increased numbers of cyclists are using it as a required connection between the Class I Rodota and West County Trail sections. Aside from the traffic generated by visitors to the Community Center, the Laguna summer bridge, Coaches Corner and other businesses there, and The Barlow, a growing number of local drivers use the Morris/Sunset/Taft/Wallace route to bypass heavy downtown commute/tourist traffic. I know, because I do that myself in both directions. And driving the speed limit on Morris at those times will earn one the tail-gating behavior of an impatient following driver.

It strikes me that the Council is considering a change that will require drivers to either enter the lane for oncoming traffic to pass or to pile up behind the cyclists who will need to use the traffic lane. My grave concern is that this will only create ill will on the part of drivers, some of whom will not manage their impatience well. Cyclists will always be the folks more likely to suffer the negative consequences of that scenario. I know I won't any longer feel safe there.

I ask that the Council set aside this proposal and seek a solution that does not endanger bicyclists, as a strategy for accommodating the needs of the people who must reside along Morris Street in their RVs. I have compassion for them. I just don't want my safety to be the compromise in the process of balancing needs.

Roberta L. Delgado

