

From: [Arthur George](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: City Council 10/5/21: Agenda Item #8: Morris Street Bike Lanes
Date: Monday, October 04, 2021 3:32:31 PM

Dear Mary and Council: I am submitting this public comment in SUPPORT of the Recommendation of the City Engineer that bike lanes on Morris Street be removed and replaced with mixed-use bicycle-vehicle sharrows road markings. My comment is submitted on behalf of West County Homeless Advocates (WCHA), an ad hoc organization known to you for its work on the issues of homelessness on Morris Street and elsewhere in Sebastopol and its collaboration with other entities to seek solutions.

Removal of bike lanes and replacement by sharrows would eliminate a problem by which vehicles, especially RVs, encroach into the existing bike lanes, particularly on the east side of Morris. This problem appears to have originated due to the tight configuration of Morris Street as constructed with existing improvements, and the designated parking space width of 7 feet being less than optimal under design standards as stated by the City Engineer.

Removal of the bike lane and parking lane striping on Morris Street and replacement by sharrows would preserve and promote safety by calling attention to the mixed use by which cars and bicycles must share the lane. It would also appear to widen Morris Street's functionality for commerce, such as truck deliveries to The Barlow and other neighborhood business interests. The modification suggested by the City Engineer would remedy the existing 10 foot wide travel lane which is sometimes inadequate for the truck traffic on the street, especially turning trucks which swing wide in order to complete their turn.

WCHA is encouraged that the City Engineer acknowledges the current RV parking on the east side of Morris, an area which has become a controversial but necessary de facto "safe parking" zone for otherwise unhoused persons. The recommendation as submitted would accommodate and balance the interests of the RVs, bicyclists, motorists, truckers, and the neighboring business and cultural stakeholders.

A second alternative, NOT recommended by the City Engineer, would be to remove the parking on the west side of Morris Street (the Barlow side). WCHA supports the City Engineer in rejecting this alternative. Such an alternative would reduce the limited parking availability in this area, and negatively impact the business and cultural interests which may rely upon this parking supply on the west side of Morris. Again, the City Engineer's recommendation appears to strike best balance favoring safety, recreation, transit, commerce, and social concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arthur George
Chair, West County Homeless Advocates (WCHA)

