

## Comments on Meeting Regarding Bay and Hill Street Intersection

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To: City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Dally, Andrew (adally@ci.capitola.ca.us) <adally@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Kahn, Jessica <jkahn@ci.capitola.ca.us>

City Council and Staff Members,

I attended your meeting on November 30th which explained the recommendations for improvements to the intersection of Hill Street and Bay Avenue. Rather than speak at the meeting, I preferred to collect my thoughts and write them to you instead. I have some observations and concerns about the plan presented as I understand it.

I live on Hill Street so I pass through that intersection multiple times a week. I also walk most mornings and cross there at least 3 times a week. So I am very familiar with that intersection and I fully agree that something needs to be done with it. There is a lot going on with cars and bikes and pedestrians converging in that space. Seems like there is a lot of confusion by drivers at the 4 way stop, with multiple lanes of traffic and left turns to consider, and then whether there are pedestrians trying to cross. It is a lot to consider for a driver. I was very disappointed to hear that you could not install crosswalk lights there.

It was not clear to me where exactly the fatal hit and run accident occurred. I have heard it was on Crossroad Loop, but also heard it was on Bay Avenue near Crossroads Loop. My observation is that the woman was not crossing at a crosswalk, and it was 8:30 at night so it was dark. A tragic, poor choice on the victim's part. That all being said, the presentation did not make it clear what part the Hill/Bay intersection played in the accident and I wonder if you are addressing the correct problem there. Perhaps other approaches might be better and a more thorough analysis of the traffic situation is in order.

As far as the changes being proposed for the intersection, I wonder if the traffic impacts that will result from the change have been detailed out. From what I recall, the plan called for reducing the lanes on Bay Avenue to one lane and a left turn lane (or perhaps just one lane) in each direction. As I come down Hill Street to get on Highway 1, there is often already traffic backed up on Bay to almost Hill Street waiting for the light to change. Same situation with traffic coming off the freeway onto Bay. Making these one lane would increase the likelihood of this situation, especially on busy weekends. My other observation is that traffic already avoids the intersections at Bay and Hill, and Bay and Capitola Ave because of the time involved in waiting at the 4 way stops. This is quite obvious during drop-off and pick-up times at New Brighton Middle School. As a result of this, people often detour around those intersections by driving through residential neighborhoods, turning up Rosedale Ave and then onto Hill Street. ( I will remind you that Rosedale and Hill are noted bike roads for kids going to school.) They might even shortcut through Crossroad Loop to avoid the 4-way stop. My concern is that this tendency will only increase with the adoption of the current plan.

While I understand your wish to address this tragic situation quickly, I think a more thoughtful analysis of overall traffic patterns is needed before implementing a solution that may not be beneficial to overall safety.

Thank you for your consideration,

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