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Jenny, I stopped in your office today, Sept. 29, 2023, only an hour or so ago to ask if I could speak to someone relative to the traffic conditions along Blue Star Highway, specifically between Main St. and Center St. This, of course, involves the structural changes that were made to traffic flow in order to accommodate the grant monies for a bike and walking trail. Just before I went to the city offices I stopped by the Douglas Police Department and had a short conversation with officer Reyes. He mentioned that police sentiment was never very strong in favor of the changes that occurred to traffic flow, and that even a state police officer had problems navigating the narrow avenue and ended up hitting one the curbs along the way.

There are so many troubling issues regarding these changes it's hard to know where to start. Let me begin by reminding the city council members that there is an underlying concern for public safety due to the narrow lanes of traffic that resulted from the project. One of our neighbors on Amity St. was in a head-on accident (July 3rd, 2022) in front of St. Peters catholic church... no tickets were issued in this accident!?! This person just went through the last of his corrective surgeries this week, over a year after the accident occurred. In my opinion this accident would not have occurred if two lanes never became one lane.

Each and every day that I drive along this route I witness scores of drivers on, and over, the center yellow line. This occurs in both directions of traffic flow. Surely there is something wrong when drivers cannot stay within the width of their lane. Making a left-hand turn from Blue Star Hwy onto Union Street is terrifying when passing cars in both directions are mere inches from the sides of my vehicle.

As I wrote to the city council months ago (via the city's website), my bet is that the city leaders thought it would be a nice addition to our way of life, here in Douglas, when they voted to make these traffic-flow changes. Unfortunately the project has caused safety concerns that did not exist before the project began. Few people seem to even use the new bike trail (walking trail), and why should they? there was, and still is, the original bike trail right next to it.

This public safety concern needs to be fully addressed by The City of the Village of Douglas, and they need to own up to reversing inadequate traffic problems. I urge all city council members to rethink this situation in the name of safe travels to all city residents and tourists alike. Please use this concern for a future city council meeting by making it an agenda item: I'd like to be informed of any date and time the issue is addressed so that I may attend the meeting.

Thank you,
Robert Karns
(Douglas resident)