

Ryan Safty

From: Maria Ristow <ristows@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2019 10:16 AM
To: Ryan Safty; Council
Subject: Support of Ped/Bike improvements and project at 16212 Los Gatos Boulevard

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please reconsider and reject the Planning Commission's denial of the proposed project at 16212 Los Gatos Boulevard.

This project is completely compliant with all guidelines, with the exception of the setback. Given the applicant is required to extend the sidewalk and curb-line away from the property, the setback will be similar to surrounding buildings. No one walking past has any idea where the property line actually is, so the technical setback has no impact on the final outcome.

In terms of safety, going back to the August 8, 2016, CDAC meeting notes, one comment indicated, "The intersection of Shannon Road and Los Gatos Boulevard is very dangerous and well-used by bicyclists and pedestrians. Look for ways to make it safer for those that use it." This project addresses that concern in a very big way!

The project will be implementing some important and costly improvements set out in the town's Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. This intersection is a critical location for hundreds of school children who bike and walk to school. Local residents also utilize the crosswalks and bike lanes. Moving the LGB crosswalk, eliminating the slip lane and right-turn porkchop island will make this entire intersection function better for all users. These improvements are called out in the town-funded Safe Routes to School study and incorporated into the Bike and Ped Master Plan, which was adopted by the Planning Commission and the Town Council in 2017. With the decision to make Safety a priority, the Town is committed to creating the new ped/bike-friendly infrastructure every time a road is paved, or a project is approved.

After many iterations and meetings with the neighbors over several years, the applicant has created a project that preserves an existing building, complies with the Boulevard guidelines and General Plan, and implements necessary improvements to a very tough intersection. This is a good project for Los Gatos in every respect.

Please approve this project.

Thank you,

Maria Ristow