

To: Mayor and the Town Council  
Re: Setting of Strategic Priorities  
Town Council Meeting January  
Date: January 14, 2020

From: Lee Quintana

Please consider the following comments during the Council's review of Strategic Priorities.

### Zoning Code

*My yearly plea: Undertake a comprehensive update of the Town's Zoning Code.*

- If that is not possible, approve Zoning Code Amendments that will be required by the approval of the 2040 General Plan update.
- If that is not possible, at a minimum concurrently adopt Zoning Code Amendments to implement changes to the Land Use Element incorporated into the 2040 Update.

### Improve Community Involvement and Transparency

*Expand the role of the General Plan Committee:*

- Expand the role of the General Plan Committee to include review of proposed Zoning Code Amendments, proposed amendments to other planning documents, including any proposed changes to architectural standards and policies in addition to the Committee's current role to reviewing proposed General Plan Amendments. (i.e. expand the role of the General Plan Committee to its previous more inclusive role and incorporate the previous role of the Architectural and Hillside Standards Committee, which no longer exists).
- In the past these two committees provided a greater opportunity than currently exists to encourage the involvement of the community earlier in decision making processes.
- Currently the General Plan Committee is inactive. Prior to its current participation in the General Plan Advisory Committee, it had met only once in approximately two years.

*Establish a Finance Committee*

*Post actions taken during public meetings:*

- Within two days of a public meeting add a note to the meeting agenda on the Town's website of actions taken (for example, approved, denied, continued) Add actions taken also to the agendas posted outside Planning Department and Council Offices

*Record of public meetings not video taped.*

- Audio record all public meetings that are not video taped and post the recordings on the Town's web site.
- Retain the original for the same period as required for video recordings. Currently the audio record is retained only as long as necessary to create the draft Action Minutes for a meeting and is generally not available to the public.
- For those interested in understanding how decisions are determined Action Minutes are not sufficient. Nor are they sufficient for a committee member who has missed a meeting.

*Note on the web site when an appeal has been filed.*

Hillside Development Standards and Guidelines

Consider the following:

*Establish maximum grading amounts for cut and fill in hillside areas.*

*Establish maximum horizontal width of a home (in addition of maximum height of home and maximum vertical height.*

*Establish maximum home size based on area within contiguous LRDA*

*Clarify intent o below grade space in hillside areas*

- Illustrations within the HDS&G show the intent of below grade space in hillside areas is to set a home into the topography to reduce its visual impact, not as a means to provide large areas space not counted towards square footage.
- Creating below grade square footage beyond that necessary for setting the structure into the hillside is not consistent with sustainable development either during or after construction. Large areas of below grade square footage results in greater changes to hillside topography, larger grading footprint to accommodate below grade light wells and below grade patios, potentially greater impacts to trees, and greater GHG emission both during construction and post construction. ...

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** Elke Billingsley <elke.billingsley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:17 AM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Traffic problems - for Jan. 14 meeting

Good morning,

Please add my name to the list of concerned residents regarding speeding on town streets.

I am concerned about the speed on Blossom Hill Road near the school, however I do not think reducing the section that is two lanes to one will help. I think traffic speed enforcement is the solution.

We live off Shannon Road and in the past 2-3 years, the amount of commuter traffic has greatly increased. It is difficult to cross the road as a pedestrian. I think the 30 mph speed limit is being broken by most drivers - some by much more than 10 mph over the limit. Also, so many drivers roll through the stop sign in front of Blossom Hill Park. I have contacted the town about this with minimal response.

Again, I think enforcement is the catalyst to changing behavior.

Thank you for your help in keeping everyone safe.

- Elke Billingsley

Bonnie Lane, Los Gatos

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**Subject:**

DESK ITEM - FW: Transportation Demand Management 2020-22

**From:** Linda Yung <linda.yung@gmail.com>**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:32 AM**To:** Stefanie Hockemeyer <SHockemeyer@LosGatosCA.gov>**Subject:** Transportation Demand Management 2020-22

Dear Town Council Members,

I am writing to inform Town Council that there is a need for additional safety measures to calm vehicular traffic that should extend beyond the current school zones. Some suggestions to research and discuss:

- Extend the 25mph school zone a few blocks further away from the elementary schools to give drivers more time to slow down. The reality is many drivers are already speeding "a little over the limit" and not slowing down by the time they reach the elementary schools and/or Blossom Hill Park.
- Add a digital speed sign on BH Road near the entrance by Peet's Coffee Shop in King's Court Shopping Center
- Add a digital speed sign on LG Blvd. by Kennedy Rd/Caldwell Ave. and LG Blvd. area -- Ensure that the tree branches are not blocking the current digital speed sign on LG Blvd and Mitchell Ave. (The sign is oftentimes obscured by tree branches).
- Ensure the digital speed sign on Blossom Hill Rd is operating. Is it meant to be OFF when school is not in session as I have not seen it operating most days when I'm driving pass it? If so, can it be kept ON even when school is not in session as I think it works to remind drivers to slow down.

I would also like to request a review to add more traffic calming measures during bell hours surrounding Fisher Middle School - Mitchell Ave., Roberts Rd, Blossom Hill Rd and Los Gatos Blvd.

Specifically, can a crossing guard, or police be permanently stationed to control the traffic flow on Roberts Rd. and Fisher Ave when school ends?

There are too many students jay-walking or dashing across Roberts Rd - some to meet their parents in an awaiting car, some just dash across the street to be on the other side.

As my family and I walk the Blossom Hill Road and Los Gatos Blvd corridor daily, we see the many "near-misses" and am saddened by the fatality that occurred across the street from Blossom Hill Elementary school in December 2019.

We thank the Town Council for their support and hope there will be further review about these very specific hot spots near the aforementioned schools.

Regards,  
Linda Yung

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**From:** Heather Lancelot <heatherlancelot@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:51 AM  
**To:** Stefanie Hockemeyer; Council  
**Cc:** David Lancelot  
**Subject:** Los Gatos Town Council Strategic Priority Meeting

Hello

I'm unable to attend tonight's town meeting, so would like to submit my traffic concerns in writing.

We live on Englewood Ave, which was recently incorporated into the town. Cars regularly use it as a cut through between Shannon and Kennedy, with a tremendous amount of traffic in the morning and late afternoon (both school and work commuters). Speeding well over the 25mph speed limit occurs on a regular basis, particularly on our end of the street where there are no speed bumps between Loma and Kennedy.

High school students in particular flagrantly disregard the speed limit and stop signs at Loma and Kennedy, which makes it even more dangerous for the younger children walking and riding their bikes home from school at dismissal times. The recent pedestrian crosswalk installed at Kennedy is somewhat helpful in demarcating pedestrian crossing zones, but only if the cars actually stop and look (which they often fail to do).

The situation is compounded by a complete lack of sidewalks or other safe walking zone on Englewood and the surrounding roads, even though the majority of schools (LGHS, Van Meter, Blossom Hill and Fisher are in the immediate vicinity) and many children walk/bike to school. In the evenings, commuters speed by when many residents are outside cycling, jogging and walking their dogs. It's unsafe and an accident waiting to happen, particularly as there is no lighting on the street and it is pitch black at night.

The traffic is at a complete standstill during the summer as Englewood is used as a beach cut through, but now the traffic is so bad in the mornings that it takes me minutes to pull out of my driveway unless someone is courteous enough to stop and let me back out.

We would like to see speed bumps installed on the remainder of Englewood that is no longer unincorporated, but now part of the town. In addition, a stop sign at Marchmont would serve as an additional traffic calming measure to reduce speeds and bumper to bumper traffic on Englewood. A regular police presence at either Loma or Kennedy to enforce the stop sign would also serve as a deterrent.

Sidewalks or a pedestrian path, with actual street lights would make the street safe again for the many residents who use it on foot or bike. Our child's school is only a few blocks away, but we would never allow her to walk unaccompanied after witnessing the daily dangerous driving on the roads.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss further.

Best regards  
Heather and David Lancelot

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