

To: Humboldt County Planning Commission
From: Jude Power
Re: City of Arcata Coastal Development Permit application

Dear Commissioners,

What should have been a routine process has, sadly, become an opening for a small number of people to impede a well-designed safety enhancement: the Old Arcata Road Improvement Project. Specifically, the proposed roundabout at the Jacoby Creek Rd. x Old Arcata Rd. intersection is being contested. The truth is, a majority of the community strongly favor a roundabout. For example, on February 16, 2022, when the Arcata City Council voted to approve the project, MORE THAN THREE TIMES as many people spoke in favor of the roundabout as against it (24:7, to be exact). The proportion of supporters has consistently been two to three times greater than opponents since the roundabout was proposed years ago.

The public record shows that the Arcata Community Development Dept. has encouraged, and received, input from residents inside and outside the city limits since this project began five years ago, and that all comments have been examined and responded to in writing for the public to see. Those of us who live inside the project area want the increased safety this project will provide, including the roundabout which will calm traffic that is becoming denser and faster as more people move to the Humboldt Bay Area.

Roundabout opponents have recently enlisted Mistwood Education Center, a home-school support center with an enrollment of 28 part-time students. The center's building will be ~45 feet from the roundabout roadway. Similarly, Jacoby Creek Elementary School's playground for approximately 51 full-time Kindergarten students is a mere 10 feet from Old Arcata Rd. It can be argued that students at Mistwood will actually be safer than those at the public elementary school because the roundabout will cause traffic to slow down as it enters the circle, while JCES students will be playing closer to faster traffic.

The County Public Works Dept. has been closely involved with the roundabout proposal throughout the project development period and supports it. **It is your job at this juncture to place public safety first**, and to protect the many people who walk, cycle and drive on our city and county roads. Just this month, a car speeded through this disputed intersection and charged into the yard of a home, the **18th time** this has happened to the home in recent memory. **It's time to fix this dangerous intersection with a traffic-calming roundabout.**

I encourage you to look at the most recent rendering of the design. Mistwood is at the far right.
<https://www.cityofarcata.org/DocumentCenter/View/8907/Roundabout-Rendering>

Thank you for your service to Humboldt County,
Jude Power
Hyland St., Bayside