



4/26/22

Hello.

Please include these  
copies of letters concerning  
the Old Arcata Road Impr.  
Project in your project files.

Both were previously submitted  
to the City of Arcata.

Carolyn Jones for  
Bayside Hall Board  
*Soul has no color*

letter submitted by email  
Feb 28, 2022



To: Netra Khatri

From: Bayside Community Hall  
Board of Directors

RE: Comments on the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for Old Arcata Road Rehabilitation and Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvements, SCH 2021010176

Bayside Community Hall has long been interested in improving road safety through our neighborhood. We are pleased that Hall representatives were able to participate in the early planning for this project. And we thank the City of Arcata, and the County for taking it on.

We are excited about the formal bike lanes, paved sidewalk and road re-paving that are included in the project. All three will be positive contributions to both the safety and the ambience of this stretch of roadway. We recognize that there are a variety of impacts that must be addressed (including some likely not yet spelled out), but to us they seem relatively minor and a fair trade-off for the project's benefits.

However, we have major concerns about the proposed roundabout at the junction of Old Arcata Road and Jacoby Creek Road. The more that we examine the (as yet incomplete) details of the roundabout, and walk the ground where it is proposed to sit, the less convinced we are that this is the best solution for improving safety at this intersection. As community members who walk and drive this intersection every day, our thoughts are informed by real, on-the-ground, experience. Those thoughts are:

- 1) Though it is a small roundabout compared with the others on Old Arcata Road, the roundabout is simply too large for the land area that it is to occupy. To make sufficient space, the following sacrifices are made:
  - a. Loss of a large area, admittedly on public-right-of-way, that is crucial parking for Mistwood School and Bayside Community Hall, with no plan for mitigation.
  - b. Movement of the roadway much closer to Mistwood School, (the Temperance Hall), which will increase noise and the possibility of traffic damage to the oldest building in the area.
  - c. Adding the roundabout does not seem to improve access to the post office, which even now is problematic for anyone who is southbound on OAR (requiring crossing of a double yellow line). In the current design, that access appears to become more difficult for both directions of traffic.
- 2) The primary problem at this intersection is the speed of the northbound traffic entering it, not the need to manage a high volume of traffic. There is not a large number of vehicles. Vehicles are not left waiting long times to turn from one road onto the other. They simply drive too fast. And while we agree that a roundabout would force traffic to slow, we feel that there must be other, less invasive, and far less expensive, strategies that could be implemented to slow vehicles to a reasonable speed as they enter the area. The roundabout is a solution for a problem that doesn't really exist.
- 3) Construction of the roundabout will increase the complexity of drainage issues which already impact the structures on the southwest corner (Mistwood and Bayside Hall), which lay directly adjacent to wetlands

It is also clear that the other parts of the project, the paving and bike lanes and sidewalk, will impact dozens of properties, and that every stretch of roadway poses specific challenges, be it losing trees or shrubbery, taking back portions of yards, dealing with ditches and drainage and driveways, etc. It seems only fair that landowners be able to understand the impacts on their properties. We are asking many of them to make sacrifices to their current situation to help build a good for the greater community.

The construction of this project will be hugely impactful on the community for the extended period of time that it will take to complete. Unlike the stretches of Old Arcata Road closer to town, this stretch is densely populated on both sides of the street, and contains two schools. The period of construction will be messy, noisy and inconvenient. Again, the greater good demands that we all put up with it, but that is going to go a lot better if there is widespread buy-in on the project benefits.

We just don't think you have that buy-in. We hope that you eventually will.

In our view, this MND should not be approved.

However, we don't feel that an EIR is necessary at this time either. It is not our goal to stop or delay the project, but to get it right.

What would be most helpful in moving this project forward with the community would be a fuller design so that we could better understand its impacts. In our view, the roundabout should be eliminated and a variety of traffic calming measures be applied to the current 3-way intersection. Those could include speed reductions and warning signals, attractive landscaping and other signage that signals drivers that they are entering the community of Bayside.

A more complete design should be undertaken and shared with all of the impacted property owners along the route. They need to understand which trees and shrubs will be removed, what parts of their property will disappear, what possibilities they will have for on street parking once bike lanes and sidewalks are in place.

Again, we thank you for your hard work on this and look forward to seeing what comes next.

letter submitted last year

**Bayside  
Community Hall**  
incorporated 1949

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Brian Curtis  
Calista LaBolle  
Carolyn Jones  
Denise Jones  
Erin Rowe  
Gregg Moore  
Peter Barker  
Rachael Patton  
Sue Moore

*Our mission is to  
foster social and  
community life for  
residents of Bayside  
and Humboldt county.*

*Our historic community  
center is an affordable  
venue for social and  
cultural gatherings,  
entertainment and  
activities that support  
local organizations and  
community causes.*

**501c3 nonprofit  
tax ID 23-7529744**

February 22, 2021

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From: Bayside Community Hall  
Board of Directors

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Old Arcata Road Rehabilitation and Pedestrian/Bikeway  
Improvements, SCH 2021010176

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We are excited about the formal bike lanes, paved sidewalk and road re-paving that are included in the project. All three will be positive contributions to both the safety and the ambience of this stretch of roadway. We recognize that there are a variety of impacts that must be addressed (including some likely not yet spelled out), but to us they seem relatively minor and a fair trade-off for the benefits of these aspects of the project.

However, we have major concerns about the proposed roundabout at the junction of Old Arcata Road and Jacoby Creek Road. The more that we examine the (as yet incomplete) details of the roundabout, and walk the ground where it is proposed to sit, the less convinced we are that this is the best solution for improving safety at this intersection. As community members who walk and drive this intersection every day, our thoughts are informed by real, on-the-ground, experience. Those thoughts are:

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It is also clear that the other parts of the project, the paving and bike lanes and sidewalk, will impact dozens of properties, and that every stretch of roadway poses specific challenges, be it losing trees or shrubbery, taking back portions of yards, dealing with ditches and drainage and driveways, etc. It seems only fair that landowners be able to understand the impacts on their properties. We are asking many of them to make sacrifices to their current situation to help build a good for the greater community, but the extent of those sacrifices is unclear.

The construction of this project will be hugely impactful on the community for the extended period of time that it will take to complete. Unlike the stretches of Old Arcata Road closer to town, this stretch is densely populated on both sides of the street, and contains two schools. The period of construction will be messy, noisy and inconvenient. Again, the greater good demands that we all put up with it, but that is going to go a lot better if there is widespread buy-in on the project benefits. We just don't think you have that buy-in. We hope that you eventually will.

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Finally, the vast majority of these issues were raised during the last round of discussions about this project, well over a year ago. We hoped that more answers would now be available, but the current MND document does not address any of those ongoing concerns in detail.

Again, we appreciate your hard work and look forward to seeing what comes next. Sincerely,



Carolyn Jones, President (for Bayside Community Hall)