

Greg Nesty  
Roundabout  
April 24, 2022 at 10:44 PM



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Humboldt County Planning Commission  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Proposed Roundabout at Old Arcata Road and Jacoby Creek Road

A recent piece in the Mad River Union left the impression that there is unanimous support in the Bayside neighborhood for the proposed City of Arcata roundabout. We think this is far from the truth. We are 20-year county residents at Fellowship Way off Jacoby Creek Road. We have been opposed to the project from the start, but felt that we had little input as county residents, since it appeared to be a City of Arcata project. Now that it is open to comment from county residents, we wish to state the following objections:

1. Procedurally, the EIR and approval process was flawed because the County's role in the project was not properly recognized.
2. The project is not needed. We have never seen a significant queue on Jacoby Creek Road for either left or right movement onto Old Arcata Road. Nor have we seen any significant queue ever form in the turn lane from southbound Old Arcata Road onto Jacoby Creek Road.
3. The project creates safety hazards at Mistwood School. Admittedly, it is dangerous for pedestrians to cross through the existing intersection from Mistwood School to the Post Office side of the road. This danger can be mitigated by walking east on Jacoby Creek Road away from the intersection. The roundabout project creates a pedestrian crosswalk that would give a false sense of safety. Drivers entering the roundabout from northbound Old Arcata Road will be concentrating on traffic approaching from the left in the roundabout. It is only after they get into the roundabout that they might give attention to the crosswalk. At that point they may have accelerated too much for a surprise stop at the crosswalk. In addition, as a bicyclist, I have learned to expect that drivers entering a roundabout are focused on weaving into vehicle traffic to the point where they don't even see a bicycle in the roundabout, much less anything in the roundabout exit. Once at the Indianola roundabout, I was in the roundabout on my bike when a vehicle entering the roundabout from Indianola cutoff pulled directly in front of me. I was forced to the inside of the roundabout traveling around the roundabout only a foot from the driver, who never saw me. I've had a similar incident happen at the Union Street roundabout. Based on this evidence, I foresee danger from the proposed pedestrian crosswalk location at Mistwood School.

We urge that this project not be allowed to proceed.

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