

May 23: City Council to Consider Removing Some Street Obstacles

May 21, 1995

SUDDEN ADDITION TO TUESDAY AGENDA !!

The City Council will consider a motion to remove these obstacles (right), as recommended by the Willows Traffic Committee. We must insist on the immediate removal of these dangerous devices: the council could even decide to leave them in permanently. We must also insist that the Council address major safety, emergency response and traffic diversion problems which they ignored when they approved the WTC's Phase II plan on April 25th.

Gilbertcircles at Pope and Central
O'Connorcircle at Byers, 2 chokers
Durhamcircle at Central, 1 choker
O'Keefe1 choker

Circle at Pope Street Bridge Ignored

Despite widespread complaints about safety and aesthetics, the Council has given in to the WTC and ignored the problems of this circle. The bridge is heavily used by pedestrians, bicycles and cars. It's our "front door." This circle affects each of us in our daily lives.

The Trouble with Traffic Circles

- ◆ The City Council's Bicycle Advisory Committee opposes circles and chokers because they "create a conflict" between bicycles and cars.
- ◆ The WTC brought a City of Portland Traffic Calming bureaucrat to Menlo Park to lobby our City Council. She revealed that, due to the hazards, Portland doesn't use circles on bicycle routes.
- ◆ The WTC's own survey last summer showed that 74% of Willows residents think obstacles detract from the neighborhood's appearance. The shrubs, installed in January to sway public opinion, were removed one week after the Council awarded victory to the WTC on April 25.

New Willows Traffic Plan: No Compromise

The City Council granted everything the WTC asked for. Lila Boll of the WTC said "it sounds like a victory", but most of the neighborhood loses. Major problems were swept under the rug: emergency vehicle response, traffic diversion, bicycle safety, pedestrian safety, auto safety and aesthetics. The procedures in the new scheme are even more biased in favor of "street furniture" than the original plan.

What to Do

- 1 Call** City Council members' **voicemail** now.
 - ◆ Urge them to remove the selected obstacles *immediately*.
 - ◆ Urge them to remove other circles which endanger pedestrians and bicycles, especially at the Pope St. bridge.
 - ◆ Insist on safeguards in Phase II to protect the community from emergency response delay, traffic diversion and aesthetic damage.
- 2 Attend** the City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 23 at 7:30 P.M. (701 Alma Street, near the police station). You can speak about obstacles not slated for removal (such as the Pope St. bridge circle) during Public Comment near the beginning of the meeting. The specified removals are included in Agenda Item G, late in the meeting.
- 3 Write or fax (328-7935)** your comments to the city Council, or sign a form letter that we will provide. If you can't attend Tuesday or are unable to stay for the whole meeting, SOS will relay your written comments to the Council at the appropriate time - see us outside the Council chambers or call SOS at 323-2353 (voice or fax).

CALL CITY COUNCIL VOICE MAIL NOW

Name	Phone	Voting Record
Dee Tolles, Mayor	858-3348	BAD
Bob Burmiester, Mayor Pro-tem	858-3341	GOOD
Bernie Nevin, Council Member	858-3347	GOOD
Calvin Jones, Council Member	328-9414, business	BAD
Steve Schmidt, Council Member	858-3346	BAD



SOS

A Community Association
for
Safe Open Streets

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