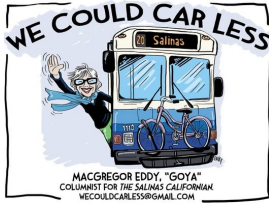


# Salinas 'hoods await traffic changes

MacGregor "Goya" Eddy, For The Salinas Californian 1:46 p.m. PDT September 16, 2016



(Photo: Provided)

Tired of cars speeding through their neighborhood, the residents of Creekbridge in Salinas who live along Little River Drive won preliminary city approval last week for traffic calming measures.

On Sept. 8, the Salinas Traffic and Transportation Commission approved the long anticipated action.

Three neighborhoods had requested that the city take steps to slow traffic. This is the first year since 2009 that the city budget has had any funds for traffic calming, according to James Serrano of the city Public Works Department.



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[Salinas to release traffic calming report](http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/local/2016/08/25/salinas-release-traffic-calming-report/89370660/)

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Frank Bellafiore, a Little River Drive area resident, described the concern to the commission.

"We call it the Little River Speedway," he said.

Bellafiore said resident Yolanda Hayes have been working for two years on the traffic calming application process. City staff confirmed that, yes, the speeds were excessive on Little River Drive; drivers try to avoid traffic from Boronda Road would use it as a shortcut. The calming plan calls for speed cushions (formerly known as speed bumps) to reduce speed and traffic volume. Serrano said "The people who use Little River Drive as a shortcut will not use it if there are speed cushions."

A second neighborhood request from Rosarita Drive residents near Natividad and Bernal roads also received provisional approval from the commission for traffic calming. However, a third request from the Monte Bella area near Williams and Bardin roads failed to meet the requirements. City staff said that of 490 affected households, only 180 responded to a survey. Serrano explained that the city cannot install expensive traffic calming measures in a neighborhood if there is a chance that the residents later will demand that the speed cushions be removed.

The two approved traffic calming proposals will go to the Salinas City Council in October for final approval.

If you suspect that cars are zooming through your neighborhood, take a look at the recording of the Sept. 8 traffic commission meeting for ideas on the application process. The recording is available on the Salinas Channel on YouTube, or call Salinas Public Works at 831-758- 7241. Let your City Council member know if you want traffic calming included in future city budgets -- and talk to your neighbors to drum up support.



A traffic safety advocate dressed as an action figure hero escorts two girls across the street near a Seaside Middle School on Wednesday. (Photo: Provided)

**Pedestrian safety month:** A human action figure dressed in car parts escorted Seaside Middle school students across the street on Wednesday as part of the state educational campaign, "Pedestrians Don't Have Armor." The California State Senate has declared September "California Pedestrian Safety Month." In 2015 alone, pedestrians were 25 percent of all roadway deaths in California, up from 17 percent 10 years earlier, according to Office of Traffic Safety.

The month also marks the beginning of a public awareness campaign aimed at urging drivers and pedestrians alike to share the road responsibly. At the center of the campaign are characters, clad in body armor made from car parts, to remind everyone that pedestrians don't stand a chance against a car.

Information: For more on pedestrian safety visit [www.OTS.ca.gov](http://www.OTS.ca.gov).

**Feds fuel buses:** The local bus system has received a full tank of support from two grants totaling \$7.96 million from the US Department of Transportation. Monterey-Salinas Transit said the funds

will pay for construction of a new bus maintenance and operations facility in King City, thus reducing empty bus travel. The grants will also allow MST to purchase nine new full-size buses. In 2015, MST provided more than 4 million passenger boardings, according to MST General Manager/CEO, Carl Sedoryk.

**MST board:** The Monterey-Salinas Transit Board of Directors will meet at 10 a.m. Monday at 19 Upper Ragsdale, Monterey. See the agenda online at [mst.org](http://mst.org).

**Drive electric:** National Drive Electric Day celebration is set from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday at the Del Monte Shopping Center in Monterey. Electric vehicles will be on display. Information: call 831-883-7576 or online go to [mbeva.org](http://mbeva.org).

**Free bike class:** Hartnell College is host a free bike safety and skills class 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat., Sept. 24. Sign up online at <http://bit.ly/bikeSAFE> or call 831-775-0903.

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