



June 10, 2021

Andrea Renny
Traffic Engineer
City of Monterey
580 Pacific Street
Monterey CA 93940

Re: Support for North Fremont Improvements

Dear Ms. Renny,

As the City of Monterey responds to the comments in the Grand Jury Report on the North Fremont Avenue Improvements, it is important for the Council and the public to consider why the Transportation Agency for Monterey County funded a significant portion of this project.

First and foremost, the North Fremont improvement project makes bicycle transportation safer and more attractive in a part of Monterey which is defined as a “disadvantaged community” by economic standards. By moving bicyclists away from driveways and intersections, the median bikeway has already reduced injuries and potentially deadly collisions with motor vehicles. The enhanced pedestrian features at the intersections have also made it safer to walk across this busy street. In addition, the new “smart” signals have eased the movement of traffic in the corridor. As well, the drainage improvements have removed the annual flooding that, prior to the project, had plagued adjacent businesses for years. For these reasons, the project has won several awards for excellence in transportation, as well as the praise of the North Fremont Business Association.

As with most transportation projects, the North Fremont improvements are but an incremental step towards a much larger goal: safer active transportation throughout the Monterey Peninsula. The North Fremont path is part of a network of separated bike routes that will connect disadvantaged communities to schools and parks, as follows:

- The Casa Verde to Laguna Grande bridge will connect the median bike lanes to the first segment of the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway, which will lead to Work Park, Del Rey Park, the Frog Pond and Del Rey Woods school;
- The bikeway is envisioned to continue (in one form or another) down Fremont Street through Seaside and connect to the vibrant West Broadway corridor, as well as the newly-funded East Broadway protected bike lanes leading to Martin Luther King elementary school; and,
- The North Fremont Bikeway will eventually connect with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic (or “Rec”) Trail, via a new crossing of Del Monte, from Laguna Grande to Roberts Lake.

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In conclusion, the North Fremont improvement project provided the start of a safer regional bicycling network and improvements to a corridor that hasn't seen a facelift in 50 years. We are confident that this corridor will soon become "a path to everywhere."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Hale". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Debra L Hale
Executive Director