

Asheville City Council May 24, 2022 Email Comments

TimeStamp	Text
5/23/2022 11:18:00 AM	<p>Please keep Merrimon Avenue 4 lanes.</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
5/23/2022 11:28:00 AM	<p>...if you vote to reduce merrimon avenue to 3 lanes. Please, please don't make that mistake.</p> <p>Pat McKee 25 brookwood road</p>
5/23/2022 11:43:00 AM	<p>I am a resident of North Asheville and am writing to express my opposition to the plan to change Merrimon from four to three lanes.</p>
5/23/2022 12:28:00 PM	<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I am all for walkability and bike lanes, however this is not the road to do it on. We must take into account that until future 26 is finished, we need access to other main avenues. Also our elderly do not like to drive on highways and prefer to drive on in-town roads. Just because the DOT is going to repaint, does not mean you should go with this pattern. The way to go is to widen Merrimon and add a turn lane and wider sidewalks. It is a main avenue for transportation, not a village road.</p> <p>*M.E. Gray* Broker/Realtor, Keller Williams Professionals m:828.231.9441 e:megray@kw.com w:www.liveloveasheville.com a: 86 Asheland Ave. Asheville. 28801 To search for homes from anywhere download my app here <http://app.kw.com/KW2CRUJ2>. <http://www.facebook.com/AVLRealtor> *Real Estate Agents, by Law, must disclose who we represent and our role to all potential Clients. PLEASE ASK FOR THE "WORKING WITH REAL ESTATE AGENT BROCHURE" BEFORE YOU DISCLOSE ANY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. * *To learn more click **http://www.ncrec.gov/Brochures/WorkingwAgents.pdf <http://www.ncrec.gov/Brochures/WorkingwAgents.pdf>* *IMPORTANT NOTICE:* *Never trust wiring instructions sent via email.* *Cyber criminals are hacking email accounts and sending emails with fake wiring instructions. These emails are convincing and sophisticated. *Always* independently confirm wiring instructions in person or via a telephone call to a trusted and verified phone number. *Never* wire money without double-checking that the wiring instructions are correct.</p>

5/23/2022 1:19:00 PM

Hello,
As a homeowner just off Merrimon Ave, who bikes to do errands for environmental reasons, I want to go on record as supporting the Merrimon Avenue road diet. Currently Merrimon Avenue, speed limit 35 MPH, is a high speed, unenforced, deathtrap for pedestrians and cyclists, those who live nearby who could use it to do their errands on foot or bike. Making it safer would increase sustainable walking or biking traffic and slow down car traffic. It is a city, not a highway.
Please help make this possible.
Thank you.
Eloise Bradham
68 Henrietta St, Asheville, NC 28801

5/23/2022 1:40:00 PM

I fully support the proposed Merrimon Ave Road Diet.

The current state of Merrimon Ave is, and has been, unsafe and stressful to drive. Even walking along Merrimon Ave feels unsafe! Turning left into any of the businesses along the road feels like risking my life. Getting stuck behind someone turning left may be worse!

Merrimon Ave is obviously a central feeder road into downtown Asheville and having a safe and direct bike route on Merrimon will absolutely increase bike miles traveled vice vehicle miles traveled. Win, win!

To the naysayers, I challenge you to ride or walk Merrimon Ave. I guarantee you will feel unsafe with cars speeding by you without an ounce of concern for your well-being.

It is about time bikers were treated equal to cars and provided equal and safe access to the roads our taxes pay for too!

The proposed Road Diet also helps achieve Asheville's Sustainability goals and keeps us on pace with other large NC cities in achieving car-less connectivity. (I do feel we are behind other large NC cities in many ways. We need to LEAD NC into the future, not 'follow').

Lastly, managing traffic on Merrimon is critical for emergency responders. A big fat middle lane will provide them better access and modifying the road will lead to fewer accidents for them to respond.

Worried about increased traffic?? Let's add a park and ride near Exit 23 and encourage carpooling, public transportation and biking into downtown!!

r/Paul Allen

(ps - I fully support the Merrimon Ave Road Diet!)

<p>5/23/2022 1:48:00 PM</p>	<p>Dear City Council, I am writing to express my strong support to authorize the proposed Merrimon Avenue conversion.</p> <p>I live near the intersection of Merrimon and Murdock Ave and need to turn onto Murdock Ave to get home. I find traveling on Merrimon Avenue, and turning into my neighborhood, to be terrifying. I am always afraid of being rear-ended when making a left turn. Also, when anyone tries to make a left turn, it holds up traffic. The lanes are so close together, even when just driving along the road I am afraid of being sideswiped.</p> <p>I understand there is some opposition to this plan from businesses, but I don't understand why. I would be more likely to shop at businesses along Merrimon Avenue if the road was safer.</p> <p>I hope that you will authorize this road conversion and that it can happen as soon as possible.</p> <p>Thank you, Daran Smith</p> <p>she/her 917-796-7726</p>
<p>5/23/2022 2:31:00 PM</p>	<p>PLEASE do not ruin my life and add hours of driving time to each month!! I drive this corridor every day, usually 2-3 times a day. And this diet would only serve a small minority of cyclists who won't use it anyway. I took the survey and am adding another 2cents into the fray now. Please and thank you.</p> <p>--</p> <p>L Ray Chief Editing Officer Ray Access rayaccess.com 828-301-3490</p> <p>*Words that empower your business!*</p>
<p>5/23/2022 3:20:00 PM</p>	<p>--</p> <p>Dorene O'Malley Special Projects / Executive Assistant Cane Creek Cycling Components 355 Cane Creek Road Fletcher, NC 28732</p> <p>M: (408) 607-6186 www.canecreek.com</p>

5/23/2022 3:38:00 PM

Living on Chatham Road about a block off Merrimon, I will be greatly impacted by the proposed road diet as I do my shopping, banking, and

Most general errands in the section of road to be revised to three lanes with two bike lanes. I definitely believe traffic should be slowed (I am reluctant to walk along Merrimon during my daily walks) but I am very concerned the proposed changes will result in increased crazy driving. Equally important, while I would love to see planned bikeways in Asheville, I definitely feel that Merrimon with all its traffic, roadside businesses and congestion is not the place for bike lanes. How about the wider and less used Broadway? I hope the city will delay this change and instead move forward with a citywide plan for bike lanes.

Sent from my iPad

5/24/2022 1:43:00 AM

Mayor Manheimer and Members of City Council:

We love the results of the reconfiguration of Charlotte St.!

Now, our three-generation household applauds your efforts to mitigate the dangers of driving/walking/biking on, or across, Merrimon Ave. For the 38 years we've lived in the Grove Park neighborhood, Merrimon Avenue has been part of our daily lives. Over the past decade, its increasing vehicular load has made it a danger to life and limb.

* Turning left into a store like Ace Hardware is frightening because so many drivers are speeding when the crest the hill at Gracelyn - shopping in our neighborhood shouldn't require that much risk or thought.

* Crossing Merrimon from the W.T.Weaver Greenway is terrifying because so many drivers run that redlight (until the intersection is blocked by traffic from W.T.Weaver) - southbound traffic frequently makes the right onto Weaver Blvd. without stopping regardless of how long the lights' been red- ignoring pedestrians trying to cross. For 5 years I commuted by foot or bike and crossed this intersection 5-10 times a week. It was always the always the most dangerous crux of the day's journey.

* The worst time driving on the road is lunch hour - when trades people are traveling to get supplies and eat - the traffic isn't as heavy as rush hours - so they can drive FAST because they see a way to weave through traffic trying to save a minute or two in their day. We spend as much time looking in the rear-view mirror as we do out the wind shield.

While we support the road diet, it's not because of the Bike lanes - but because reducing the through lanes will inevitably lower the top speeds by making it impossible to 'traffic-surf'. This will make it safer for the neighborhood and anyone who has limited mobility and has to cross this street.

We only wish the project extended down to the I-240 intersection and reconfigured Broadway so it was a better way to leave downtown headed north - Merrimon needs to be a neighborhood road, not a throughway to North Buncombe.

Regards,

Rod Baird -using Cortina as my secretary; apologies for any typos.

Asheville, NC

828-230-4474