



City Council Meeting
Public Comments
December 13, 2023

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email jfcass7@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date December 13, 2023

Item # 9

Subject Council Compensation

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name James Cassidy

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I have not heard how the deficit is being handled by the city or council. At this point having a deficit and at the same time requesting an increase in compensation seems counter productive. I find it reprehensible that Mr. Morasco voted No on increasing wages for City Employees and then made a motion for an increase in compensation for the City Council. Now is not the time to be asking for an increase in compensation.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email kovalsky@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 12

Subject SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT, MAJOR PLOT PLAN AND DENSITY BONUS FOR A 21-UNIT, MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL/MIXED-USE PROJECT - PHG20-003

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Robert Kovalsky

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I am the beneficial owner of the property located a short distance North of the project site, 727-741 S. Escondido Blvd. I want to voice my opinion in favor of the proposed mixed use project as it is modern, attractive, and appears to be very well designed. It will improve the neighborhood once constructed. and further revitalize the community in a positive way. I am comfortable with the density and proposed adjustments in parking given the inclusion of affordable units, location, and proximity to transit. I encourage you to support the staff recommendation and approve the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Board or Commission for Public Comment Planning Commission

Email wilkinsfamily432@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date December 12 2023

Item # PL23-0075

Subject MASTER AND PRECISE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PL23-0075:

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Brett Wilkins

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

So long as the businesses on street level are supported by the city and developer, I would encourage the board to approve this plan. We need more housing in the region and Escondido needs to be a part of the solution.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email tedkevinstevenson@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject Transit Resolution

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Kevin Stevenson

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Dane White, you're a joke. This resolution won't fly. We have specific climate and transit goals to meet, and this attempt to plug your ears and go "la-la-la" won't do shit. I don't want to depend on a car my whole life. Council, reject this desire to stay in the past, and fuck anyone who supports this garbage!

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email wilkinsfamily432@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Brett Wilkins

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Capitulating to the auto industry is the wrong move. Escondido needs to embrace alternative transit methods rather than what will contribute to the local economy.

We shouldn't be scared of bike lanes.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email kendalynwhite@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Kendalyn White

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I support the resolution as drafted and oppose the removal of the lanes I am currently paying for.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email allanb.ross@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date December 13, 2023

Item # Resolution 14

Subject Objection to the removal of current travel lanes on East Valley Parkway

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Allan B Ross

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I strongly support Resolution 14, which objects to the the proposed removal of current travel lanes eastbound and westbound on East Valley Parkway. The removal of travel lanes in order to create lanes solely for transit vehicles and bicycles in this area of Escondido would only increase traffic and already long backups at traffic signals. I reside in East Escondido and drive on East Valley Parkway frequently; I have not observed any need for dedicated lanes for mass transit on this street, which is paid for by taxpayers who do not want increased traffic density.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email val_hassan@outlook.com

Council Meeting Date 13 Dec 2023

Item # 14

Subject COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OR REPURPOSING OF ANY EXISTING ROADWAY TRAFFIC LANES

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Valerie Hassan

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

While I am generally in favor of supporting mass transit initiatives, the subtracting of one of two lanes (each direction) along Bear Valley Pkwy will do nothing but snarl traffic even more than it already is. The problem is that folks travel beyond this road -beyond where public transportation will take them. So not feasible to ride a bus on this road and end up at one's destination. Need a vehicle to do that. Cutting off one lane just makes vehicle travel more frustrating.

Need to CREATE a transit only lane- without subtracting a lane in each direction. Or, figure out how public transportation can better transport folks to and from their destinations more efficiently than by driving.

Thank you.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email jkdrrs@aol.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject NCTD bus route 471

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name John Mefford

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am strongly opposed to the removal of current travel lanes on East Valley Parkway for the purpose of creating "transit only", or "bike lane only" lanes.

There is no need or demand for this at the present time, and it would be an unnecessary expense to take on.

Sincerely, John Mefford

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email monicardelacruz@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/23

Item # 14

Subject Reject resolution blocking future bike and transit improvements

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Monica de la Cruz

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Escondido is my hometown and I am saddened to see it regressing further into climate denial and risking the lives of Escondido residents just to score political points. I visit family and patron businesses in Escondido by taking MTS route 235 on a regular basis. The mayor's resolution to oppose any changes to road designs for climate (VMT reductions) or safety improvements is dangerous for all city residents who bike, walk and take transit, and negatively impacts the poorest residents the most. We cannot continue to accept traffic injuries and deaths (which are on the rise) and we need to make real improvements to the transit network by prioritizing active transit over polluting private cars. Please reject resolution number 2023-172.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email Jabramm@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 12/14/2023

Item # 14

Subject Easy Valley Parkway

Position In Favor

First and Last Name James Brammer

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments No Bus only lanes on East Valley Parkway!

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email effenbergers@cox.net

Council Meeting Date 12/13/23

Item # 14

Subject Transit Lane on Valley Parkway

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Roberta Effenberger

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email kjones3112@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12-13-23

Item # 14

Subject

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Kathy Jones

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email kaseycross2@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Kasey Cross

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

State climate goals are one of the very few measures that have been enacted to ensure we have a planet to pass on to future generations. There are many people living in Escondido who want to walk and bike around their neighborhoods, and projects that help further our climate goals are beneficial to the community. Active transportation protects and enhances public health, not only by encouraging people to walk their neighborhoods but also by reducing emissions from passing vehicles and reducing noise pollution. When we build infrastructure that protects those walking and biking, we are saving lives. Humans were not meant to live in a car-centric world, and the more we can free ourselves from this harmful narrative the more we can improve the wellbeing of ourselves and those around us. Please do not approve this senseless, hateful, revisionist resolution. There have been zero studies done to back up such a hasty and haphazard item. The public demands the City do their due diligence by putting in the time, effort, and money required to do a comprehensive environmental study on the implications of such a ruling.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email lindatr78@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/23

Item # 14

Subject NCTD bus route 471

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Linda Trzinski

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

East Valley Pkwy is crowded enough with only two lanes.Taking away any lanes would make it even worse.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email emma.rod10@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject As an Escondido tourist- I hope you approve MORE bike lanes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Emma Rodriguez

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I love taking weekend trips to Escondido- I love the relaxed atmosphere, the people, the food, and the Wild Animal Park. But it isn't easy to get around- it's expensive and inconvenient to have to drive EVERYWHERE on my one weekend off in 3 months. That's why I hope you'll embrace bike lanes and even public transportation. I'm a tourist, so if I feel the burden of being FORCED to drive and feeling UNSAFE biking and UNWANTED walking, I can't imagine how frustrated your residents must feel.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email heyjoshclark@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject Resolution No. 2023-172

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Joshua Clark

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Growing up in Poway I travelled to and through Escondido often. Escondido was always "that big city to the north," a historic downtown with parcels platted close to one another to encourage short trips, served by rail, all designed before the automobile. Here's a fun fact from the time period when Escondido was first developed - early roads were paved due to strong state and federal advocacy efforts of people biking, the League of American Wheelmen were instrumental in the "good roads movement" founding the Office of Road Inquiry which would become the Federal Highway Administration.

Since then, the FHWA, state, and federal Departments of Transportation have spent unprecedented sums designing and building nearly exclusively for the automobile. The results are obvious in Escondido where a historic downtown and its network of flat gridded streets have grown ever larger, faster, and more dangerous in order to expediently move automobiles through a city, deactivating the streetscape and forcing businesses and customers to relocate to places less inhospitable.

The antidote to this are projects like both the Maple Street Plaza, and the Grand Avenue streetscape project which was completed last year. These comfortable, attractive, walkable places invite people back into a downtown to shop, hang out, and feel safe coming to or going through. Today's Resolution prohibits projects like these from ever happening in the City of Escondido again, because both projects "repurposed existing roadway traffic lanes."

I encourage you to vote "no" and reject Resolution No. 2023-172. A yes vote will memorialize the dangerous and outdated roadway designs of the 20th century. Approving this resolution limits the ability of city staff to improve the transportation network, as a result, more people will die and be seriously injured, and future generations of Escondido residents will be forced to inherit and maintain a less livable city. Your actions today may have far-ranging impacts that I don't believe have been thoroughly considered in this hasty resolution, please vote no.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email ritalclement@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/23

Item # 14

Subject Transit

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Rita Clement

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I am a volunteer with SanDiego350. The impacts. from climate change are becoming more dangerous and more expensive to repair. Change is difficult but essential. We are in a transition period which requires all existing solutions to be prioritized. I strongly recommend a no vote for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email aaestes@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject Council Resolution No. 2023-172, objecting to the removal or repurposing of any travel lanes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Angela Russell

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

The City of Escondido is a dangerous place to be on the road, no matter what mode of travel one chooses. According to the Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), over the last 10 years, four cyclists and 21 pedestrians lost their lives in Escondido due to traffic violence. An additional 32 cyclists and 56 pedestrians were severely injured, and 589 cyclists and pedestrians had visible injuries after crashes with drivers of motor vehicles.

In 2021 alone, there were 695 total crashes, 14 deaths, and nearly 1,000 injuries. Of those crashes, 18% involved a bicyclist, pedestrian, or motorcyclist. 82% involved other motor vehicle drivers. All road users suffer when a city of 150,000 has this many crashes annually.

Adjusting the allocation of a roadway to better support public transit and active transportation (bicycling, walking, etc.) not only improves public health by creating opportunities for movement during people's days, it also makes streets safer for all road users, including those in cars.

Meeting the state and county's climate action goals, including shifting the share of trips taken using single occupancy vehicles toward other modes, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions are an additional benefit of reallocating the public right of way.

We urge Council to oppose "Resolution No. 2023-172, objecting to the removal or repurposing of any travel lanes for purposes of accommodating state or NCTD Climate Goals."

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email robchrisj@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date Dec. 13, 2023

Item # 2023-172

Subject objecting to the removal or repurposing of any travel lanes for purposes of accommodating state or NCTD Climate Goals

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Christopher Roberts

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

While I am not a resident of Escondido, I visit my friends in and around Escondido often by bicycle. There is a significant need for more bicycle lanes in Escondido to increase availability and safety of bicycling as a transportation option. In addition, it is critical that Escondido continue to build more bicycle and bus lanes so that San Diego County can meet its goals for increased alternative transportation options to lower greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change. Approval of this resolution would be a huge step in the wrong direction.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email nvpatin@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OR REPURPOSING OF ANY EXISTING ROADWAY TRAFFIC LANES

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Nastassia Patin

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

As a resident of San Diego County who relies on public transit and is concerned about the impact of climate change on the economy, public health, and quality of life in Southern California, I strongly oppose this regressive resolution. Shame on the mayor and city council for recommending it.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email steve@sandiego350.org

Council Meeting Date December 13, 2023

Item # 14

Subject Resolution against repurposing traffic lanes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Steven Gelb

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

For the good name and reputation of Escondido please vote against this measure. The reputation of Birmingham and Selma in Alabama are forever stained by their resistance to racial segregation. A similar stain will be attached to Escondido if you pass a resolution opposed to climate mitigation. Please refocus on your excellent Climate Action Plan and its and its Strategy 3 that aims for a reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email bananashke@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OR REPURPOSING OF ANY EXISTING ROADWAY TRAFFIC LANES

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Craig Jones

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Not an Escondido resident, but former City employee. Does the City of Escondido REALLY want to go on record in favor of climate change? That is the wording and the effect of the proposed resolution.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email bananashke@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OR REPURPOSING OF ANY EXISTING ROADWAY TRAFFIC LANES

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Craig Jones

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Not an Escondido resident, but former City employee. Does the City of Escondido REALLY want to go on record in favor of climate change? That is the wording and the effect of the proposed resolution.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email beemitt@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/23

Item # 14

Subject Removal or Repurposing travel lanes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Bee Mittermiller

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Even though I do not live in Escondido, this item can have terrible implications for the rest of San Diego County. Travel lanes should be removed or repurposed to accommodate climate goals. If this passed, it could affect the entire region - no city is an island in our County. Also, if this passes, it would negatively affect Escondido's ability to attract State and other funding. That means less money for Escondido, fewer jobs, and an overall reduction in funding.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email chloe@sdbikecoalition.org

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject Resolution No. 2023-172

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name E. Chloé Lauer

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

The City of Escondido is a dangerous place to be on the road, no matter what mode of travel one chooses. According to the Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), over the last 10 years, four cyclists and 21 pedestrians lost their lives in Escondido. An additional 32 cyclists and 56 pedestrians were severely injured, and 589 cyclists and pedestrians had visible injuries after crashes with drivers of motor vehicles.

In 2021 alone, there were 695 total crashes, 14 deaths, and nearly 1,000 injuries. Of those crashes, 18% involved a bicyclist, pedestrian, or motorcyclist. 82% involved other motor vehicle drivers. All road users suffer when a city of 150,000 has this many crashes annually.

Adjusting the allocation of a roadway to support public transit and active transportation (bicycling, walking, etc.) improves public health by creating opportunities for exercise and makes streets safer for all road users, including those in cars. It also reduces travel times. A Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line and dedicated busway with frequent, reliable service will provide equitable transportation options for transit-dependent residents and choice riders, removing cars from the road and making travel better for remaining drivers.

Today's resolution risks state, regional, and state funding eligibility for future transportation projects and removes life-saving engineering solutions city staff can use to improve safety and expand mobility options for current and future Escondido residents of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds. In fact, this resolution puts the City's in-progress Comprehensive Active Transportation Strategy (CATS plan) at risk. This resolution is likely to have a direct and negative impact on the city's future economic prospects, including ability to receive Smart Growth funding.

Meeting the state and county's climate action goals, including shifting the share of trips taken using single occupancy vehicles toward other modes, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions are additional benefits of reallocating the public right of way.

I urge Council to oppose "Resolution No. 2023-172, objecting to the removal or repurposing of any travel lanes for purposes of accommodating state or NCTD Climate Goals."

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email chiroheilman@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13/2023

Item # 14

Subject East Valley Pkwy removal of current travel lanes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name STEPHEN HEILMAN

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

The proposal to remove traffic lanes from East Valley Pkwy for use limited to bike or mass transit lanes is a bad proposal. Existing travel patterns on East Valley Parkway are already high congestion, and reducing another lane for this purpose will only aggravate the traffic flow pattern. Running parallel one block to the North is the Escondido Creek trailway which currently runs all the way through this proposed zone. Adding this new proposal would not only be redundant for a very limited use, but also further complicate the existing traffic zone challenge.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email regan.r@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 12/13

Item # 14

Subject Resolution No. 2023-172, objecting to the removal or repurposing of any travel lanes for purposes of accommodating state or NCTD

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Regan Russell

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

The City of Escondido is a dangerous place to be on the road, no matter what mode of travel one chooses. According to the Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), over the last 10 years, four cyclists and 21 pedestrians lost their lives in Escondido due to traffic violence. An additional 32 cyclists and 56 pedestrians were severely injured, and 589 cyclists and pedestrians had visible injuries after crashes with drivers of motor vehicles.

In 2021 alone, there were 695 total crashes, 14 deaths, and nearly 1,000 injuries. Of those crashes, 18% involved a bicyclist, pedestrian, or motorcyclist. 82% involved other motor vehicle drivers. All road users suffer when a city of 150,000 has this many crashes annually.

Adjusting the allocation of a roadway to better support public transit and active transportation (bicycling, walking, etc.) not only improves public health by creating opportunities for movement during people's days, it also makes streets safer for all road users, including those in cars.

Meeting the state and county's climate action goals, including shifting the share of trips taken using single occupancy vehicles toward other modes, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions are an additional benefit of reallocating the public right of way.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email joe@ecinstitute.com

Council Meeting Date 12-13-23

Item # 14

Subject Resolution to not restrict lanes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Joe Houde

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Escondido City Council Meeting 12/13/23

Item 14

1. Escondido is known to have unacceptable rates of traffic accidents and deaths!
2. Separated bicycle lanes have been proven to increase pedestrian safety
3. Escondido's CAP has won awards This council seems to be working overtime to overturn the approved CAP and increasingly harm our climate and our future.

A safe future for our children and grand children and a safe present for our citizens is far more important than passing this highly objectionable resolution. Please vote NO!

Joe Houde,

Chair, ExCOM, North County Group, Sierra Club