



PO Box 1785
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

To: Chair and Agency Members, Morgan Hill Redevelopment Agency

Morgan Hill, October 18, 2011

Dear Chair and Agency Members,

Thrive! Morgan Hill has closely followed and provided input in the Monterey Road Streetscape conceptual design process. After careful consideration that included the views of various stakeholders and the deliberations of the Planning Commission at their September 13 meeting, we submit the following opinion on the issue before the Agency.

The results of the Monterey Road Streetscape Design workshops indicated the majority of participants favored a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly downtown with lane reduction, wider sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. The conceptual designs illustrating streetscape options included redeveloped sites in the downtown. This was and is somewhat misleading given that downtown redevelopment is still in its early stages. Projects which will affect transportation, housing, commercial spaces and parking in the downtown have yet to be designed and/or implemented. These projects, such as the Butterfield and Hale extensions or the redevelopment of targeted sites, will have impacts known and unknown on the use of Monterey Road between Main and 5th Street. In addition, progress on some of these projects is subject to limited financial resources despite their priority status.

Although we are not opposed to temporarily testing out the desirability and function of the 2 lane concept in the downtown, the results would encapsulate only the effect on current conditions. Instead, we believe the implementation of other projects, which will significantly impact the use of Monterey Road, should take place before a trial of the favored 2 lane concept is carried out. It is our estimation that this would not only be a more cost effective approach, but would in all probability lead to the most suitable design and allow for greater buy-in from the community at large as to the final design concept.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marieke Ruys". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marieke Ruys
Thrive! Morgan Hill

Cc: *Leslie Little, Assistant City Manager*
David Heindel, Consultant - Morgan Hill Economic Development Agency