

From: [Don Morris](#)
To: [Don Morris](#)
Subject: RE: Victoria Ave. Update
Date: Monday, November 5, 2018 1:56:01 AM

*Thanks to Tim Maloney and Mike Gardner for sharing their comments regarding plans for Victoria Ave.
Don*

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tim Maloney
Subject: Re: Victoria Ave. Update
Date: November 3, 2018 at 8:46:50 AM PDT
To: Don Morris <drdmorris@earthlink.net>

This email IS NOT factual. It's "the sky is falling" scenario.

1st. FACT. The email makes you believe that they are considering round-a-bouts all along Victoria. It's one intersection.

Yes, the report indicates that additional sites should be reviewed.

2nd. FACT This intersection, Washington, is a mess. Especially during peak hours.

3rd. FACT The City is responding to a CITIZEN'S request to "consider" exploring a round-a-bout concept. (worth looking at)

4th. FACT The Transportation Committee is doing its job to have staff prepare a report to review options to this particular nightmare intersection.

It might be a good idea for everyone to consider putting on their thinking caps and bring some creative ideas and solutions to this issue as opposed to just ignoring that there is no issue and that any option to disrupt one plant or tree is not an option. That's seems to be small, head-in-the-sand, thinking.

Properly designed, this intersection could become an opportunity to highlight Riverside's Citrus Heritage and tell the story of Historic Victoria Avenue. The four quadrants and center island could be exhibit areas for Riverside's heritage. It could be a major cultural asset to the avenue and a center point of history and of how history and change can work together and be in harmony.

We should all be open to exploring the options on paper...that doesn't mean that they will become reality. That's when the voices and votes should be noted....NOT during the exploration period. This intersection is a problem. What options are there? Seems like some are not open to even exploring. And that's ignoring the issue...and sad.

Tim Maloney

University Ave.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>
Subject: Re: [External] Victoria Ave. Update
Date: November 3, 2018 at 7:52:42 AM PDT
To: Don Morris <drdmorris@earthlink.net>

Don,

It is important to recognize that the concept of traffic circles on Victoria Avenue is not a city proposal. It is an idea that a resident brought to the Transportation Commission unsolicited. The Transportation Commission is composed of nine residents appointed by the Mayor and Council. The Transportation Commission requested more information on traffic circles in general and eventually referred the Victoria Avenue concept to the Transportation Committee for discussion. The November 8 Transportation Committee Meeting is where that discussion will occur.

As with all City Council, Council Committee and Board and Commission meetings, the November 8 Transportation Committee Meeting agenda and backup package were published at least 12 days before the committee meeting as required by Riverside's Sunshine Act rather than the three days required by state law.

The staff report makes it clear that there is no funding for this project and highlights that it would have significant impact to historic Victoria Avenue. The staff report asks for Committee direction on whether to expend further resources and seek funding for the concept as well as on the possible installation of a traffic signal. The Staff report does not suggest a course of action.

In my opinion the concept is not going to go anywhere.

Mike

Tim & Mike,

I am not, and certainly don't want to be the spokes-person for Victoria Ave., however having resided in the Mt. Rubidoux Historic District for 32 years, I have a sense of how people who protect history think.

They believe:

- Preservation of the important history of a city is a one-way street. There is no chance to renovate or to save a historic site once it's gone.
- Preservation of important landmarks and buildings permit residents and tourists to be able to witness the aesthetic and cultural history of their past.
- We either preserve history or change it. This reality is, once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever.
- When an area or a building has secured a historic designation, it is protected as part of the past and free from change and alteration.

So there are 2 ways of thinking.

Tim's 1st. FACT.

The email makes you believe that they are considering round-a-bouts all along Victoria. It's one intersection.

Yes, the report indicates that additional sites should be reviewed.

Historians reply would be:

For 126 years people have worked to protect Victoria Avenue and keep it as it has always been. It's the only place like it in California if not the US. And you can drive down it just like you could in 1900. It's protected for posterity. Put in a traffic circle....you've ruined that experience.

2nd. FACT This intersection, Washington, is a mess. Especially during peak hours.

Historians reply would be:

Just because Riverside has grown to 300,000+ people it doesn't mean that we destroy the history of the city. There are MANY other areas of the city to put in freeways/traffic circles/modern buildings/etc. The historic parts are designated off-limits. Historians are not interested in looking at ways of solving present day problems by erasing part of the history.

Is their attitude progressive. Nope. It's protective. Two ways of thinking. Both ways are right....just not on the same property.

Last comment is for Mike.

Thanks for your explanation of how the Victoria traffic circles concept came about. I find it interesting that innocent "concepts" such as this, can have hundreds of residents upset and angry and ready to show up in force at meetings. When the City begins entertaining a "concept" it does studies, makes designs, looks for possible funding, etc. while the residents have absolutely no idea there IS a concept. An example would be (*this is just my experience and what people have told me....I do not get "inside information"*) when one resident at the base of Mt. Rubidoux became aware that the City was "planning to" put traffic circles on Redwood and Pine...he put fliers on a lot of doors in July of 2015. In a few short days word spread "on the street" and we were told that the City already had plans/designs/and partial funding. And they still believe that was true. Usually there is an "informational meeting" to tell everyone the "concept" has NOT been approved, but residents have developed a mistrust that plans are moving forward before they are told. (*In the Redwood/Pine concept, I believe the neighborhood called a meeting with you before you called one with them, to voice their disapproval.*)

This problem of "transparency" isn't anything new. Many documents in Riverside's past have defined the need for Community Engagement in decision making, and it is still a major problem. A significant part of the public's perception is that City government wants to get "concepts" far enough down the road before the public can do anything about stopping it. Lack of transparency creates suspicion and mistrust of government. Examples of this thinking were traffic circles Redwood/Pine, the warehouse in Sycamore Canyon, the public library relocation, the warehouse on the Northside....and this problem of 'traffic circles on Vittoria Ave.'

Thanks again for both of your comments and opinions. I appreciate the opportunity to share different opinions/positions on issues.

Don