

City Clerk Staff

From: Charlie Beaton <charlie@bigdippericecream.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 1:33 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Higgins Corridor

1.23.23

Missoula City Council,

The Hip Strip District, south of Beartracks Bridge on Higgins Avenue, is a lively entrance to downtown Missoula comprised of locally-owned businesses sustained by the hearts of the community. As owners of Betty's Divine, Big Dipper Ice Cream, and Missoula Bicycle Works, we support the preferred concept of the Higgins Corridor Study as an essential improvement for the safety and vitality of the neighborhood where many Missoulians live, work, and play.

The Hip Strip is a destination for the wide variety of people who frequent the Missoula Senior Center, Hellgate High School, its residential neighborhoods, and the numerous businesses and nonprofits that make the Hip Strip District so unique. It is truly a multi-generational center built around the lives and needs of the community.

With safety and accessibility improvements, the Higgins Corridor concept addresses a vital component missing in the current layout of one of Missoula's most prevalent commuting destinations. Higgins Avenue is not a through-fare, and collisions between cars and pedestrians and/or bicycles along the Hip Strip are too numerous to count. Dedicated turn lanes for vehicles at 5th and 6th Streets will drastically improve the intersections where these accidents occur. Cohesive with the bike lanes of North Higgins Avenue, a protected lane for cyclists will provide a barrier for the families and individuals who recreate and work downtown, along the river, or in the Hip Strip District, allowing safer access for everyone en route to their destinations.

Significant planning and consideration has gone into the preferred Higgins Corridor concept. With the closure of traffic lanes on Beartracks Bridge, it became evident that single lanes didn't impose on traffic flow in and out of downtown. Studies show that narrowing corridors can actually help to increase the economic activity in areas similar in size and scope to the Hip Strip. Our local businesses rely on customer access, and we believe that some reduced parking on Higgins is an amenable compromise for the safe accessibility and continued patronage of the Hip Strips's schools, shops, dining, and socializing establishments.

We are fortunate to call Missoula home. The proximity of the Clark Fork River appeals to those looking to escape the world of social media and online screen time. Walking and cycling in our beautiful city is a healthy habit to combat societal pressures. Vehicle traffic contributes to more pollution, less connection, and heightened accidents in our neighborhoods, necessitating safe cycling and walking routes as an imperative for physical and mental health.

A recent survey polled on [EngageMissoula.com](https://www.engagemissoula.com) resulted in a 2 to 1 ratio in favor of the Higgins Corridor plan. Implementing safety and accessibility is key to every successful undertaking, and it is our hope that we can count on your support for the quality of life and the vitality of our neighborhood, our businesses, our youth, and our community.

Aimee McQuilken, Betty's Divine
Charlie and Barbie Beaton, Big Dipper Ice Cream
Alex Gallego, Missoula Bicycle Works

Big Dipper Ice Cream
631 S. Higgins Ave.
Missoula MT 59801
c. 406.544.5963
bigdippericecream.com

City Clerk Staff

From: Abby Huseth <abby@climatesmartmissoula.org>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 1:29 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Climate Smart Missoula support for plastics resolution
Attachments: 2023 Plastics resolution Letter of Support - Climate Smart Missoula.pdf

Dear Missoula City Council members,

Please find attached Climate Smart Missoula's letter of support for the proposed resolution declaring Missoula's support for statewide legislation during the 2023 Legislative session to restore power to local governments to regulate single-use plastics, which is being discussed at the Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee meeting on Wednesday January 25.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Abby Huseth

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Abby Huseth *she/her*
Associate Director, Climate Smart Missoula
c: (406) 219-8876
missoulaclimate.org

City Clerk Staff

From: Alex Gallego <alex.gallego1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 12:56 PM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Higgins Ave Corridor Preferred Concept

To Missoula City Council members,

I am writing to encourage you accept the preferred concept for the Higgins Ave corridor improvements.

Higgins avenue is a very important corridor connecting neighborhoods and businesses on the north and south side of the Clark Fork river. I am very aware of the importance that safe and efficient transportation has on our community. I am a business owner on Higgins (Missoula Bicycle Works), our kids have all attended high school at Hellgate high school and my family all commute regularly on Higgins avenue.

As a business owner I have seen how problematic and dangerous four lanes of automobile lanes can be. Cars parked along Higgins regularly have their side view mirrors knocked off by passing vehicles. Pedestrians and cyclists are hit by drivers numerous times per year. Traffic calming measures, protected bicycle lanes and attractive sidewalks will make Higgins a much safer place for transportation. When I speak of transportation, I do not simply mean automobile traffic. Transportation, as I see it is the movement of people whether on foot, by bike or using public transportation.

Reducing the number of auto traffic lanes on Higgins will not have any negative effect on the business community along the Higgins corridor. In fact it will have a very positive effect. Transportation research as well as actual examples of auto traffic calming projects around the United States as well as around the world have been shown to increase quality of life, positively impact businesses and reduce air and noise pollution.(Case Studies on Transport Policy 10 (2022) 2476–2485, Luca Bertolini (2020) From “streets for traffic” to “streets for people”:

can street experiments transform urban mobility?, Transport Reviews, 40:6, 734-753, DOI: 10.1080/01441647.2020.1761907)

I would like to see the Missoula business community remain vibrant. People will be more likely to visit our downtown if they consider it attractive and pleasant. We can create an environment that is very welcoming, encourages social interaction and allows people to move past our businesses at a slower pace whether they are in a car, on a bike or on foot. This will improve businesses visibility. When two people unexpectedly and unintentionally bump into one another while walking on the sidewalk it is usually followed by a considerate "excuse me". When two drivers encounter each other in a similar manner it is usually followed by shouting profanities and wild gesticulation of the middle finger. Autos encourage isolation and anonymity. Cities designed for people encourage social interaction and community building. The former we need less of and the latter is what I think we would all prefer.

Best regards,
Alex Gallego

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Missoula Bicycle Works
708 So. Higgins Ave
Missoula, MT 59801
406.721.6525