
From: Morgan Smith <msmith@bainbridgewa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:02 PM
To: Kristen Drew <kdrew@bainbridgewa.gov>
Subject: FW: Redirecting car traffic to protect pedestrians and cyclists during COVID-19

From: Paula Holmes-Eber <bikeforbreath@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Morgan Smith <msmith@bainbridgewa.gov>
Subject: Redirecting car traffic to protect pedestrians and cyclists during COVID-19

Redirecting car traffic to protect pedestrians and cyclists during COVID-19

Dear Ms. Smith

Bainbridge Greenways and Squeaky Wheels would like to bring your attention to the need to protect pedestrians and cyclists and to enable safe movement on roads in this time of social distancing. As a result of Governor Inslee's COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, there has been a rapid increase in the number of pedestrians and cyclists on Bainbridge roads, including a greater number of children. For many BI residents, walking or cycling on their local roadway is their only opportunity to get some exercise and fresh air and escape the stresses of the crisis. Cities around the country (including Seattle) have responded by devoting more road space to people walking and biking.

While there has been some reduction of traffic on the island in recent weeks, in many neighborhoods (especially in the town centers of Winslow and Lynnwood Center), the roads continue to have traffic volumes that are still not safe for walkers and cyclists. Furthermore, it appears that in some areas of the U.S., reduced traffic has led to the problem of increased speeding (<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2020/03/30/as-roads-empty-to-covid-19-drivers-who-remain-are-speeding-up-heres-how-to-slow-them-down/>). We appreciate the city's efforts to remind people to slow down as demonstrated by city manager Morgan Smith's report. However, we at Squeaky Wheels and Bainbridge Greenways believe that even more needs to be done.

We are asking the council to respond to the situation by designating some roads either one way streets or limiting traffic on those roads to local traffic in a manner similar to the plan that Seattle is implementing (see

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/seattle-could-open-15-miles-of-streets-for-pedestrians-bicyclists-by-banning-cars-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>). By temporarily barricading and signing the entrances and exits to popular walking and biking roads, traffic could be reduced quickly at a low cost. For example, some roads that would be easy to make one-way or limit to local-traffic-only might include: Crystal Springs, Manitou Beach and Grow Ave among others.

We hope the council will act quickly.

Signed:



Squeaky Wheels

Paula Holmes-Eber

Tim Wentzel

Richard Potter

Alyse Nelson

Elizabeth Ozimek

Lillian Duckler

David Duckler

Kristine Kramer

Rik Langendoen

Jens Swensen

Bainbridge Greenways

Susan Loftus

Fran Korten

David Reynolds-Gooch

Kim Leatham

Alyse Nelson

Mike Cox

Jennifer Wilson

Lisa Sheffer

Ted Larson Freeman

Carolyn Harper

Leigh Heron

Don Willot

Dave Cinamon