

**SUSTAINABLE TAMALMONTE
215 JULIA AVENUE
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941**

July 25, 2016

Mill Valley City Council
Mill Valley Dept. of Public Works
26 Corte Madera Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Attention:

Mill Valley City Council
John McCauley, Mayor
Jessica Sloan, Vice Mayor
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Councilmember
James P. Wickham, Councilmember
Sashi McEntee, Councilmember

Mill Valley Department of Public Works
Andrew Poster, P.E., T.E., Director of Public Works
Scott Schneider, PE, Engineering Manager
Cecilia Zamora, PE, Associate Engineer
Denise Andrews, Operations Superintendent
Robert Zadnik, Public Works Manager

Re: Request for a revision of the Marsh "Room" of the Miller Ave. Streetscape Plan to retain the existing right-turn lane from outbound Miller Ave. to Almonte Blvd.

Dear Mill Valley City Council and Department of Public Works,

In order to ensure the best circulation and safety conditions for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, we urge you to revise the Marsh "Room" of the Miller Avenue Streetscape Plan and retain the full length of the existing right turn lane on outbound Miller Ave. that leads to Almonte Blvd.

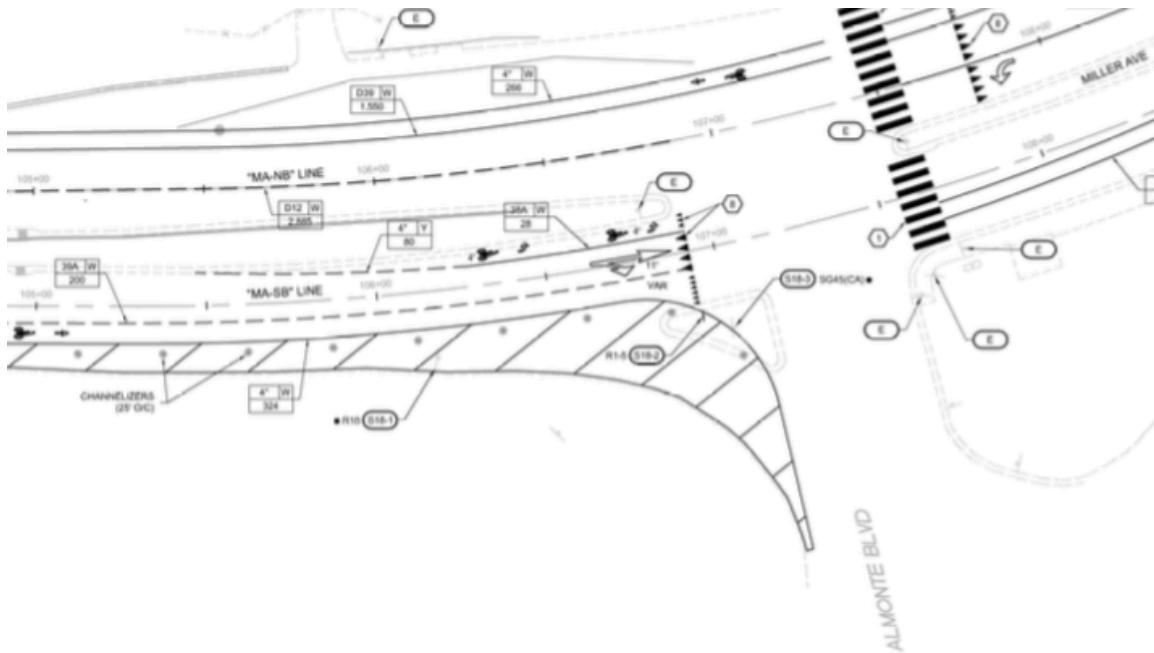


Diagram of the Miller Ave Signage & Striping Plan at the Intersection of Miller Ave & Almonte Blvd

Under the adopted Miller Avenue Streetscape Plan, outbound Miller Avenue through the Marsh will have its lanes reduced from two to one at roughly the middle of the Tam High football field. In addition, the plan eliminates the large radius right-turn lane and provides the right-turn within the single through lane. Moreover, the plan unsafely weaves bicycle traffic from the right hand side of outbound Miller Ave. to the left hand side to allow bicyclists to turn left from outbound Miller Ave. to the multi-use pathway along the marsh.

If implemented, such changes would increase traffic congestion for all traffic heading from the City of Mill Valley to the back of Tam High, the Almonte Neighborhood, Tam Junction and Hwy 101 and worsen safety conditions. Currently during peak traffic volume, the back up extends from the Stinson Beach/Hwy 1 freeway entrance to the middle or end of the Tam High football field. The planned reduction of two lanes to one lane on outbound Miller Ave. would force the back up to extend even further down Miller Ave. towards Camino Alto.

Encouraging bicyclists to weave through congested traffic and travel from the right hand side of outbound Miller Ave. to the inside of outbound Miller Ave. would exacerbate the unsafe conditions. Currently, bicyclists are supposed to use the crosswalk at Almonte Blvd. to cross over Miller Ave. to the multi-use pathway, a much safer solution. Signage advising the bicyclists to cross at the crosswalk would make this option even safer.

Implementation of the Miller Avenue Streetscape Plan would also worsen conditions along the Marsh Section of Miller Ave. during flooding. When flooding occurs in the area, the outbound Miller Ave. left lane usually floods. However, the outbound Miller Ave. right lane often remains dry because it is higher than the left lane. As a result, motorists use

the dry right lane during times of flooding. Yet, the new Miller Avenue Plan would preclude this safer option by eliminating the dry right lane.

The Miller Avenue Streetscape Plan was adopted in 2011. At that time, our economy was still recovering from the “Great Recession” and the housing crash, which had reduced traffic. Since then, the economy has improved, the local population has increased (particularly school children), visitation to Muir Woods and other Marin recreational areas has risen, flooding has become more frequent, the light at the intersection of Tennessee Valley and Hwy 1 was installed, which has caused significant new delays, and traffic congestion has worsened tremendously between Hwy 101 and the City of Mill Valley. Any traffic study of the Marsh “Room” completed before 2011, when the plan was adopted, would be invalid at this time. It is imperative that you update the Miller Ave Streetscape Plan to meet these new challenges before funding is wasted on inappropriate construction.

Once again, in order to ensure the best circulation and safety conditions for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, we urge you to revise the Marsh “Room” of the Miller Avenue Streetscape Plan and retain the full length of the existing right turn lane on outbound Miller Ave. that leads to Almonte Blvd.

Thank you in advance for your conscientious consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Sharon Rushton, Chairperson

Sustainable TamAlmonte

CC: Jim McCann, Mill Valley City Manager

CC: Becky Murray, Administrative Assistant of the Mill Valley City Manager

CC: Supervisor Kate Sears

CC: Supervisor Aid Maureen Parton