

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Robert Ovadia <rovadia@ci.atherton.ca.us>
Subject: Middlefield turn restrictions

Dear Mr. Ovadia,

I am writing in response to your letter requesting comment on the proposed change in hours of restricted right turn on the intersection of Oak Grove Avenue and Middlefield Road. As a resident at [REDACTED] Oak Grove Avenue for 24 years, I have witnessed the increase in traffic and activity at that intersection, and I use that intersection frequently.

The intersection is heavily traveled and appears to be a site of more frequent accidents than most. I can certainly understand the need for increasing safety provisions. The students need to be protected. But I believe that restricting the hours for right turns will increase the traffic congestion and may have unanticipated effects. While I don't oppose the change, I don't believe it is a meaningful solution to the source of the problem. The community needs a broader longer-term plan to reduce traffic conflict at that intersection.

Rush-hour traffic in the area traffic is intense. Prohibiting right hand turns during rush hour will increase congestion, affecting everyone in the neighborhood. Much of the eastbound traffic on Oak Grove turns right or left at the Middlefield intersection. Restricting right turns will cause traffic to back up on Oak Grove in both directions. Since much of the through traffic that now continues on Oak Grove cuts through Edge, Toyon or Frederick to Ringwood, a turning restriction will cause this through traffic to increase and will create a hazard for students and pedestrians on Oak Grove and Edge Road by Laurel School. Westbound traffic on Oak Grove carries cut through traffic from Bay Road via Ringwood as well as the local traffic. Restricting the right turns will increase the time it takes for westbound traffic to clear the intersection and will diminish the flow of eastbound left-turn traffic.

Much has changed in the last 40 years, but the infrastructure hasn't. The school, in conjunction with Atherton and Menlo Park, should develop a plan that would accommodate the flow of traffic to and from the school and separate it from through traffic. While M-A is a very important part of the community, its demands on the surrounding infrastructure continue to expand without concern for the externalities it creates. The conflicting demands of an expanding school district, increased rush hour traffic and the substantial increases in Menlo Park development have created a larger problem than can't be addressed merely by the the Town of Atherton imposing turn restrictions.

It is time to start addressing these problems; turn restrictions should be contingent on an commitment by the school board, and Menlo Park, to contribute to a plan to address these transportation issues. With the potential redevelopment of the SRI campus and grade separation of railroad tracks from streets, there is a unique opportunity to solve this problem and make a much more livable community. Without pushing back on short term issues such as this one, the long term issues will never be addressed.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:44 AM

To: Robert Ovadia <rovadia@ci.atherton.ca.us>

Subject: Atherton resident - Right Turn Restrictions at Middlefield and Oak Grove

Dear Robert,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live at [REDACTED] Oak Grove Avenue, Atherton. I'm writing to let you know my thoughts about the proposed change to an all-day restricted red light at Oak Grove and Middlefield.

I believe that this change will significantly impact the traffic flow. I am firmly against this change.

Oak Grove Avenue is already used as a main thoroughfare for people who live in Vintage Oaks and Suburban Park to get to downtown Menlo Park. It is a preferred route over Ravenswood. This change will clog traffic.

As someone who is directly affected, we are asking you to keep the restricted right turn times as is. I drive this route all the time and there are many times when there are no pedestrians. The 7-7 restrictions would serve to back up traffic.

We've had many changes on Oak Grove...bike lanes installed, big construction and development, all on street parking has been removed. I'm not sure if our neighbors at [REDACTED] Oak Grove have submitted any comments, but I would be concerned that their driveway would be blocked quite a bit with this change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]