



MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WHITNEY MCDONALD, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
AGENDA ITEM 10.A. – JANUARY 26, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONSIDERATION OF A PROJECT STATUS UPDATE, AND
ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION, AND AUTHORIZATION TO PREPARE AND ISSUE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DESIGN OF THE BRISCO-
HALCYON ROAD INTERCHANGE MODIFICATIONS PROJECT**

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2021

Attached is correspondence received for the above referenced item.

cc: City Manager
City Attorney
City Clerk
City Website (or public review binder)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [public comment](#)
Subject: Comment - City Council Meeting 1/26/2021, agenda item 10.a. Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modification Project
Date: Sunday, January 24, 2021 9:23:41 AM

To the City Council of Arroyo Grande:

Regarding Agenda Item 10.a. on the 1/26/2021 City Council meeting agenda:

As 31 year residents of Arroyo Grande, we advocate voting NO on the recommended option 4.c. Roundabout.

We advocate for either the Alternative 1 of closing ramps, the No Build Alternative, or reexamining the concept that Mayor Ray Russom brought up on 3/26/2019 to add another lane to the Brisco Road underpass.

Option 4.c. is very expensive. In our opinion, it will not address Arroyo Grande's problems with the current Brisco Road interchange, and will likely create new challenges to the traffic in the area of West Branch and Rodeo Road.

We would also like to suggest adding a RED arrow at the traffic signal that directs the southbound lane at West Branch and Brisco Road.

Drivers making a right turn from southbound West Branch onto Brisco Road simply have a red light. They have cannot see or know when the northbound left turn arrow is illuminated.

Drivers making a left turn onto Brisco Road from the northbound West Branch left turn lane, follow what appears to be a "protected" green arrow. This creates a false sense of safety.

The only circumstance under which the green arrow would actually be a protected left for northbound drivers would be if the oncoming southbound traffic stopped at the light was unable to make a right turn in front of those of us making a left turn from West Branch to Brisco Road.

Thank you,

Jeffrey and Andrea Portney
[REDACTED] Emerald Bay Dr.
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

From: [Caren Ray Russom](#)
To: [public comment](#)
Subject: Fw: Brisco Project
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:14:35 PM

Yours in service,
Caren

Caren Ray Russom

Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande

crayussom@arroyogrande.org

Tel: 805-473-5400 | www.arroyogrande.org

300 E. Branch St | Arroyo Grande | CA | 93420

From: Bob Perez [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Kristen Barneich; Lan George; Jimmy Paulding; Caren Ray Russom; Keith Storton
Subject: RE: Brisco Project

Mayor and City Council,

On January 26, 2021, your decision will affect the City of Arroyo Grande for years to come.

I provide the following for your consideration. All information was obtained from Fiscal documents provided on the City of Arroyo Grande website.

The City finished the fiscal year with General Fund expenditures **exceeding** revenues by approximately \$2,048,000.

TOT **down** by \$214,448

The following list of projects approved in the FY 2019-20 Budget **will impact the community**.

Street Projects - The Brisco Road-Halcyon Road/Route 101 Interchange project is in the Project Approval and Environmental Determination phase and a preferred alternative is scheduled to be selected.

At June 30, 2019, the City reported net **pension liability** of \$17.8 million for governmental activities.

Net pension liability is influenced by several factors, including the long-term rate of return earned by the pension system's

investments as well as the City's share of the total pension fund's assets and **can fluctuate significantly from year to year**.

Brisco Road Interchange Project – Depending on which alternative is selected, the total cost of improvements is estimated to be between \$14 million and \$23 million.

Let me ask this in a different way.

Say you have a job where you can "just about" afford to purchase that million-dollar home. You look at your income and see a future that is not as stable as the past. Does the prudent person say, "Heck with it", and power ahead with that uncertainty? Maybe - if they believe they might somehow manage to get all the people they know (constituents) to chip in (taxes) to get them out of the mess they got in to.

OR

You look at things and realize the future is not as certain as you thought. You realize the totality of the circumstances may very well not work out so well fiscally. At a crossroads. Say, "Heck with it", and hope to get bailed out if things go bad? Take another look at your options and see if the same outcome can be accomplished for less? Or, considering all options, realize that sometimes things are best left alone for now.

Please consider this: the fiscal responsibility lies with you. Ignore anything else. Is this the right time to embark on a \$23 million project, a \$14 million project, or, just leave well enough alone? Our future is uncertain. January 26 will be your legacy.

Respectfully,

Bob and Mardell Perez

■ Grace Lane, Arroyo Grande

PS: If you leave things as is, could you consider placing a "No Right On Red" sign on the southbound lane of West Branch at Brisco, just at the underpass. Very often, drivers going north on West Branch, and turning left onto Brisco get stuck in the middle of the street, because southbound drivers turn right on the red and block the intersection.

From: [Caren Ray Russom](#)
To: [public comment](#)
Subject: Fw: Brisco Interchange Project
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:15:48 PM

Yours in service,
Caren

Caren Ray Russom

Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande

crayussom@arroyogrande.org

Tel: 805-473-5400 | www.arroyogrande.org

300 E. Branch St | Arroyo Grande | CA | 93420

From: James Webster [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Caren Ray Russom
Subject: Brisco Interchange Project

Mayor Russom,

It has come to my attention that the Brisco project will again be reviewed and discussed at this Tuesdays meeting.

Due to the effects of Covid it would seem that the City as well as many of its citizens are currently having financial difficulties and that the effects will continue for some time. It certainly seems imprudent to continue spending money on the most expensive solution.

This is especially true when there is a very satisfactory solution which is much less expensive and is favored by a significant number of citizens.

I urge you and the council to reconsider your previous decision and demonstrate that you are being responsive to changing circumstances and considering the input of many people in AG, especially those who will be most impacted by this project.

Sincerely,

Jim Webster

Rodeo Dr

Arroyo Grande

From: [Caren Ray Russom](#)
To: [public comment](#)
Subject: Fw: Brisco Rd Project
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:11:57 PM

Yours in service,
Caren

Caren Ray Russom

Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande

crayussom@arroyogrande.org

Tel: 805-473-5400 | www.arroyogrande.org

300 E. Branch St | Arroyo Grande | CA | 93420

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Caren Ray Russom; Jimmy Paulding; Keith Storton; Lan George; Kristen Barneich
Subject: Brisco Rd Project

I understand that the costs for the Brisco Road project have risen substantially. I believe at this time of statewide and local financial strain, it is unwise to continue with the project as it is currently designed.

I am a daily user of the Brisco interchange, and usually traffic is not an issue. There are certain times of the day that it is congested, but one learns to avoid those time periods. I understand that access to 101 may be problematic for the ambulance company. If that's the case, simply closing the off ramp may be enough to mitigate the problem. I'd certainly prefer taking alternate routes to an unaffordable \$26 million plus project.

With business owners hurting, Five Cities Fire costs rising, pension problems, and many people out of work or just barely holding on, now is not the time for taking on such massive expense. If a tax increase goes on the ballot for the Brisco Project, my family and I will vote against it.

Sincerely,
Beth and Tom Plymale

From: [Jimmy Paulding](#)
To: [Annamarie Porter](#)
Subject: Fw: Brisco Road interchange
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 1:24:10 PM

FYI

Jimmy Paulding
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Arroyo Grande

From: Gary Thies
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 9:25 AM
To: Kristen Barneich; Lan George; Jimmy Paulding; Caren Ray Russom; Keith Storton
Subject: Brisco Road interchange

To Whom this may concern:

Dear City Council members...

We have attended the numerous council meetings discussing the famed; **Brisco Road Interchange Project.**

Brisco Road Interchange Project – Depending on which alternative is selected, the total cost of improvements is estimated to be between **\$14 million and \$23 million.**

As a last plea: **Please save the city the above amount**, leave the interchange as is, it works fine, and install the **"no right turn on red"** suggestion below!!! Total cost, probably under \$5,000!.

If you leave things as is, could you consider placing a **"No Right On Red"** sign on the southbound lane of West Branch at Brisco, just at the underpass. Very often, drivers going north on West Branch, and turning left onto Brisco get stuck in the middle of the street, because southbound drivers turn right on the red and block the intersection.

Sincerely, and finally:

Gary and Mary Thies

From: [Caren Ray Russom](#)
To: [public comment](#)
Subject: Fw: Round about. On rodeo dr.
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:09:53 PM

For the record.

Yours in service,
Caren

Caren Ray Russom

Mayor, City of Arroyo Grande

crayussom@arroyogrande.org

Tel: 805-473-5400 | www.arroyogrande.org

300 E. Branch St | Arroyo Grande | CA | 93420

From: Jidith Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Caren Ray Russom
Subject: Round about. On rodeo dr.

This is a dangerous and ridiculous idea. Dangerous because of the very close school . Ridiculous because with show of hands etc, at recent meetings the majority were against it. It seems the mayor and the city council just want to keep up with the "Jones's" because the other towns are putting them in. The cost is way too much and the other ideas were better. THIS IS A GOOD WAY TO RUIN A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD
Do the right thing! Judith Hughes

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kevin Buchanan](#)
To: [public comment](#)
Subject: Item 10.a - Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:06:10 PM

Councilmembers and staff,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange project.

I simply want to clarify the cost and benefit of this project. What this project amounts to is \$20 million spent to decrease peak level delays, to drivers using one section of our city streets, in 2035, by about 30 seconds. The LOS analysis in the report describes delays approaching 1 minute at peak levels currently, and estimates that delay to decline down to around 20 seconds at peak levels in 2035 after implementation of this project.

I don't believe 30 seconds, a couple of hours a day, are worth \$20 million. \$3 million of which will come from city funds that could be used elsewhere, \$10 million of which will be financed by new debt.

If we are concerned about regional access from the highway to the regional commercial center, then instead of doubling down on expecting a single centralized hub to scale and serve the entire growing region, we should instead be reassessing our land-use and development patterns to allow goods and services to be provided closer to where people live.

The only viable way to reduce traffic is to tackle the issue at the source: bring jobs, housing, and other destinations closer together to shorten and reduce the number and length of car trips people need to take. We need to reorient our national transportation program to help advance that goal instead of undermining it.

The Congestion Con

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/56eef01f/Nq--4REExE_ufO5A5PXPaQ?
u=https://t4america.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Congestion-Report-2020-FINAL.pdf](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/56eef01f/Nq--4REExE_ufO5A5PXPaQ?u=https://t4america.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Congestion-Report-2020-FINAL.pdf)

I don't believe this project is any real long term solution to our city's transportation needs, nor do I think it's the best way to spend the required funds - regardless of any state funds that might incentive the project.

Kevin Buchanan

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