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To: una.glass.seb@sonic.net; [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Public Comment 11.2.21 Meeting Fix Our Crumbling Roads!
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Dear Council Members,

I nearly twisted my ankle walking down East Side Ave., last night, as I took a walk. This was due to a 2-3" chunk of asphalt that had fallen off an ever-more crumbling road that looks like something I would expect to see in a 3rd world country. I've had similar experiences walking up and down High St., particularly the section between Calder and Maple, where ruts have continued to expand and cleave with each passing season. I also often walk Washington between Huntley and Willard Libby Park, and parts of that street are what characterize as "returning to the earth," replete with entire sections that no longer even have asphalt covering them, and have weeds and other Flora growing in them.

Imagine my horror as a house-owner, and tax-payer in this lovely town, as I learned today that we're continuing to pour more and more money towards homeless housing and services, while our own streets return to mother nature. My jaw nearly dropped to the floor when I heard that, in addition to giving up hotel taxes, and the revenue that we will no longer get from having tourists stay in the Sebastopol inn, there are now plans to spend our dwindling and ever-precious dollars on a parking lot at 425 Morris St. for homeless car-dwellers? And that this is next to an area where Children play and a very popular trail-head where nature-lovers like me enjoy the natural beauty of the Laguna? I was even more flabbergasted to hear that there's no plan to implement parking restrictions on Morris, which it seems to me, would be all that is needed to deter and remedy the problem anyways? How can you even be assured that the existing population of vehicle dwellers will even go to this new parking lot if you don't implement any parking restrictions? Moreover, even if some of them DO go there, with no changes in the parking restrictions and codes, what's to stop other vehicle dwellers from taking their place, and essentially increase the population of car-dwellers who are already subsuming Morris Street, hurting businesses, blocking PUBLIC sidewalks with their garbage and flotsam?

Moreover, is our city going to now have to police and patrol this new habitat you're creating for these people that don't even have legal residence here? It's startling and extremely discouraging to think that there are initiatives to spend money on a bunch of non-resident car dwellers who contribute NOTHING to our city and just TAKE our precious and very scant resources while we trip over chunks of our crumbling streets, streets that are starting to look like streets I'd expect to see in poorer parts of Panama, not an area with Million dollar houses and a very high per capita income.

Why on earth are we as a city and a county even spending money on these people in the first place, when our own roads are starting to look like those that I'd expect to find in a developing nation? From what I hear about the budget, it's money we can barely even afford to be spending and THIS is how we're using it, while our streets continue to crumble?

I was at a fund-raiser, recently, at our neighbors house, for the Sebastopol Art Center, which is a great institution for our community, but, as I was walking from my house to the location of the party, I was struck by how bad all our streets are and how crumbling our own infrastructure is. Are law abiding, tax-paying citizens like me supposed to start banding

together and forming our own kickstarter campaigns to fix our own streets, while you spend precious barely available dollars on a ragtag bunch of out-of-towners who are, essentially, drawn here like pigeons, because we don't have any parking restrictions and, now coddle them, spending precious county and city dollars on THEM, rather than the people footing the bill for it all?

Watching the hard-earned revenue of local property owners and businesses evaporate on an ill-conceived and unsustainable bunch of services and infrastructure for a band of gypsies that don't even legally reside here is beyond disheartening. I'm sensitive and I know this is born out of desire to help people. I get where the ideals are coming from. And, to be honest, if our streets, parks, and public institutions all looked impeccable, and pitch-perfect, I'd be lauding us spending SURPLUS dollars to do things like this. Knowing several people on the planning commission, I know that, unfortunately, our budget is dire and anything BUT surplus and it's astounding that you would choose to spend this money like this while our infrastructure languishes.

It's no wonder Right Wing news pundits have essentially turned the Bay Area into a marketing campaign for their causes. Paving a brand new asphalt lot for a bunch of gypsies while tax-paying residents turn their ankles on the rubble that used to be nice streets is pretty much an advertisement for how ill-conceived and poorly the so-called "left" is in moments like this. Even moderate democrats like me are starting to look at things like this parking lot and think, maybe they're right. Maybe we really have just completely lost the entire purpose of looking after our law-abiding citizenry and their needs, first and foremost, and now the agenda has shifted away from the legal residents and law-abiding citizens, and is being spent coddling people that wouldn't even be on Morris street if we simply bothered to put in Parking enforcement and re-instituted vagrancy and loitering laws again.

I will be setting out on a mission to disseminate this messaging to everyone I talk to on my walks around town and those that use the trailheads to go watch birds, take in the beauty.

Enough is enough. Stop wasting money and resources we barely even have on a problem that could be solved by parking restrictions and vagrancy enforcement and remember where the limited dollars in our budget actually come from!

What is the near-term plan for our streets? Is there any money being set aside to tackle the REAL issues of our town? Or are we going to continue just spending on out of town transients who just use our streets and contribute nothing to our precious revenue?

A Sebastopol lover with a sore ankle, sore eyes and a souring mood about how we use our tax dollars,

Kurt Noble