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To: opinion@gazette.com, jsuthers@springsgov.com, allCouncil@springsgov.com

Date: January 15, 2019 at 7:49 AM

Subject: Another viewpoint on modifications to Cascade Avenue from the Old North End

Dear Gazette Editorial Board,

All stories have at least two sides. And the changing of street configurations, especially Cascade Avenue, has many sides. Here is another viewpoint on those changes.

Your comments on 1/12/19 imply that traffic congestion from bike lanes, would be tolerated, or even intended, by city officials. We can find no evidence of this. The city document that states "traffic congestion is good" says nothing about road dieting or bike lanes. It referred only to road configuration in dense urban areas that are planned for population infill. It is misleading to infer this sentiment is related to bike lanes.

In our neighborhood, bike lanes were designed by the city to cause no congestion. Traffic studies before and after implementation demonstrate that this was generally effective. Before the Cascade road diet in the Old North End, the mean speed was 38.4 mph. Afterwards, it was 35.0 (in a 30 mph zone). This demonstrates that it had little effect on typical drivers. The true benefits, however, were observed at the high-end of the speed distribution. On a typical day before the road diet, there were 970 vehicles above 45 mph and 62 above 55 mph, in this residential neighborhood. Afterwards, there were only 92 above 45 mph and zero above 55 mph.

This is a public safety triumph for both drivers and residents. This justifies the lane modifications, even if it provided no bike lanes. Furthermore, it is a demonstration of the value and efficacy of traffic calming that should serve as a model for other roads with unacceptably dangerous traffic patterns.

The other potential solutions offered by the Editorial Board have been studied and demonstrated to be unworkable, mostly due to the severity of impact on traffic operations or the cost to taxpayers. We affirm that traffic calming through lane reduction is a uniquely effective approach for roads in the Old North End.

We applaud the City for working with residents to formulate a plan, and for being willing to apply solutions that create a better and safer environment for both neighbors and drivers.

Sincerely,

The Old North End Board of Directors