

[MAC LETTERHEAD HERE]

October 15, 2024

Janice Thompson, Deputy Director, Engineering & Maintenance
Sonoma Public Infrastructure
400 Aviation Blvd, Suite 100
Santa Rosa CA, 95403

RE: Request for a meeting: Glen Ellen’s designation as a “Pedestrian-Friendly Community”

Dear Janice,

Thank you for your presentation and attendance at the September meeting of the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC). After you signed off, we passed a resolution designating Glen Ellen a “Pedestrian-Friendly Community” (attached). Prioritizing “pedestrian improvements” is one of the ‘Advisory Topics’ listed in our bylaws (II.1.a)

The basic idea is to collaborate with county agencies, local organizations, and local citizens to “prioritize and implement improvements to pedestrian safety in the Glen Ellen core and surrounding area.” We’d like to request a meeting with you or a staff member to begin this process, by phone or in person.

One of the inspirations for this effort was your office’s response to moving the pedestrian sign at Glen Ellen’s main downtown crosswalk a few months ago. As someone who uses that crosswalk frequently, I can attest to the effect that has had on slowing approaching traffic when the crosswalk is occupied. It was a simple fix that made a big difference—thank you!

Local citizens also appreciate your responsiveness in placing bollards and removing the concrete barriers on the O’Donnell Lane bridge. These successes demonstrated how citizens and county agencies can work together to effect positive change for public safety.

The Pavement Preservation Program, which seeks public input to prioritize road repairs each year, is an example of how pedestrian improvements could be prioritized and accomplished over time. We envision a similar partnership, serving as the “eyes on the ground,” to assist your department in meeting its goals as well as benefiting the health and safety of local citizens and tourists.

We’d like request a meeting to discuss, evaluate, and prioritize pedestrian safety improvements according to your department’s resources, constraints and protocols. We’ll bring that information to a public meeting where items can be reviewed and prioritized for the coming year (or thereabouts). Available county and community resources (e.g. expertise, time and funding) would then be tapped to accomplish the chosen priorities.

Sincerely,

Arthur Dawson

Arthur Dawson
Glen Ellen citizen

Mark Newhouser

Mark Newhouser
Advisory Councilmember

Katie Everidge

Katie Everidge
Glen Ellen citizen

Cc; Supervisor Susan Gorin