

January 5, 2021

Measure Z Committee
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, California 95501

Dear Measure Z Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for the SlowFStreet.com / Rosewood and Henderson Center Neighborhood Group to obtain Measure Z funding and create a safer neighborhood around Grant Elementary School in Eureka and along the F Street Super Corridor. I am writing with urgency to ask that you consider Measure Z funding in order to increase safety for this region. It has been demonstrated to me that it is vital to reduce the collective trauma experience in this neighborhood and increase vitality among its occupants to the benefit of all.

I have been working with neighbors, victims, school children, people who live with disabilities, elders and merchants for approximately 6 years, most who can be considered the “vulnerable-use population” utilizing the streets and sidewalks. In working with these populations, I’ve learned that there’s been a call for emergent mitigation for over 30 years and people have been languishing all this time. In 2011, Redwood Community Action Agency conducted a “Walkability” Study, which determined that a safety light was needed at Oak and F Streets. That recommendation was not undertaken by the county, and the recommendation for a school crosswalk was only partially implemented. Since that time, the neighborhood has met the Department of Transportation criteria for incidents that warrant safety mitigation for some time, and pending actual implementation, stop-signs should have been installed at each corner to reduce more incidents. In 2020, the neighborhood came together as a group and wrote grants to help bring mitigation to the area, upon learning that the “traffic studies” conducted by the local jurisdictions only observed traffic for 1 hour (outside of rush hour, during the lockdown for Covid-19). SlowFStreet.com wrote three grants attempting to bring funding in order to have a third-party, evidence-based group (RCAA) conduct a comprehensive study. Since 2011, traffic has increased in the area, including the increase in heavy machinery including trucks pulling 53-foot trucks, logging trucks, and dump trucks that all create potholes. GPS reroutes traffic to F Street from Broadway’s congestion so that F Street has become a de facto super corridor. Frustrating to neighbors has been the fact that other projects in Eureka have been funded over the last decade that have not had to meet the same criteria as this neighborhood and it feels like inequity to many.

There are accidents along the full length of the corridor where volume, speed and visibility are an issue. In the children’s crosswalk, there is constant flooding, shrapnel (glass, tires, etc.), and oftentimes vehicles that have left the roadway and crashed into signs, poles and houses. The crunching of metal, crying and screams of victims, the visual sight of accidents affects everyone, but especially the neighborhood where people live constantly with the fear that it may be their

own lives that are affected. Trauma is being created in each event, resulting in our vulnerable-use population being strongly affected.

Trauma is known to dramatically lower life expectancies, create a loss in productivity and an increase in health care costs. A 12/2020 MRI Study conducted for children demonstrated that high doses of adversity created structural and functional changes to the brain including inability to control impulses or process responses, anxiety and other inflammatory diseases. While all ages and populations are affected by trauma in different and complex ways, when government and adults do not set healthy boundaries about what is acceptable behavior, those messages become the foundational belief systems of our future adults. Having safety in all of our lives is vital for long term success and mental health stability.

This community, as well as those passing through, would benefit from Measure Z funding for safety mitigation along its F Street corridor and surrounding streets as overflow traffic has found its way there over time. The alternative is that not addressing the blaring inequities will result in complex issues for individuals, as well as for governmental agencies and law enforcement.

Sincerely,

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