

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

Hello!

I hope this note finds you well on this Tuesday.

Can you please send me a link to the application and project plans for the project at 1071 Santa Rosa Plaza. I was not able to find the plans on the zoning administrator website. The public meeting notice that was in the paper yesterday stated that the plans would be available there.

Thank you for any information you can offer.

Lori MacNab

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Hi Suzanne,

I was just informed of the project proposal to reconfigure the front of the mall to add an additional lane and parking. This is yet another puzzling choice of direction for city funding, time and energy.

Santa Rosa needs to take a step into the future. We seem to be progressing as a city as if it were still the 90s. We don't need more roads and parking lots. We need more green spaces, more public transportation, more bicycles and bike lanes, more small businesses (make it easier for them to exist!!!), more art, and more spaces that foster community and actually connecting to and listening to the YOUNG people in Santa Rosa (youth are the future fyi). And that's not even me- I'm middle-aged (apparently). But I guarantee you no 20 year old that I know is crying about traffic and parking downtown. They wish this town was cooler. The city of SR seems to be actively working AGAINST that.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for reading.

Warmly,

Ela Jean Beedle

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Hi Ms. Hartman,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the proposed project at Santa Rosa Mall/Drive Lane. I don't believe this is a good use of funds -- downtown is already lacking in trees, the amount of traffic does not justify adding an additional lane, and I believe it's a mismanagement of public funds and space.

I am a regular visitor to the mall, but I will be less inclined to spend my money there knowing the construction is removing greenery and making it a less pedestrian-friendly area. Please do not approve this project.

Sincerely,
freddie blooms
Santa Rosa, 95401

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Ms. Hartman,

Please deny the application for this project as it is proposed. This area is a valuable piece of common space in downtown Santa Rosa. Extra parking and a lane here seems hugely superfluous given the nearby parking garages and lack of traffic on this street at most times of day. I would like to see a city park here instead, to keep it as a useable open space for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Thank you,
Ari DeMarco
95405

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Hello Susan,

I am writing to express my disapproval of the drive lane project at the Santa Rosa Mall. It is unnecessary, and removes some of the vital pedestrian space downtown. There is already ample parking available in the mall's multiple garages, which are never anywhere close to full.

Thank you
Tom Munsell

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Mrs. Hartman,

I am writing in formal opposition of the proposed lane and parking changes on B Street in connection with the Santa Rosa Plaza development.

I own a home downtown (214 South A Street) and spent years working downtown (2012-2014, 2017-2018), both for the County of Sonoma and private business.

The front plaza of the mall is a hub for people — the last thing we need is more concrete roadway in capitulation of P.F. Chang’s desires. There is ample parking in the severely underutilized mall parking garage, which is already free and has ADA parking and sidewalk cutouts/ramps.

If the city does insist on this project, my only request would be that you develop 3rd/B into a proper roundabout to facilitate traffic safety at this extremely pedestrian-unfriendly intersection.

Sincerely,
Andrew Leonard

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Hello Suzanne Hartman,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed drive lane in front of the Santa Rosa Mall.

The mall is already surrounded by ample parking, and adding a new vehicle lane directly in front of its main entrance would prioritize cars over pedestrians. This change would reduce an open, welcoming space and replace it with additional vehicle traffic, creating new safety concerns for people walking through the area.

My wife and I regularly walk along Fourth Street and across B Street, and one of the things we value most about this area is being able to move comfortably without having to navigate more car traffic. Introducing a drive lane at the mall’s entrance would undermine that experience and shift the space toward a more car-centered design.

We support development that makes the mall and surrounding streets more human-friendly, pedestrian-oriented, and visually appealing. Preserving the open area or improving it as a place for people would better serve residents and visitors than adding another lane for vehicles.

Thank you for considering this feedback as part of the design review process.

Sincerely,
Daniel Garcia

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Hello,

I am writing this to voice my opinion on the proposal regarding removing landscaping and adding superfluous parking and traffic lanes on B Street.

Having worked on B street for 3 years in the past, I know first hand that there is no need for another lane of traffic. Nor is there a need for more parking as there is a huge parking structure behind the mall and a parking lot on B street.

Please do not waste money on this project. It will make downtown/the mall even more unattractive than when all the redwood trees were mowed over. It will make it less navigable, just like the plan to stop people from driving through downtown. (Guess what, now I, like thousands of others, avoid downtown altogether!)

Please do not uglify our downtown further for the requests of one chain restaurant, pf chang's. Chances are the location will be vacant again in the near future and you'll be responsible for sinking more money into the dying mall.

Thank you for not buckling under the pressure of chain restaurants and construction companies looking to make a profit off of your appointment to this position.

Sincerely, Lacy-Lee Crist
Santa Rosa resident 26 years
Sonoma County resident 34 years

RECEIVED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Dear Susan,

I am a 30 year resident of the city and former downtown business owner of 13 years. I have witnessed many a crazy idea but this just seems beyond those.

Why add more chaos to an already crowded spot. Seems like all the spaces in the mall parking garage would be just fine for the patrons of the 2 front facing businesses that would like the new design.

With the new open alcohol downtown possibly being a reality that will add more havoc to the area.

Please consider passing on this request to tear up the front of the mall to add parking, etc.

Sincerely,
Angela Pelikan
Palm St Santa Rosa

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Hello,

Reaching out to voice my opposition to the proposed drive lane outside of the mall. I will be in the field for work during the meeting date but wished to have my opposition on the record.

Research has shown that adding lanes does not improve traffic conditions and what the city actually needs is green walkable spaces with affordable living near by. The drive lane is not a

solution to issues the community faces - it is merely doubling down on what makes Santa Rosa inaccessible to so many of us. Furthermore, the benefits that may come from having a drive lane will not outweigh the disruption the project will cause.

Please note that community members oppose this project.

Thank you,
Bri Perkins

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Hi Susan,

I learned of a recent project which you are involved in at the Santa Rosa Plaza/ B Street. I do not support the widening of B street nor the addition of parking spaces there either. Downtown Santa Rosa has gotten the short end of the stick aesthetically and functionally forever and these changes would make it worse. The extra lane on B street is completely unnecessary- it is not a busy street. There is a massive and always at least half empty parking garage that is accessible on B.

What DOES need to be added in the area is a walkway on 4th to connect both sides of the downtown... if you put a road AND a walkway through the mall you could connect courthouse square area more directly to the massive mall parking structure....

Please consider.

Thank you,
Elena

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Hi Suzanne,

As a proud Santa Rosa native, I just wanted to reach out and let you know that I strongly oppose the 'Santa Rosa Mall - Drive Lane' project. There is no need for an extra lane and the idea of creating a handful of extra parking spots for a largely deserted mall, with a massive amount of parking behind it, is superfluous and unnecessary. Please prioritize the existing landscaping in the area, and save money.

Thank you,
Michael Estens

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Hello,

I wanted to write in about the proposed changes to the front of the Santa Rosa downtown mall. I oppose the extra lane and parking proposed for the front of the mall. There is plenty of parking available at the mall, and there is no need to add more just for a new restaurant. The vision for downtown has been to create a pedestrian friendly walkable experience, and this proposal is counter to that. It will make the area less walkable and nice for those going from the mall to downtown and will likely, even with the extra lane, cause traffic to back up along the street in front of the mall. People walking in that direction would have to dodge aggressive cars looking for parking if this goes through.

Regards,
Jessica Lee

Please don't tear up the landscape. It's super nice and fancy and I miss the hand. Adding parking to a highly pedestrianized area always damages the ability of pedestrians to access the mall and right now that is what the mall needs most. If we are truly trying to bring downtown back to life we shouldn't be putting parking anywhere between the square and the mall.

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Dear Suzanne Hartman,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Santa Rosa Mall drive lane project. As a resident of the county and frequent downtown visitor, I believe this development is not in the best interest of our community for the following reasons:

1. There will be a negative impact on the surrounding businesses throughout the construction process.
2. There is plenty of parking in the designated garage behind the mall. If accessibility is an issue, maybe efforts can be made to improve that area with increased ramps, directional signage, more direct pathing, landscaping etc.
3. The environmental impact outweighs the pros for development. The remaining trees and landscaping in the area should stay. If anything, an art installation would help to increase the shared community aspect of this shopping area. I urge the commission to deny this proposal. I believe there are more suitable locations for this project that would not compromise the safety and quality of life of existing residents. Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Best,
Kelsie, Sonoma County resident

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Please do not let the plan for making our downtown even more car focused pass. Our downtown has plenty of car focused infrastructure, and the mall has plenty of access for cars. Downtown is littered with parking garages, and parking spaces, many of which go unused.

As somebody who lives in north east Santa Rosa, and commutes regularly through downtown on bicycle - it is already hard enough to feel safe on our roads, with no good, safe way for cyclists or pedestrians to traverse the city. This would just bring more traffic into an area that people should be encouraged to walk.

I wish we were discussing plans to make 4th Street pedestrianized, or plans for improving public transport, but once again we are seemingly prioritizing our environment around vehicles, not people.

It is disappointing, but not surprising to see plans to make our city even more car/truck-centric than it already is, especially in a part of town where people should be encouraged to walk from business to business.

We do not need to build our city around the automobile, or one business who desire easy access for door-dash. Why make downtown worse?

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Good afternoon Suzanne,

I'm writing to you because saw the notice posted out front of the about the SR mall and I was dismayed to see these plans to cut the trees and make another lane here.

This feels to me a totally unnecessary and disruptive development for an area that doesn't need more room for traffic.

I have never experience traffic issues in this area. Please leave the trees and the small town feeling!

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,
Cora

RECEIVED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Hiyah, my name is Erika cooper.

I am a resident of Santa Rosa. I am unhappy to see the proposed changes to the front of the Santa Rosa mall. More places need to center human foot traffic and adding an unnecessary car lane to a

mall that is effectively failing is not that. Multiple studies across multiple cities and countries have shown that elevating foot traffic drives more spending power than car traffic- I added a link below. I've seen countless people enjoying the sun in that space from kids playing Pokémon go to enjoying the sculptures that were once there. A better usage of tax payer money would be to put benches and tables and reinstall art in that space so that people (not cars especially given to how much parking and drive way is located on all other sides) can enjoy the beautiful Santa Rosa weather.

Erika Cooper

RECEIVED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026