

## **Item 8 Correspondence**

**April 10,2023**

**To: The Calabasas City Council**

**Re: Item 8 New Business**

**I am writing regarding the proposed funding for a “final design” of the roundabout at the intersection of Thousand Oaks Blvd. and Las Virgenes Road. I have many concerns and questions about this proposed project that have not been addressed or answered.**

**In reading the staff report I see staff is relying on input from one public workshop held in 2015. That was 8 years ago! Before any money is spent on this there should be extensive outreach to the community for their input.**

**At the last Traffic and Transportation Commission meeting there was a lot of discussion about this proposed roundabout. The majority of residents who weighed in during public comment were not convinced that a roundabout would be safer.**

**No data was presented about past accidents at that location. The staff talked about 32 contact points now compared to 8 with a roundabout, but no specifics were cited. Comments were voiced about drivers disregarding stop and yield signs at existing rounsabouts. There is a worry about a general lack of courtesy.**

**Pedestrian safety is a concern voiced by many. There is a lot of foot traffic at that intersection including mothers with babies in strollers, people walking their dogs, and young families with children riding**

**tricycles. To cross a street at any point they need to access refuge islands. How safe will that be?**

**Staff mentioned that “beautification helps slow traffic” and that by beautifying this intersection we will solve all our problems. Where is the data to support this? I hope that hard data from this particular intersection will be what you rely on to make your decision.**

**We have lived in the Lupin Hill community that feeds into this intersection for 48 years. At that intersection we have never seen an accident. We have found drivers to be courteous and respectful in obeying the stop signs and giving pedestrians the right-of-way. That’s why we are interested in past history. What statistics warrant a roundabout 3 times as large as others in the city?**

**You are being asked to approve over \$130,000 for a FINAL design for a roundabout based on public input in 2015. Please look into the feasibility of this proposed project before you go ahead with this item.**

**At the last Council meeting you exercised fiscal responsibility by denying approval of additional funds for the Gates Canyon Park playground. The renovation is widely supported and sorely needed. This proposed roundabout is not widely supported and there is no hard data to support a need for it.....just that it “adds beauty”.**

**Safety and feasibility, along with cost and better use of Measure M and Prop 1 funds should be considered.**

**Thank you.**

**Joanne Suwara**

**P.S. It is also my hope that the staff will be neutral, answer questions and address concerns and NOT attempt to sell the project.**

## Maricela Hernandez

---

**Subject:** FW: In Support of the Las Virgenes Road Roundabout Project

---

**From:** Barbara Gewert <[gewertfamily@gmail.com](mailto:gewertfamily@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:18 PM

**To:** James Bozajian - External <[jrbozajian@earthlink.net](mailto:jrbozajian@earthlink.net)>; David Shapiro <[dshapiro@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:dshapiro@cityofcalabasas.com)>; Alicia Weintraub <[aweintraub@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:aweintraub@cityofcalabasas.com)>; Peter Kraut <[pkraut@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:pkraut@cityofcalabasas.com)>; Edward Albrecht <[ealbrecht@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:ealbrecht@cityofcalabasas.com)>

**Subject:** In Support of the Las Virgenes Road Roundabout Project

Council Members,

Hello, my name is Barbara Gewert and I am the HOA President of Mont Calabasas Association. Mont Calabasas is the gated community of 110 homes that sits on the hills at the Northwestern part of Las Virgenes Road just past the intersection of Thousand Oaks Boulevard.

I am writing to you on behalf of myself, our board of directors and our community to let you know that we fully support the proposed project and roundabout on Las Virgenes Road.

Mont Calabasas became part of the City of Calabasas approximately 12 years ago. At that time when our homeowners made the decision to annex into the City of Calabasas our community was promised many things - one of which was that Las Virgenes Road would be redone and made "part of Calabasas". We are extremely happy that 12 years later that is finally going to happen. Currently Las Virgenes Road looks like something that you would find in other areas of Los Angeles, and not in our great City of Calabasas.

The intersection of Las Virgenes Road and Thousand Oaks Boulevard (where the proposed roundabout will sit) is a constant hazard with near misses occurring on a regular basis. The apartments at the end of Las Virgenes Road tend to house a number of students from Pepperdine, who don't really seem to understand the need to stop at the existing 4 way stop sign that is at this intersection. Additionally, this intersection

handles a majority of the traffic going to and from Lupin Hill Elementary. These parents are typically in a rush and are looking for any way that they can to get through the intersection quickly - including making multiple turning lanes (when only one exists) or crossing through the intersection and then U turning on the other side of the road. These actions make it extremely dangerous for other drivers trying to cross through the intersection. The proposed roundabout should eliminate these risks substantially for drivers by reducing the number of points of contact in a possible collision. Given where Mont Calabasas sits in relation to this intersection, our homeowners are forced to deal with the risks that the existing intersection poses multiple times per day.

The other improvements that are expected to occur on Las Virgenes Road should also improve the beauty of this scenic corridor. We are excited that the City of Calabasas has finally chosen to make Las Virgenes Road look like it is a part of the City of Calabasas and to make the area safer by installing the roundabout.

Barbara Gewert  
HOA President - Mont Calabasas  
Cell: 404-822-5058

## **Maricela Hernandez**

---

**Subject:** FW: Please forward to City Council and City Manager Kindon Meik.

-----Original Message-----

From: Joanne Suwara <joasuw42@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:59 PM

To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>

Subject: Please forward to City Council and City Manager Kindon Meik.

I wanted to thank you for your actions on Item #8 at Wednesday's meeting (Proposed Roundabout). Getting an estimate of construction costs before approving final design expenditures was a prudent way to move forward.

I appreciate that you will be reaching out to stakeholders for input at a future meeting. I would like to suggest that, in addition to notifying residents who go through that intersection on a daily basis you consider noticing others who will be affected. That includes the LVUSD since their school buses will have to use the roundabout, Lupin Hill Elementary School parents, and the Agoura Pony Baseball organization who uses the fields at Lupin Hill 7 days a week for both practice and games during the baseball season.

And, last, but not least, please notice businesses along Las Virgenes Road that depend on curbside parking and easy access to their storefronts. The owners do not necessarily live here in Calabasas and therefore may not be aware of what is being proposed.

This is considerably more than just a Green Streets Project. As such the more information you can get before proceeding the better the outcome will be.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,  
Joanne Suwara