

## Moore, Tania

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**From:** Steven C Shepherd Architect <steve@shepherdarchitects.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 7:25 AM  
**To:** supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org  
**Subject:** NO ON AGENDA ITEM #22

Hello City Council -

I know you are extremely busy dealing with the ecological disaster along our coastline, and I don't want to distract you from those efforts. However, I am strongly opposed to Agenda Item #22 and needed to reach out to let you know.

As many of you know, I have been an avid proponent of prioritizing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in Huntington Beach for some time. I see many community-wide benefits in making our streets, roadways, and thoroughfares safer and more accessible to those who choose to walk and/or bicycle in our community. I have met with various city council members, city staff, and fellow residents on this topic for the past several years. Not surprisingly, there is almost universal support for addressing these needs.

However, when I see proposals like that contained in Agenda Item #22 seeking to increase the posted speed limit along a recently improved section of Atlanta Ave., I realize there is still so much work to do. I have already reached out to the Public Works Dept. to discuss my concerns. As always, they have been responsive in explaining their rationale for this request, but regardless of their reasons, I see this requested change as presenting an added danger to our streets. I respectfully request we seek further study to find a better/safer alternative.

I am writing to urge you to vote against Agenda Item #22 and instead make a motion for Public Work to study this matter further rather than simply increasing the posted speed limit.

<<Note: Above is the short version of my letter. Below are my more specific concerns.>>

My reasons for opposing the increase in the posted speed limit as requested by Agenda Item #22 are as follows:

First, the section of Atlanta Ave between Beach Blvd and 1<sup>st</sup> Street has always been tricky and presents challenges for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. The road itself has multiple locations where the paved surface narrows and provides for on-street parking. These factors combined with a section of fairly steep incline can create a confused and somewhat chaotic environment for all users. It should also be noted that this stretch of roadway should be seeking to slow vehicles down as they enter our dense downtown residential neighborhoods. In my opinion, any increase in the posted speed limit adds an unnecessary element of danger for all users.

Second, Atlanta Avenue represents the only relatively safe route for cyclists attempting to navigate back and forth from southeast Huntington Beach into the heart of our City: Downtown HB. PCH is only an option for elite road cyclists, and the issues of using the multi-use path along our beachfront are well documented and unresolved. The City of Huntington Beach Public Works Dept. has made tremendous progress in improving most of Atlanta Avenue into a viable east/west bike route for residents. Still, the section addressed by Agenda Item #22 has always been "tricky" in terms of bicycle safety. Unfortunately, the area proposed for an increased posted speed limit would lead right up to the most dangerous portion of this tricky section where Sharrows, existing on-street parking, and new center median planters create an extremely dangerous confluence of conditions for cyclists. The thought of adding an increased posted speed limit in the area is very much akin to throwing gasoline on a fire and hoping not to get burned.

**SUPPLEMENTAL  
COMMUNICATION**

Meeting Date: 10/5/2021

Agenda Item No.: 22 (21-082)

I feel very strongly that we must find an alternative to a higher posted speed limit. I would be happy to ride this section of roadway with you to discuss and consider viable options at your convenience. The City has come so far in improving Atlanta Avenue it would be a shame to create an existential hazard less than 1/2 a mile from Main Street.

Thank you again for your kind consideration.

Steve Shepherd  
Huntington Beach 92646