

Riss, Brandon

To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: RE: 6th street Brookings, SD-widening??

From: Kay Pearson [<mailto:kaycpearson@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 6:43 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: 6th street Brookings, SD-widening??

Dear Mr. Cleland -
I have just learned of a DOT proposal to widen 6th Street in Brookings, SD.

This distresses me! Say it isn't so!

I am an alumnus of South Dakota State University in Brookings and I spend time there at least two times a year as a Trustee of the SDSU Foundation.

Chopping down 30 or 40 trees on 6th Street will be a calamity! This will drastically change the beauty and charm of the neighborhood.

This is the type of action that gives DOT a bad reputation. Surely there is a less draconian option.

I look forward to your reply. Thank you.

Kay Coffield Pearson
855 Victoria Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-672-5989 307-752-0797



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Project # P-PH 0014(179)419
PCN 027B County Brookings
Location US 14 - Main Ave to Medary Ave

Would like more information about the accidents that have occurred. Were there people during certain times of the day, ages of drivers, speeding, cited for violation - such as DWI?

I think you need to assess traffic flow, just # will not give a good idea of area. Would like to know if speed limit is now being observed?

Name: Linda Boardt Date: 4-28-14
Address: 304 S KOTA Ave.
Brookings, SD 57006

Written testimony will be included in the meeting record. Please submit comments by May 12, 2014

Send to: Cary Cleland, Road Design Engineering Supervisor
E-Mail Address: Cary.Cleland@state.sd.us
South Dakota Department of Transportation
5316 W 60th St N
Sioux Falls, SD 57107



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Project # P-PH 0014(179)419
PCN 027B County Brookings
Location US 14 - Main Ave to Medary Ave

Do not widen beyond 4 lanes. Instead, slow traffic down and enforce tailgating traffic laws.

Thomas Doherty
Emeritus Prof Economics
SDSU

131 Jefferson Ave
Brookings SD 57006

Name: _____
Address: _____

Date: 4/28/14

Written testimony will be included in the meeting record. Please submit comments by May 12, 2014

Send to: Cary Cleland, Road Design Engineering Supervisor
E-Mail Address: Cary.Cleland@state.sd.us
South Dakota Department of Transportation
5316 W 60th St N
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Note: I spoke up at the hearings



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Project # P-PH 0014(179)419
PCN 027B County Brookings
Location US 14 - Main Ave to Medary Ave

Save the trees, please.
- Curb to sidewalk type sidewalks
are dangerous. Children, pedestrians
& bikers will be at increased danger

Name: Ann Lamer Date: 4/28/14
Address: 230 Hwy 14 Bypass
Brookings, SD 57006

Written testimony will be included in the meeting record. Please submit comments by May 12, 2014

Send to: Cary Cleland, Road Design Engineering Supervisor
E-Mail Address: Cary.Cleland@state.sd.us
South Dakota Department of Transportation
5316 W 60th St N
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

To:

Shari Thomas
City Clerk
% Brookings Government Center
P.O. Box 270 - Brookings, SD 57006

Concerning: Sixth Street Widening

I, Marge Inman, of 303 Amara
Ave, Volga, SD. 57071 strongly
want 6th Street between
Main Ave and Melary to
remain AS IS.

Margie M. Inman.

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Project P-PH 0014(179) 419 PCN 027B County Brookings Location US14 Main to Medary Ave

From: RS Schmieding [<mailto:rsshmieding@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 11:00 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Project P-PH 0014(179) 419 PCN 027B County Brookings Location US14 Main to Medary Ave

First thanks for coming to Brookings yesterday for public hearing. I'm probably one of the few people in that room who had no problems with your plans for Main to Medary improvements. My concern was the statement about ADA improvement to 12 Ave and 6th Street (US 14) improvement. While this stop light was great when 12 ave went into SDSU up to administration building and was the main entrance into SDSU from US 14th.

SDSU changed the main entrance to SDSU to 13th Ave as a result the majority of the traffic turns into SDSU from US 14 at 13th St. In addition, there are many students that use the 13th ave intersection to walk/bike to campus. As the 12th ave entrance leads to a dead end and students can not enter the campus at that location.

There are many times that I have driven off the campus via 13th street. First in the winter there are sometimes not even enough room for two cars to meet on that road. Also there are countless number of times I've seen students almost get hit by cars trying to cross US 14 at 13th.

My suggestion is that instead of spending money on 12th street to make ADA, the money should be used to move stop light to 13th Ave and make that ADA accessible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Becky Schmieding

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Brookings' Sixth Street

From: nancy051354 [<mailto:nancy051354@brookings.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 10:39 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Brookings' Sixth Street

I was at the meeting last night and left with a changed mind. There is no easy solution for this project. Thank you for the facts.

With that said, here is an idea.

Expand the road to the 5 lanes, BUT instead of a turn land, create one long middle - of -the--road boulevard with trees and plantings. All left turns would be made at the lights on Main and Medary Ave.. we've created another visual that sets this area apart. And hopefully, people would continue to plant large trees in their yards.

I grew up in Golden Valley MN. This suburb has been working at adding pedestrian friendly areas. The traffic pattern has changed, it is a bit of a nuisance, but it looks interesting and inviting.

*Faith is permitting
ourselves to be seized by
the things we do not see. Martin Luther*

Nancy Flynn
711 Fourth ST
Brookings

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 7:16 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: comments on Brookings 6th Street

From: Lawrence [<mailto:actup@swiftel.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 8:47 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: comments on Brookings 6th Street

Mr. Cleland,

I attended the public forum on April 28 regarding the Brookings 6th Street Main to Medary project. I travel along this section quite often – both by auto and by foot. I have not experienced any problems with travel flow while driving this stretch so I question the need to widen it to 5 lanes. I would be in favor of reducing the speed limit.

I find this to be the most beautiful stretch of 6th Street and would hate to see it deteriorate due to the loss of trees. While I realize it will be difficult, I encourage you to find an alternative that will have a minimal impact on the trees.

I have a concern with the proposal of having sidewalks being located adjacent to the shoulder in the 900 block. I live on the corner of 8th Street and Medary Avenue. Years ago my boulevard on Medary was reduced to 3 feet with the installation of a turning lane. Quite often snow overflows from the boulevard onto my sidewalk when the snow plow comes through. I can envision the snow being a constant problem on sidewalks located next to the curb. Right now Bozied's service station and Domino's Pizza keep the sidewalks open because of their businesses. I question if all of the residential owners along that block would do the same.

Lawrence Novotny
928 8th Street
Brookings SD

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2014 9:23 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Project: P-PH 0014(179)419 Brookings County, US Highway 14

From: Les Rowland [<mailto:les@teamdesignarc.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 4:34 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Project: P-PH 0014(179)419 Brookings County, US Highway 14

Cary,

I attended the public comment session. A couple items I would like clarification on:

1. What is the recommended width of a median to support large tree growth similar to what we have now?
2. Much of the suggested widening of the road is due to providing a turn lane and it is driven by safety. I am wondering, since the 26th to Medary project and the Main to Western project have been completed, did the safety statistics in these areas go down or did they stay the same?

I will also be serving on a committee for the City of Brookings regarding this project. It would be helpful to have this information for some of the anticipated discussion.

Respectfully,

Les Rowland
Chair – Brookings Historic Preservation Commission

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 8:37 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Trees in Brookings

From: cindy mittan [<mailto:stic4494@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2014 8:54 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Trees in Brookings

Mr. Cleland:

I am writing in concern for the proposed project here in Brookings. Please do not remove these trees.

It is only 6 blocks. People can slow down for six blocks. I understand that the road needs an overhaul, but please do not take the trees down in the process.

Thank you very much,
Cindy Mittan



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Project # P-PH 0014(179)419
PCN 027B County Brookings
Location US 14 - Main Ave to Medary Ave

I do NOT support this road project.

I do NOT support tearing out the trees.

CANCEL this project.

Name: JOHN GLANZER Date: 5/4/14
Address: 914 8th St
BROOKINGS, SD

Written testimony will be included in the meeting record. Please submit comments by May 12, 2014

Send to: Cary Cleland, Road Design Engineering Supervisor
E-Mail Address: Cary.Cleland@state.sd.us
South Dakota Department of Transportation
5316 W 60th St N
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 4:59 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Public Comments Brookings Highway Project P-PH 0014(179)419

From: Smith, Amy [<mailto:Amy.Smith@SDSTATE.EDU>]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 3:57 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Public Comments Brookings Highway Project P-PH 0014(179)419

Public Comments
Project #P-PH 0014(179)419
PCN 027B County Brookings
Location US 14 – Main Ave to Medary Ave

I live on 6th street in the 800-900 block. My family is hoping that the loss of trees will not stop the progress that is necessary for storm sewer upgrades and road widening for traffic safety. We will feel much safer with a turning lane. Traffic is often delayed by west bound vehicles making left turns. Our home was built in 1892, and we love the history of the area, but maintenance and repairs are necessary to preserve this area. This year we removed five beautiful old trees on boundaries with my neighbors. Three were marked with the red "X" of dutch elm disease during the summer, and then this fall another tree split and fell on our home. We removed the split tree, and another next to it that was showing signs of decay and could fall on our home during the winter winds. I am looking forward to the completion of this project so that I can plant healthy new trees and invest in our future.

Name: Amy Smith
Address: 816 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006

Date: May 8, 2014

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 3:03 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: 6th St /Brookings

From: Joanie Holm [<mailto:jholm229@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 12:09 PM
To: sthornes@cityofbrookings.org; Cleland, Cary
Subject: 6th St /Brookings

Dear Mr Cleland and Ms Thornes,

I write to lend my support to holding off on changes to 6th St. in Brookings until a citizen and official task force can evaluate the alternatives in repairing the remaining portion of this street.

I live very close to the section of the road in question. I do not feel that there is a problem with traffic or accidents in this area. In speaking to friends and co-workers, most of whom do not live in this area, they are all baffled about the need to widen the road. They comment to me that they have never encountered a problem on this section of 6th St.

Please rethink the 6th St. alternatives.

Joanie Holm
724 5th St
Brookings, SD

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 3:04 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: 6th Street project in Brookings

From: Kelley Tilmon [<mailto:kelley.tilmon@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 12:54 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Cc: sthornes@cityofbrookings.org
Subject: 6th Street project in Brookings

Dear SD Department of Transportation,

I am writing to advise against the proposed widening of 6th Street in Brooking. This road-widening and the concomitant reduction/loss of greenspace will degrade the quality of the neighborhood it runs through and also reduce the visual quality and appeal of Brookings in general. It will also no doubt serve to increase traffic speed through this domestic part of town.

Instead, I suggest alternate measures to increase safety along this stretch of road, perhaps including closing off key cross-streets to reduce left-hand turns, and reducing the speed limit through this area.

Thanks,
Kelley J. Tilmon
City of Brookings resident

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 3:04 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Trees

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

From: Kevin Ishol [<mailto:kishol@brookingshomes.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 1:03 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Trees

Cary, I am writing this in support of savings the trees on 6th street. I am a life long resident and a Realtor. I can not tell you what an impact the trees have on a person coming to town for the first time. Throughout the city the trees have a big impact.

Please put together a citizens board to work through this important issue.

Sincerely,
Kevin Ishol

Sent from my iPhone

PUBLIC COMMENTS

May 9, 2014

Project # P-PH 0014(179)419

PCN 027B County Brookings

Location US 14 – Main Ave to Medary Ave

In the presentation on April 28, 2014 given to the Brookings community regarding the 6th Street project, I am writing about the slide entitled “Project Scope” and the line titled “Traffic Signals at 5th and 7th, not warranted.” I wish to make the case for keeping the traffic signal at 7th Ave.

My family and I have lived at 1034-6th Av, located north of 6th St for 60 years. At the time 6th St was widened in the 1960s, I chaired a committee which worked hard to convince DOT that we needed another traffic light on 6th St. between 5th Av and Medary Av (10th Av). We showed figures indicating the number of children who needed to cross 6th St in order to go to school or to board a school bus on 5th St. Sadly our concerns were ignored. It was not until Florence Fenn, age 72, walking home from church, was killed by being hit by a car on October 1, 1967 at that 7th Ave. corner that DOT put up the traffic light.

Let’s move now into the 45 years since that tragedy.

There is not a day goes by that I do not use that traffic light to cross 6th St. I can verify that there are many people in Brookings who depend on that light to cross 6th St. It seems that the downhill grade from Medary to Main encourages cars going west to Downtown to speed on that stretch. If it were not for the traffic light at 7th Av and 6th St, car traffic and pedestrians would have a hard time crossing 6th St.

The citizens are used to a traffic light at that location and both cars and pedestrians depend on it to cross or access 6th St. As a conduit, 7th Av leads to the Court House, several churches, Head Start, GAP (Great After-school Program), a city gym, a school bus stop, the Children’s Museum, and the senior Activity Center. If 6th St is widened again, it will take even longer for a person to cross on foot.

PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE THE TRAFFIC LIGHT AT 7th AV.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mildred K. Hugghins
1034-6th Av.
Brookings, SD 57006
605-692-6981

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:15 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Brookings 6th Street

From: Caleb Evenson [mailto:caevenson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 2:03 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Brookings 6th Street

Dear Cary,

Last month I attended the public meeting on widening 6th Street in Brookings from Main Avenue to Medary Avenue. I'd like to thank SDDOT for holding a meeting with the general public, and Mark Lieferman in specific for doing a fine job staying calm and considerate throughout the meeting.

I'm well aware that strong biases influenced my experience at that meeting. For many reasons I choose to travel through the city via bicycle only. That's a trend in my life which started nearly seven years ago, just a year before I moved to Portland, Oregon. Experiencing such dependence on bicycle mobility there, reflecting on that atmosphere, and following some of its transportation news has dramatically changed my perspective on transportation. With that in mind I feel compelled to offer my input on this project.

One fundamental philosophical opinion I have is that even though we have ideas we'd prefer our roadway experiences align with, roads are for moving *people*, regardless of their mode, and therefore SDDOT's commitment to collision reduction on 6th Street pleases me. I grew up on a farm outside Toronto just northeast of Brookings, so maybe you can imagine that I didn't grow up with that opinion, and maybe even understand my concern that many fellow local citizens hold nothing close to it.

I recall one woman at the meeting asked a question about this segment's accident rate being compared with the state average, insinuating that 6th Street's accident rate is of little or no value unless compared to another city with a bustling college student presence or something similar. I thought her question and comment betrayed a callousness of which she is perhaps ignorant, and subsequently ponder the possibility that until she stops thinking in such a comparative framework, she will struggle giving accurate weight to each individual tragedy that takes place on any road.

The concern becomes then that if people aren't giving much weight to each individual collision in hindsight, that they might not give much weight to diligently *preventing* collisions, and therein lies my primary concern with the proposed widening. I strongly favor turn lanes as they remove road users from the path of rearward approaching users, but implementing them does nothing to modify behavior causing hazards.

As one who rides a bicycle on city streets every day and wants to help others do the same, modifying hazard causing behaviors is critical to me. Though negligence doesn't cause them all, I have no doubt the negligence causing rear end accidents on 6th Street shares roots with that which prompts people to text and drive, drink and drive, speed, and otherwise generally drive without precaution. I have the impression a pervasive culture of carelessness and arrogance exists in our society, and collectively we're not doing enough to counteract it.

Of course, one might ask why not modify hazard causing behavior while also providing a safer space for turning road users. I like redundant safety methods, but I also like trees, especially in this time when farmers are increasingly turning tree land into farmland and I'm becoming increasingly involved in the community. I can not reconcile the destruction of those trees with a turn lane's ultimate benefits which can be found through other means.

The first other method in mind is the speed limit. There was talk of lowering the speed to 25 miles per hour from Main to Medary which was countered with the idea that consistency helps drivers maintain safety through knowing what to expect. I think that consistency is far from a guarantee toward safety, though. While consistency might help some people relax and thus drive more mindfully, it might influence others to become complacent in the absence of relatively frequent changes that would otherwise stimulate their awareness and initiative. Avoiding stress is key, but so is avoiding an environment that subtly fosters distraction.

If consistency is needed, though, could 6th Street's speed not be reduced to 25 all across Brookings? As others have sure mentioned, users wishing for shorter travel times could use the Highway 14 Bypass, while those getting around town could *hopefully* take the time to acknowledge that a 10 miles per hour reduction in speed amounts to relatively little extra travel time.

Another method mentioned by meeting goers was increased law enforcement. I have felt that since eastern 6th Street was widened that its traffic became faster and more frantic. That's only a feeling based on my memories and limited observation, and I know just as little about Brookings police officers' duties, but even so I hope they can focus more on 6th Street.

My last thought for reducing collisions pertains to education. Many years have passed since I took the driver's education course through my high school, but even so I imagine more can be done (provided resources can be allocated) even today to impress upon both future and current drivers how easily an automobile and its momentum can destroy lives and property, and how much a mystery is the outcome of every single trip we plan. The cheesy video I remember was not nearly enough to work caution into us students. Unfortunately I can't say what would be effective short of substantial philosophical discussion, though, and I don't know what teachers would opt for that.

Lastly, I'd like to discuss congestion and social progress. As our population increases and diversifies, congestion will naturally become harder to predict and control. However, as more people take to walking, bicycling, and public transportation, congestion potential will decrease, of course. By merely widening our streets, we do nothing to directly promote the latter, and instead continue the auto-centric trend our nation has been on for decades. In that context opting to not widen 6th Street would be the more bold social move, and thus one I hope will be possible in light of our nation's increasingly acrimonious political atmosphere.

I said "merely" widening our streets, because I hadn't forgotten that bicycle lanes on 6th from Main to Medary were a proposed option which would directly promote non-automobile transportation. That's an option I would prefer not come to fruition, though. I direly hope to see bicycle infrastructure developed here, but I'd rather save the trees and boulevards, and would also prefer our bicycle lanes be on streets with fewer traffic lanes, lower speeds, and less traffic. The most effective way to protect people on bicycles is to minimize their interactions with automobiles, if one can't entirely eliminate them.

Thank you for taking the time to read all this. I look forward to the next meeting, and hope your deliberations go smoothly. Have a wonderful day!

Caleb Evenson

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:16 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Brookings 6th St. project

From: Cyndy Boesch [<mailto:cjdb@brookings.net>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 5:38 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Brookings 6th St. project

In the 30 years I have lived in Brookings, in the same house just a block north of 6th street, I have seen a number of changes. While growth in the city has increased the population and the challenges that go with it, it shouldn't be a reason to completely restructure a section of 6th street that goes through a residential area. The aesthetic qualities of the neighborhood (including trees) can help make this stretch of road safer. Over the years 6th street has turned into a regular drag strip. Technology (cell phones and texting) has added to the problem. Accident statistics have been cited as a reason to re-structure the road. I contend that the proposed solutions are nothing more than trying to accommodate people who have bad driving behavior, and relieve them from some of their responsibilities. When a person receives a drivers license, they accept these responsibilities. Don't reward bad driving behavior. The solution is simple: 1) repave the section with four lanes (two each way); or 3 lanes (one each way and center turning lane); 2) reduce speed limit to a residential 25mph; 3) Increase enforcement presence.

It's not rocket science.....it's just common sense. Let's use some in the decision making process. Thank you -
Duayne Boesch – Brookings, SD

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:17 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Street widening - Brookings

From: Michelle Tvedt [<mailto:tvedt66@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Street widening - Brookings

I will keep this short and sweet. I am 100% opposed to the widening of 6th St for a couple of reasons.

1. A widened street increases the chance of speeding thus increases chances of accidents and injury. The trees act as a safety barrier between the homes and businesses not to mention aesthetically they provide this beautiful canopy through our community.
2. There is no reason to cut down these well-established trees and take away property. Property values for homes and businesses will likely go down.

If folks would like to move through town a little faster they have the option of continuing east and taking the interstate or continuing on to take the bypass.

The Brookings Community is just that; a community of families and businesses that like the small town feel. Please do not try to fix something that is not broke.

Thank you taking the time to read my comments.

Michelle Tvedt
436 Harvey Dunn St.

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:18 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: 6th Street in Brookings

From: Leah J Walker [<mailto:leah.schaaf.walker@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2014 10:40 PM

To: Cleland, Cary

Subject: 6th Street in Brookings

Dear Cary,

I am contacting you about the plan to increase the size of 6th street in Brookings. As an SDSU alum, and now current resident of Brookings, this is an important issue to me. I am all for the improvement of Brookings. I am proud of SDSU and the city itself, but I think part of the charm is its beauty. I feel removing trees to make the street wider is a HUGE MISTAKE.

Isn't there *any* way to improve the flow of traffic without ruining the street's aesthetic beauty? Honestly, I know very little about the details of the plan. But I DO know what draws people to our town. And along with the trees would go a lot of appeal.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Leah Walker
1102 2nd St.
Brookings, SD
605.521.0111

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:19 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: 6th street Brookings

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

From: Debra Debates [<mailto:debra.debates@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 7:52 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: 6th street Brookings

The widening of 6th Street in Brookings is a mistake-I believe it will lead to more accidents in addition to destroying the beautiful trees that line the street.

What about reducing speed limits along the street? I believe that is a better option -much less costly than widening the street.

Sent from my iPad

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:19 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Ideas for Brookings 6th Street Project

From: Phyllis Cole-Dai [<mailto:coledai@brookings.net>]
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 9:44 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Ideas for Brookings 6th Street Project

Mr. Cleland,

Greetings from Brookings!

I want to thank you and your colleagues for taking into serious consideration the ideas that Brookings residents like myself are putting forward for the 6th Street project in Brookings.

Here's my two-cents worth:

- Keep the street at its current width.
- Let the city make its improvements (sewer lines, etc.)
- Replace the pavement and make whatever other state improvements need to be made.
- Lower the speed limit on this stretch.
- Use a three-lane design, a la 8th Street South, with a middle turn lane. Alternatively, either make 6th Street a one-way street or make it have no left turns through the historic district.
- Make sure there are bike lanes.
- Take necessary measures to try to protect/give assistance to the trees that might suffer root damage from construction. Plant additional trees in the boulevards.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Deep peace,
Phyllis Cole-Dai

Phyllis Cole-Dai

h: 605-692-7001

c: 605-592-6293

<http://www.phylliscoledai.com>

@phylliscoledai

<http://www.facebook.com/phylliscoledai>

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:20 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Monday's the Day!

From: Lois Haertel [<mailto:lois.haertel@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 11:32 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Fwd: Monday's the Day!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lois Haertel** <lois.haertel@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, May 11, 2014 at 7:08 AM
Subject: Re: Monday's the Day!
To: phyllis cole-dai <coledai@brookings.net>, cary.cleland@state.sd.us, sthomes@cityofbrookings.org

I would recommend the following changes

- 1) Change "highway 14 bypass" to "highway 14," and rename the route through Brookings "business 14." Post signs showing business 14 as the turnoff for gas, food and lodging.
2. Do as many other cities have done and make the short stretch of 6th street in question a one way street. Either 7th st or 8th street could be the other direction.
3. Construct safe bike lanes on both one-way streets, encouraging bike traffic between campus and downtown.

I live in the county but do almost all my shopping in Brookings.

Lois Haertel

On Fri, May 9, 2014 at 10:48 AM, phyllis cole-dai <noreply@list.moveon.org> wrote:

Dear Lois,

Monday's a big day for 6th Street in Brookings! Remember to share your opinions, questions, suggestions and alternative plans regarding the proposed street widening with SD DOT, in writing, **by Monday, May 12.**

- Contact Cary Cleland, Road Design Engineering Supervisor, cary.cleland@state.sd.us, South Dakota DOT, 5316 W. 60th St. N., Sioux Falls, SD 57107.
- Also share your ideas with the Brookings City Council. Send them to the Council through Shari Thornes, the City Clerk (sthomes@cityofbrookings.org) or contact the mayor and city councilors directly.
- Perhaps suggest to both the Council and the state that we form a "citizen task force" to draft a community-based plan for 6th Street.

If you haven't heard, Brookings was last year named one of the "Top Ten Best Small Towns" in which to live. Let's keep it a blue-ribbon community through our red-ribbon efforts on behalf of the 6th Street district! **Speak up by Monday, May 12!**

With gratitude,
Phyllis Cole-Dai

This message was sent to lois haertel by phyllis cole-dai through MoveOn's public petition website. MoveOn Civic Action does not endorse the contents of this message. To unsubscribe or report this email as inappropriate, click here:

<http://petitions.moveon.org/unsub.html?i=22273-1807141-AGne=v>

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Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:31 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Save the trees in brookings please!

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

From: Ann Lamer [<mailto:annlamer@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 12:26 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Save the trees in brookings please!

Dear Cary,

The trees are finally blooming in Brookings and it's such a beautiful sight after a long cold winter! Please save the trees along 6th street. They have lived a long life and they deserve to be taken care of. As we all get older, let's teach our children that age is something to appreciate not discard.

Another real concern of mine is the plan to have no boulevard between the sidewalk and 6th street. This is not safe, and leaves our children and fellow pedestrians at risk from drivers going 35 mph (and faster) right next to them. They need a buffer. My experience along 22nd ave where the sidewalk juts up right next to the road on the west side is horrible and dangerous. In the winter, it's pretty much useless because there is always packed snow from the snowplows on it, and in the spring it can't be used either because cars are always splashing water on it from the road. Also, it's uneven because of all the driveways. Luckily, the sidewalk on the east side of 22nd has a boulevard and that's what everyone uses instead. The new 6th street needs to have boulevards to protect our children and citizens.

I know there is a better alternative for 6th street and I look forward to working together to come up with a plan that everyone agrees on.

Thanks for your time and consideration on this issue.

Ann Lamer
230 Highway 14 Bypass
Brookings, SD 57006
605-697-5075

Sent from my iPhone

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:31 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Department of Transportation Sixth Street Plans - Brookings

From: Jeanette Bare [<mailto:jehbare@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 7:59 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Cc: jweldon@cityofbrookings.org; noreply@list.moveon.org; tsreed@brookings.net; tbezdichek@yahoo.com; keithcorbett52@gmail.com; kubal3@swiftel.net; bopn@brookings.net; jael@jael.com
Subject: Department of Transportation Sixth Street Plans - Brookings

Thank you for holding an informative meeting about DOT's Sixth Street plans in Brookings. We became more aware and better educated by attending the meeting.

Some thoughts/suggestions follow:

1. Retain the four-lane highway and save the trees. This is a residential neighborhood!
2. Retain the stop light at Seventh Avenue. It slows traffic and is a vital crossing point for pedestrians of all ages.
3. Make use of flashing speed limit signs. (Those that show individual car speed and those that indicate the area speed limit. When those become ignored, rotate them to a different location for a period of time.)
Possibly, the speed limit signs should be posted more frequently and definitively colored especially when there is a change in the speed limit.
4. If the plan to widen the street is implemented, the sidewalk will be dangerously close to the curb and pedestrians. Implementation will create extreme snow and ice removal problems for property owners.
5. Have the area more frequently patrolled.
6. Add four-way stops. This would result in slower traffic.

7. Place signs saying - DON'T TAILGATE.

8. Form a Brookings task force to draft a community-based plan for Sixth Street.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts.

Sincerely,
Jeanette and Tom Bare
510 17th Ave. South

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 8:32 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Brookings 6th Street project

From: Cyndy Boesch [<mailto:cjdb@brookings.net>]

Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2014 8:04 PM

To: Cleland, Cary

Subject: Brookings 6th Street project

The issue with accidents on 6th Street has little to do with the lack of a left turn lane and everything to do with excessive speed. I travel 6th Street several times daily and I am always amazed that I seem to be the only driver paying attention to the posted speed limit. All the other drivers pass me going much faster than the posted limit. If there is a lot of traffic, they just tailgate. And now you talk about possibly removing the stop light at 7th Street, which is the only thing which slows drivers down—if they don't accelerate to beat it. Adding another lane will just enhance the use of 6th Street in the evening for drag racing and as a platform to "exhibit" your driving skills. We live a block off 6th Street and can hear the racing going on even with all the doors and windows to the house shut. If you really want to impact the accident rate, slow things down! We know that the police aren't going to up enforcement; surely you can come up with a solution other than adding another lane to the race track. Thank you. Cyndy Boesch

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 12:23 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: city clerk & city council members

From: Laurie Carruthers [<mailto:LCarruthers@cityofbrookings.org>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Cc: Hansen, Daniel; Jael Thorpe; Jeff Weldon; John Kubal; Corbett, Keith; Oepke "Ope" Niemeyer (bopn@brookings.net); Shari Thornes; Tim Reed; Tom Bezdichek (tbezdichek@yahoo.com)
Subject: FW: city clerk & city council members

Dear Mr. Cleland,

Below is public comment on:

Project #: P-PH 0014(179)419
PCN: 027B
County: Brookings
Location: US 14 - Main Avenue to Medary Avenue

Thanks,
Laurie Carruthers
Communications Specialist
City of Brookings
520 3rd Street, Suite 230
PO Box 270
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-6281

From: Barbara J. Thompson [<mailto:thompsonbrookings@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 9:14 PM
To: Shari Thornes
Subject: city clerk & city council members

To all Brookings City Council Members:

Please consider postponing or cancelling the expensive & unnecessary project of widening 6th street! The plans that were presented to the public, show massive destruction to the front entrances of many homes & businesses, & the increased traffic will be detrimental to everyone living in Brookings, & to those who are just driving through.

My hope is that there can be more options considered, & that a sensible & reasonable decision will be made for the people of Brookings.

Barbara J. Thompson
Brookings, SD 57006

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 12:25 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Sixth street renovation

From: Laurie Carruthers [<mailto:LCarruthers@cityofbrookings.org>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 11:28 AM
To: Cleland, Cary
Cc: Hansen, Daniel; Jael Thorpe; Jeff Weldon; John Kubal; Corbett, Keith; Oepke "Ope" Niemeyer (bopn@brookings.net); Shari Thornes; Tim Reed; Tom Bezdichek (tbezdichek@yahoo.com)
Subject: FW: Sixth street renovation

Dear Mr. Cleland,

Below is public comment on:

Project #: P-PH 0014(179)419
PCN: 027B
County: Brookings
Location: US 14 - Main Avenue to Medary Avenue

Thanks,
Laurie Carruthers
Communications Specialist
City of Brookings
520 3rd Street, Suite 230
PO Box 270
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-6281

From: Patty Bacon [<mailto:pattybacon5@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 11:14 AM
To: Shari Thornes
Subject: Sixth street renovation

Dear Brookings City Council,

I want to encourage the DOT to not only save our trees but actually implement safety on Sixth street. I love the idea of replicating the 8th Street South design. This provides for safer option for those of us who use our bicycles for transportation, it keeps traffic going slower - which is what most of us who live here want. We do NOT want the ability to drive faster on 6th Street! And I know this will maintain snow removal options while keeping safe options for pedestrians on 6th Street. I want to not only see the amount of pedestrian traffic maintained, I want to see it increased along with increased use of bicycles. PLEASE see that these items are implemented.

In addition, our trees on 6th street are a welcoming invitation to our visitors. I travel all around the state in my job as state director for Habitat for Humanity and people are always telling me how beautiful our city is and that those trees on sixth street are a draw for them to get off the interstate, even if this is not their destination, and take a relaxing drive into our community, which then increases the odds they pull off and spend some money here.

Please save the trees and make 6th street safer for those of us who choose a healthier way to transport ourselves around our beautiful community.

Patty
Bacon

"For all the environmental troubles single-use shopping bags cause, the much greater impacts are in what they contain. reducing the human footprint means addressing fundamentally unsustainable habits of food consumption, such as expecting strawberries in the depths of winter or buying of seafood that are being fished to the brink of extinction."

— Susan Freinkel, *Plastic: A Toxic Love Story*

pattybacon5@gmail.com

Riss, Brandon

To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: RE: Comments on Brookings Project

From: Shari Thornes [<mailto:SThornes@cityofbrookings.org>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 1:48 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Comments on Brookings Project

DATE: May 12, 2014

TO: Cary Cleland, Road Design Engineering Supervisor

FROM: Brookings Historic Preservation Commission

RE: Brookings 6th Street, Main to Medary Project

The Department of Transportation is proposing to widen Sixth Street along this corridor and in doing so will need to remove the wide boulevards and old-growth trees within them. The neighborhood along this thoroughfare is in the Historic Preservation District and a part of Brookings' cultural landscape. The green space provided by the boulevards and the canopy of trees above are central to the neighborhoods' distinctive appearance and character.

Additionally, the front facades of the houses in the proposed construction corridor have a consistent setback distance from the street. Not only would the aesthetics of the front yards be reduced by a widened road, but the noise buffer provided by the trees would be gone, bringing undesirable traffic noise--and more of it--much closer to the homes.

In the 1960's a similar proposal for street widening was considered. Instead, a Highway 14 Bypass to the north was constructed. This alternative diverted heavy traffic from the center of town and kept in place the existing lovely approach. Fifty years later our values and appreciation for an attractive and safe community remain.

Although a few of the trees are old and may die soon, these can certainly be replaced—but only if there are still boulevards and space left to plant them. It has been a tragedy to lose so many elm trees in the past decade—but no one has suggested that there shouldn't be new plantings and replacements. In fact, on Arbor Day the local Delta Chi Fraternity with the help of the Rotary Club and the City Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will begin planting 60 trees on the newer boulevards in town with more plantings in years to come.

THE BROOKINGS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Les Rowland, Chairman
Holly Fetzler-Fickler, Vice Chairman
Thomas Agostini
Mary Bibby
Leah Brink
Janet Gritzner
Dr. Dennis Willert

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 2:17 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Project # P-PH 0014(179)419

From: Dan Kemp [<mailto:dankemp@brookings.net>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Cc: 'Dan Kemp'
Subject: Project # P-PH 0014(179)419

Hi Cary – I'd like to make some comments about PROJECT P-PH 001(179)419 PCN 027B in Brookings Bounty. The part of the project I'm concerned about involves reconstruction of US 14 from Main Ave. to Medary Ave. My concern is about the proposed widening of that portion of Hwy. 14 (6th Street) to support turning lanes at the street intersections. **I strongly disagree with the widening.** The road, 6th Street, already includes turning lanes at Main Ave., 5th Street, and Medary Ave. and that's all there need to be. There is no great volume of traffic turning at the other streets or the few driveways along that stretch of 6th Street. Furthermore the widening would cause the removal of 39 trees that characterize that portion of 6th Street. They should not be removed. I understand that the reconstruction without widening could damage the tree roots, but I'm perfectly willing to take that chance. I'd rather see them die in a few years rather than be bashed to the ground with power shovels as the Main Street trees were a few years ago.

The strongest argument for widening 6th Street given at the Public Meeting on April 28, 2014 in Brookings was that too many accidents have occurred on that stretch of 6th Street. From the data you supplied it appears to me that the vast majority of those accidents involved cars going west, probably people coming home from work. I believe that an emphasis on education, more signage about speed limits, and timely police patrols would provide a better solution than widening the road and providing turning lanes. In fact, widening would probably encourage higher speeds along 6th Street. People using 6th Street to pass through Brookings should be educated to use the Hwy 14 bypass.

In short, please don't widen 6th street as part of the Brookings project. The street is plenty wide to accommodate residential traffic. Through traffic should be educated and encouraged to take the Hwy 14 bypass. The portion of 6th Street from Medary to 5th Street passes through a beautiful residential area that is characterized by an abundance of mature trees. These should not be replaced with more concrete. **Please reconsider the plan to widen 6th Street. It doesn't need to happen and it should not happen.**

Thanks for your consideration. – Dan

Dan Kemp
Brookings, SD 57006
605.692.7886
dankemp@brookings.net

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 2:23 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Brookings Trees

From: Carl Kline [mailto:carlek@mchsi.com]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 2:01 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Brookings Trees

Dear Cary ...

The following is a column I wrote for the Brookings Register on 4/26/14. Please consider it my commentary on the plan to widen 6th Street through our remaining residential district.

Carl Kline

Trees - 4/26/14

It seems a no-brainer to anyone who has ever hugged a tree. You don't cut one down that has survived a century or more with worse winters than you've ever experienced and hotter summers than you want to remember. Not to mention surviving car exhaust that would choke a child or small climbers who break a limb.

I confess, I'm a tree hugger! I'm thinking about those folks in the foot hills of the Himalayas. They were the original "tree huggers." They hugged the trees because their lives and livelihood depended on it. The loggers who came with their chain saws were destroying what held the hillsides in place (think Washington State landslide) and kept the soil from filling the rivers below and flooding valley homes. They hugged the trees so the loggers would have to cut through hugger flesh as well as the trees.

We had an ancient tree in our historic-district yard. It shaded the house in summer, gave beauty to the place in spring and fall, and provided a home to screech owls in the winter. For years, I threatened we'd have to move if we ever lost that tree to dutch elm disease.

We lost it. I hugged it before it was cut down. I still miss that tree, especially when we mow and notice all the mushrooms where it once stood. Now the summer sun is hotter, the screech owls have disappeared and our new ash tree struggles to grow its beauty in the spring and drop its beauty in the fall.

By now folks are aware of the plan to cut down the trees on Sixth Street in Brookings, to widen the highway from Medary to Main. Red ribbons wrap the condemned trees and opposition to their taking is growing. Even folks living in other countries have signed the on-line petition because they can remember and identify with that historic Sixth Street canopy.

SDSU students have petitioned the city council for better bike lanes and more public transportation, a wiser alternative to more lanes, more cars and faster traffic on Sixth Street. Why not have a schedule and regular stops with BATA buses and make Seventh Street and Fifth Street bike friendly with one way traffic?

Could we think about the future here? Can we begin to envision a less fossil fuel dependent community instead of following the lead of other urban settings where we all hate to drive, or shop, and can't walk?

The bike riders have it right. Let's encourage alternative transportation. So do the folks working on Arbor Day have it right. We need to be planting more trees right alongside the older ones. If I had my way, as a city (and county) we'd begin planting forests. As the climate continues to change, we'll need them.

And the Cowboys and Indians in D.C. have it right. We don't need the KXL tar sands pipeline threatening our South Dakota land and water to make profits for Transcanada and send oil to China. Wake up Governor Daugaard and all you Pierre regulators in agencies like the DOT! We need nature friendly energy and transportation alternatives!

There's a story attributed to Governor Tom McCall of Oregon. When his consent was sought for a coastal highway from California through Oregon to Washington State, he reportedly said, "OK, but it can't have any exits in Oregon."

I'm not sure that story is true but it does represent his attitude about protecting the natural beauty of the state. He was credibly quoted in a 1971 tourism speech as saying, "Come visit, don't stay." McCall championed Oregon's quality of life and battled anything that seemed to threaten it. He even put environmental protection ahead of economic growth.

Could we be more like that in Brookings? Must we always approve "growth" and "development" when they ultimately de-develop the environment and our quality of life?

Naomi Klein has written a piece for The Nation called "We All Need a Place to Stand." In it she shares advice she received from Wendell Berry. After listening to him give a lecture on how we have a duty to love our "homeplace" more than any other, Klein asked him if he had any advice for rootless people like her who live in their computers and always seem to be shopping for home. Berry said, "Stop somewhere, and begin the thousand-year-long process of knowing that place."

It's good advice. People for whom Brookings is home need to make sure it stays a home, someplace special, and not just another spot on the consumer highway.

Barbara Kingsolver is a favorite novelist. Her most recent book, Flight Behavior, is a wonderful read. In an interview she gave to the Sun magazine, she spoke about the importance of passing on the natural world, trees and all, to the next generation. "I'm a mother. I'm not always optimistic about the fate of the world - especially the natural world - but I'm still hopeful, because hope is a choice you get to renew. You can reboot hope. I have to do that, and not just for my own kids. Entire future generations will have to sort out the mess that we've left them. So I have to participate in solutions, because to do otherwise would feel like child abuse."

More trees and fewer cars in Brookings would be a good start to community parenting ... and hope for the future.

Riss, Brandon

To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: RE: Brookings 6th Street Comments

From: Shari Thornes [<mailto:SThornes@cityofbrookings.org>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 3:40 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Brookings 6th Street Comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Project #: P-PH 0013(179)419

PCN 027B: County Brookings

Location: US 14 – Main Ave to Medary Avenue

The Brookings Committee for People with Disabilities, an education and advocacy group appointed by the Mayor of Brookings, wishes to formally express our concern over one feature of the SDDOT proposed project. The plan, as proposed, would include a section of sidewalk located in very close proximity to the curb.

This design flaw poses safety concerns for individuals with mobility disabilities as well as all pedestrians. Even in fair weather conditions, pedestrians can feel very vulnerable when traveling closely to motorized vehicles. When snow and ice are present on the roadway and sidewalk, the situation becomes even more troubling. For example, a parent pushing a baby stroller or someone wheeling a wheelchair down the sidewalk while cars pass by only a few feet away. This situation is made even more dangerous with the epidemic of distracted drivers on the roadways.

Respectfully submitted by the Brookings Committee for People with Disabilities.

Dave Miller, Chair

Jessie Kuechenmeister, Vice Chair

Lonnie Bayer

Sylvia Buboltz

Nancy Hartenhoff-Crooks

Alan Davis

Nadine Gjerde

Geoffrey Graff

Kathy Heylens

Shawn Minor

Matt Simet

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 4:37 PM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Sixth Street Neighborhood area

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

From: Pat Fishback [<mailto:kiwi4tou@brookings.net>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 4:35 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: Sixth Street Neighborhood area

Hello Mr. Cleland, I am a community member of Brookings, SD.

I am writing to urge you to consider other options than widening the Sixth Street area in the Central and University National Register District neighborhoods.

Having wider streets coming off of the Interstate as traffic is filtered to the University area makes sense. However, it is clearly something that is not appropriate as drivers make their way into the residential neighborhoods where they will encounter pedestrians.

There is nothing safe about drivers having a wider street to increase their speed in these neighborhood areas. Please work with the thousand citizens of Brookings who would like all options to be considered. Help us retain the ambiance AND safety of this area. Thank you. Sincerely, Patricia S. Fishback

Sent from my iPad

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 8:09 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: The proposed changes to 6th Street in Brookings, SD

From: kgnirk@swiftel.net [<mailto:kgnirk@swiftel.net>]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 9:33 PM
To: Cleland, Cary
Subject: The proposed changes to 6th Street in Brookings, SD

Sent from Windows Mail

I attended the meeting in Brookings the other night and appreciated the information given to us and also the attitude of the presenters that what they were showing us was a first draft. They seemed sincere wanting input from the community.

I don't have any thoughts or ideas that weren't raised during the discussion that evening. I don't live on the street where the changes would be made. I didn't grow up in Brookings but it has been my home for almost 50 years. I did grow up appreciating Federal Highways because Hwy 18 goes by my home town of Burke and our house was only a block or two from it. The number of cars or the speed they were going on that highway were not a big factor because they were not going by our homes. I seldom hear 6th Street referred to as Hwy 14. If you want to use Hwy 14 you take the by-pass as I do when I go to Volga to visit my daughter. To people in Brookings the corridor between Main and Medary Ave is a residential street that is part of several blocks of a historical neighborhood. For it to become a five lane street like the one on 22th Ave would not only affect the homes on 6th street but the neighborhoods on either side of it.

I think we all understand this is a much bigger issue than saving 41 trees. I appreciate your reading our comments and taking them into consideration.

Sincerely,

Karla Gnirk
120 Jefferson Ave
Brookings, SD 57006

Riss, Brandon

From: Cleland, Cary
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 8:10 AM
To: Riss, Brandon
Subject: FW: Brookings 6th St (US 14) widening

From: Owens, Jason [<mailto:Jason.Owens@SDSTATE.EDU>]

Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 10:20 PM

To: Cleland, Cary

Subject: Brookings 6th St (US 14) widening

Dear SD-DOT, I oppose the widening of 6th Street between Main and Medary Avenues in Brookings for the following reasons:

Many people drive faster on wider roads with more lanes, which in some way may limit the safety improvements the DOT advocates in its widening proposal.

Widening 6th St. here may lead to the loss of the important traffic signal at 7th Avenue used by me as a bicyclist, many other bicyclists and pedestrians including school children who board busses on 5th St between 6th Ave and 7th Ave and visitors.

The trees enhance the beauty of two officially-designated historic districts of our community and welcome folks to the downtown.

SD-DOT is widening the bypass around Brookings that it built 50 years ago.

I propose designating the bypass as US 14 and designating 6th St as US 14 BUSINESS. This may well spur more drivers onto the underused US 14 bypass. Note that most bypasses, while offering a speedier journey, are longer than a route directly through most towns. BUT the US 14 bypass is not only a speedier journey, it is also just as short as the route directly through.

Thanking you for adding this to the messages of my neighbors and other concerned citizens, I am

Yours sincerely,

Jason Owens

709 3rd St

Brookings, SD 57006

cell tel. +1 605 691 ten sixty-six