

From: Karen Roseman [karen661@icloud.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 6:59 AM  
To: List - City Council  
Subject: Traffic circles at Manhattan Beach Blvd and 15th St/parking on Valley

To the Manhattan Beach City Council

We live on the cul de sac at 17th and Ardmore. We are very much against the idea of traffic circles. We already have a very difficult time crossing both Valley and Ardmore. There is a cross walk but cars frequently do not stop. With faster traffic and a circle, which in my opinion are very confusing for drivers, crossing at both the intersections will be even more difficult and dangerous. Our town should be made more pedestrian and bicycle friendly and not less. Regarding the parking spaces, our neighbors who live near Ardmore have a terrible time with visitors and workers parking in front of their houses instead of downtown. Taking away spaces on Valley will make this worse.

Thank you.  
Alan and Karen Roseman

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**From:** Richard M [RDMagnuson@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2013 1:11 PM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** Roundabouts on Ardmore/Valley

Dear Mayor and City Council:

I understand that on Tuesday evening Council will discuss approval of a traffic study for:

Feasibility of eliminating stoplights and creating roundabouts (traffic circles) at 15th and Ardmore/Valley and Manhattan Beach Blvd. and Ardmore/Valley.

What could be more dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists? It will be more difficult for pedestrians to cross Ardmore and Valley at 15th, 17th and 18th Sts. due to continuous traffic flow. It will set up car and bicycle collisions. It will facilitate speeding which is already a problem on Ardmore and Valley. It will be dangerous to back out onto Ardmore from our garages during rush hours.

It makes M.B. look like an auto friendly city instead of a vitality city by making walking and cycling hazardous to our health.

Please do not go forward with this idea.

Richard Magnuson  
510 17th Street  
Manhattan Beach

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**From:** KIM BARNHILL [barnhill5@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 8:49 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Subject:** Roundabout at 15th street and Valley/Ardmore

As an almost 20 year resident of 17th street, I have seen a huge increase in the amount of traffic on Ardmore and the difficulty in exiting the street as both a pedestrian and a driver.

With the increase in the number of large trucks and SUVs parked along Ardmore, the view is obstructed for on coming traffic and a driver must really pull out into the road to be able to get a clear look to leave the street safely.

Most drivers do not stop for pedestrians at the crosswalks.

The traffic engineer did a poor job on street light signals, especially at Valley and 15th where sometimes green means you are the only one with green and sometimes it doesn't and there is on coming traffic. This has been especially challenging with our new drivers who are trying to learn the rules of the road. The volume of traffic exiting American Martyrs school at 3 pm is especially problematic at this intersection and vehicles miss lights because of the back up of traffic.

Many people employed in businesses in downtown MB use 17th street as free parking daily. It is also quite crowded on beach weekends with people looking for free parking.

Eliminating the traffic lights and increasing the flow of traffic through this intersection can only worsen the quality of life that we have here on our cul de sac. We are already impacted by Bike Races and 10k and 5k runs where not so savvy public safety officers have refused to allow homeowners to leave/return to the street when the roads are closed. Increasing the number of cars through this area is dangerous.

Two schools have many children who cross the street here and they need protection.

Signal lights offer that protection and can keep the flow of traffic down.

Kim and molly Barnhill  
621 17th street

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**From:** Gary McAulay [<mailto:gary.mcaulay@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 4:44 AM

**To:** David Lesser

**Subject:** here is a dichotomy I cannot resolve

I am, as you know, in favor of maintaining traffic flow. That is, of not driving at 7mph, not squeezing too lanes into one, etc.

In theory, roundabouts facilitate traffic flow. And yet, there is a certain calm in the rhythm, the alternating stop and go pattern of a traffic signal or a stop sign, of knowing when to walk, when to stay on the curb; of when to stop, and when to drive.

Imagine roundabouts at MBB/Pacific, at MBB/Valley/Ardmore, at Highland, and Manhattan Avenue; at Highland/15th and Valley/15th; at Highland/Marine, Highland/Rosecrans. All with a steady stream of traffic, never stopping, constantly flowing or struggling to flow, never pausing. On some level I imagine a busier Manhattan Beach, always moving, never pausing. Pedestrians always looking for that break in traffic or the driver that you know will yield. And it doesn't feel calm to me.

Weird.

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Thanks David. I appreciate the candor.

I don't know how you feel about the roundabouts but my experiences have not been good. As you might expect, I have considerable experience driving under varied conditions back when I was working, and I've paid a lot of attention to how people drive. Anything not clear-cut (merging, yielding, uncontrolled intersections) tends to boggle the average driver. And, the unpredictability of the other drivers always worries me.

I've read enough to know that the traffic guys are going to push hard for roundabouts, and that council will likely go along. Also, that the community will dislike the roundabouts at first, approval will edge up, and that even though they ,\may or may not eventually be popular, people will apathetically accept them over time, like so many other things that get foisted on them.

Two things (Sorry! You *did* get me started!):

- 1) I'm still not convinced about putting roundabouts astride the green belt. This does not seem to be a typical roundabout configuration. The three intersections in question are high-volume intersections. Walking and jogging the greenbelt without stop lights or signs to interrupt traffic and allow pedestrians to reasonably know when to cross becomes a game of yielding/ is he going to yield? / how far away and how fast is that car going? / I'll just step out a bit/ etc. Too much mind reading, without the relative certainty we have now of when to cross a street.

2) Respectfully, I don't think the City is doing much in the way of introducing the roundabouts or gaining public approval. It is almost as if staff knows that there will be opposition, and to avoid the confrontation, a minimal public input program is being conducted with a foregone conclusion of roundabout construction. But rather than sell the idea to the public, the City seems as if it is simply going to construct them, and then deal with the complaints afterward when it is, of course, too late. Certainly easier that way.

Again, thanks for your tips above and for always taking the time to listen.

best  
Gary

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**From:** Tim Murphy [timmurphy90266@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:40 AM  
**To:** List - City Council  
**Cc:** Pj Murphy  
**Subject:** 15th and Valley/Ardmore intersection

Dear City Council,

My wife, PJ, and I have lived in Manhattan Beach for over twenty-five years. We have owned and lived on 17th Street for the last ten years, where we found the ideal street to raise our kids. Although we love our street, it has its issues from downtown service workers parking all day/all night on the block, trash left behind from young revelers and things like that. All in all, we enjoy being a close walk to Live Oak Park, American Martyrs, downtown and the beach.

Our biggest concern has to do with the traffic that too often speeds down Ardmore and Valley. Oftentimes, distracted drivers do not stop at the 17th street crosswalks to allow pedestrians, many of whom are children and dog walkers, to cross. Sometimes, the only way to cross safely is to wait for the 15th Street intersection light to stop traffic.

I am greatly concerned if the 15th Street intersection is turned into a roundabout. While it may allow cars the convenience to not stop for a few precious seconds, it will be devastating for all of the walkers, joggers, bicyclists etc. in the area. It will only encourage more aggressive driver behavior, something that is not needed in our densely populated neighborhood.

Please think this through and take into consideration the vast number of residents in this area who prefer to not change the intersection.

Thank you.  
Tim Murphy  
625 17th Street  
[310-387-4013](tel:310-387-4013) M