



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 3/06/2018

ITEM NO: 05

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**DATE:** FEBRUARY 26, 2018  
**TO:** MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
**FROM:** LAUREL PREVETTI, TOWN MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** SUMMER CUT THROUGH TRAFFIC  
A. FOREGO A TEMPORARY CLOSURE AT SOUTH SANTA CRUZ AVENUE AND WOOD ROAD FOR SUMMER 2018;  
B. APPROVE A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 TO IMPLEMENT TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURES IN ALMOND GROVE FOR SUMMER 2018; AND/OR  
C. PROVIDE OTHER DIRECTION FOR SUMMER 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Summer Cut Through Traffic:**

1. Forego a temporary closure at South Santa Cruz Avenue and Wood Road for summer 2018;
2. Approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$25,000 to implement temporary street closures in Almond Grove for summer 2018; and/or
3. Provide other direction for summer 2018.

**BACKGROUND:**

On October 24, 2017, the Town Council held a study session to discuss local traffic conditions. Since that time, staff has continued to work towards longer term measures to facilitate the flow of traffic through Town. As the summer approaches and the inevitable cut through traffic returns, staff is seeking direction from the Town Council on actions to take for the upcoming summer.

Staff has made progress on several items from the study session in October and previous Council direction.

**PREPARED BY:** MATT MORLEY  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS

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Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

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BACKGROUND (cont'd):

Highway 9 Corridor Study - The Town is in contract with the traffic engineering company W-Trans to study and recommend improvements for the Highway 9 corridor. This project will continue over the next six months. This study will focus on overall corridor safety and efficiency.

South Santa Cruz Avenue at Wood Road Roundabout – The conceptual design for this project has been submitted to Caltrans for preliminary review. Caltrans will provide guidance on permitting of the project as it relates to Caltrans right of way. Guidance from Caltrans is expected in the next thirty days. Once Caltrans has provided this guidance, the Town can more definitively scope the project and timeline. If the project moves forward, the Town will need to identify funding for design and construction. Staff anticipates a timeline of 18 to 24 months once funding is in place.

Pilot Reclassification of Town Streets – The mapping companies have been provided a list of Town streets to reclassify from residential collector to residential per previous Council direction. Staff will monitor whether this has an impact on traffic over the summer.

Highway 17 Efficiencies – During the study session, the Council and Senator Beal discussed potential modifications to Highway 17 to improve efficiencies. Subsequent conversations with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) initiated by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group also identified potential efficiency improvements as desirable.

Staff subsequently met with VTA to discuss opportunities to move forward with scoping and implementing these ideas. Together the staff of VTA and the Town recommend moving forward with a project that utilizes the current Highway 9 at Highway 17 interchange upgrade project listed in Measure B. From this base project, the scope would be expanded to include an auxiliary lane from Lark Avenue south to Highway 9 and again south from Highway 9 to the South Santa Cruz Avenue freeway onramp.

VTA and the Town will work to prioritize this project within the Highways category of Measure B such that the project receives early funding once Measure B funding is available. The expanded scope will require additional funds to complete the project. Staff intends to seek funds from Senate Bill 1 (SB1) for that purpose and to leverage the interest of Senator Beal in the effort. Staff estimates the total project cost in the \$50M range. The Town Council will have a number of opportunities to direct the scope of this project.

BACKGROUND (cont'd):

*Freeway Changeable Message Signs* – As noted at the study session, Caltrans has expressed willingness to work with the Town on the use of these signs to encourage travelers to remain on the freeway. Staff continues to work with Caltrans on this no cost item and will identify the most direct language that is acceptable to Caltrans. If time of travel information is available, staff will ask for that to be incorporated as well.

*Downtown One-Way Streets* – The Council has identified this as a possible Strategic Priority for the 2018/2020 period and the Council will have the opportunity to consider its funding as part of the capital program in the 2018/19 budget. If funded, staff will begin working towards establishing options and costs for Council review over the course of the next fiscal year.

DISCUSSION:

Staff is seeking specific direction from the Council on several specific actions for summer beach traffic in 2018. No reasonable solution exists that will eliminate the impacts of this traffic on the Town. And as has been emphasized previously, each of these actions has tradeoffs that impact the Town in other ways. Some of these tradeoffs may be acceptable and predictable. Other tradeoffs may come as unanticipated consequences.

*South Santa Cruz Avenue Temporary Closure at Wood Road* – This temporary closure generally helps to minimize impacts to the Almond Grove area and relieves the gridlock that occurs along Santa Cruz and University Avenues, including portions of these streets north of Highway 9, when the closure is not in place. Concerns expressed with this closure include:

- Congestion on Highway 9, and University and Santa Cruz Avenues north of Highway 9 create a situation where the downtown is not easily accessible, inhibiting business opportunities.
- Resulting traffic patterns may be the cause of increased congestion on Los Gatos Boulevard and on neighborhood streets east of Los Gatos Boulevard between Blossom Hill Road and Harding Avenue.
- The cost of the closure for traffic control is approximately \$150,000 per year. Staff would anticipate an increase over last year of about 5%. This is not currently funded.
- Public input over the course of the summer will be significant, as demonstrated in the past, whether the closure is in place or not.

The Council may wish to explore various modifications to this option, including Saturday only, selective weekends, or other mixes. Each of these risk departure from a predictable routine of closures that could limit the recognition of the closure by mapping applications and travelers and have not been recommended by staff. The staff work necessary to put a vendor in place

DISCUSSION (cont'd):

and establish the plan for the summer takes significant time and effort. If the Council decides with this item to move forward with a temporary closure in 2018, the Council should make a motion with a budget adjustment at this meeting. Staff would then return with the vendor contract for Council approval at a subsequent meeting. If the Council chooses not to implement a closure for this summer, staff will be unable to shift course if a change is desired after the start of summer traffic.

Several of the additional ideas identified below align with the closure at Wood Road being in place. Without the closure, the additional items may not have the same potential for adding value.

University Avenue Left Turn Restriction – This new idea would work in conjunction with the temporary closure at Wood Road. The concept is to eliminate the two southbound left turn lanes from University Avenue to Highway 9 during the closure times. The goal would be to allow University Avenue to feed into the downtown. By closing the left turns, the expectation is that the mapping applications would direct traffic through alternative routes and University Avenue would remain clear for downtown access.

As with any modification, unintended consequences may impact the effectiveness of this option. Mapping applications may route traffic through the intersection at Highway 9, right on Bachman, and right on Santa Cruz back to Highway 9. Traffic could also be routed along University to Andrews Street (near Safeway) and then to North Santa Cruz Avenue. It is difficult to predict whether these outcomes would occur or not.

Staff anticipates a full summer implementation of this activity if done in conjunction with the closure of Wood Road to cost approximately \$15,000. Staff does not recommend this item without the temporary closure at Wood Road.

Neighborhood Street Turn Restrictions – Staff recommends this item only if the temporary closure at Wood Road is put in place. To relieve some pressure on neighborhood streets, the Town could install a series of signs that prohibit left or right turns on beach traffic days from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the residential neighborhood impacted to the east of Los Gatos Boulevard. The series of signs would be placed, for example, on Cherry Blossom Lane at Shannon Road prohibiting a right turn. The presence of these signs would cause mapping software not to direct traffic through this location and as such enforcement would not be required. This alternative is the offshoot of a pilot staff tried with Waze last summer where Waze put these artificial turn restrictions in place. While these were in place, Waze traffic was directed to alternative routes while at the same time traffic from Apple Maps, Google Maps, and others

DISCUSSION (cont'd):

retained the route through the neighborhood streets. Staff was able to observe these changes through online tracking of the application routing. The key to this solution is in the mapping applications becoming aware of the restrictions and not directing vehicles to the location. Staff believes that there is a very good chance Waze and Apple will include the restrictions. Google should include the restrictions as well, but coordinating with Google has proven more difficult.

The cost for this item would be approximately \$3,500, including signage and installation. No residential enforcement is planned or included in the funding of this project. Directed traffic enforcement for signage violations would be implemented based on traffic hazard complaints and available staffing.

Almond Grove Area Temporary Street Closures – Should the Council decide to forego the closure of South Santa Cruz Avenue at Wood Road, staff anticipates the traffic impact to return to the Almond

Grove and surrounding neighborhoods. Past efforts have included the temporary closure of Massol Avenue, Tait Avenue, and Ridge Crest Drive (Monte Sereno) at Highway 9 to limit cut through traffic from those directions so that residents can leave but traffic is discouraged from entering. These temporary closures are not perfect as traffic at times utilizes driveways or ignores the closure completely, but some relief does occur. Staff is recommending implementation of this option this year. The estimated cost for the temporary closure of these streets from Memorial Day to Labor Day is \$25,000. This does not include any additional enforcement. Staff from Parks and Public Works would monitor the closures once each day to repair damage to the closure.

Permits for Town Residents – Frequently, questions arise around the potential for issuing permits to Town residents (or mountain residents) or some variation of providing resident only access through a temporary street closure. This discussion has increased with actions taken recently in Leonia, New Jersey which made headlines nationally. Not only is this solution extremely staff intensive to enforce and beyond the resources available to Los Gatos, it is clearly not legal in California as has been explained in previous reports.

Council Questions – Staff received a number of questions from Council and is addressing those here:

**What would be the cost to do a closure for half of the summer or for Saturday only?**

The cost for a shorter or limited timeframe closure would be proportional, or one half of the total anticipated cost.

DISCUSSION (cont'd):

**How could the money be otherwise spent to address cut through traffic?**

The funds spent on a closure could be repurposed for any need the Council deems appropriate. This could include short term infrastructure changes such as signage or the early funding for a larger, longer term project such as the roundabout or Highway 17 improvements. Staff considered the potential of an increase in staffing to manage traffic flow, increase enforcement, and enhance public safety responses to emergency calls. Staff resources to provide this additional level of service are not currently funded. Should a public safety need warrant additional response on an episodic basis, the Police Department will respond on an overtime basis.

**What would it cost to do a Thursday night closure of a portion of North Santa Cruz during the summer to help the businesses increase sales that will be lost over the beach traffic weekends?**

Staff estimates the cost for a weeknight closure at \$3,000, including staff overtime and traffic control. This does not include resources to program the use of the street.

**What are the other opportunity costs associated with the closure?**

The funds for the closure have many alternative uses. The funds are not restricted in their use, so the Council could fund any priority it deems important. If funds are not appropriated through this Council item, they will be available for the Council through the annual budget process.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS:

If the Council wishes to proceed on any mitigation measures for summer cut through traffic, the Council should approve a motion identifying the basic scope and allocating funding. The table below shows staff recommendations for the summer as well as longer term efforts. It is imperative that the direction Council sets at this time hold throughout the entire summer as staff will not have the capacity to change direction.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS (cont'd):

Mitigation Measure	Staff Recommendation	Cost
Corridor Study	Underway	\$75,000
Roundabout Feasibility	Underway	\$66,000
Reclassify Town Streets	Underway	\$0
Highway 17 Efficiencies	Continue to Pursue	\$50M
Freeway Changeable Message Signs	Underway	\$0
One-Way Streets Pilot	Consider in FY 18/19 Budget	\$130,000
Santa Cruz/Wood Road Temporary Closure	Forego	\$150,000
University Left Turn Restriction	Forego	\$15,000
Neighborhood Turn Restriction Signage	Forego	\$3,500
Weeknight Downtown Street Closure	Forego	\$3,000/ night
Almond Grove Closures	Implement	\$25,000

Staff has not recommended the closure at South Santa Cruz Avenue due to the high costs of the closure and the growing impact the closure has on the downtown and other residential areas, essentially shifting the problem from one area to another. It is unlikely that continuing to pursue the challenge from one neighborhood to another will alleviate the conditions. If the Council opts to continue the temporary closure this summer, the Council may wish to include the associated new options identified in this staff report to attempt to address spillover effects.

Staff recommends temporary closures to neighborhood streets serving the Almond Grove in order to minimize the severe impacts experienced in the past from vehicles searching for alternatives to the direct path down Santa Cruz Avenue.

A potential impact by not doing the temporary closure at Santa Cruz/Wood could be public feedback that the change in direction appears to look like a lack of action by the Town. Communication to residents that identifies beach traffic as normal in the short term with no affordable long-term solution will be important to manage expectations.

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated with the Police Department, the Finance Department, and the Town Attorney.

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**SUBJECT: SUMMER CUT THROUGH TRAFFIC**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2018**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The items below the gray line in the table above are not funded in the current budget. If the Council wishes to pursue any of these items, the motion should include the appropriation of funds from Fiscal Year 2016/17 fund balance in the amount of the desired item.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

**Attachment:**

1. Public Comments through 11:00 a.m. March 1, 2018.



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 03/06/2018

ITEM NO: 05

DESK ITEM

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**DATE:** MARCH 6, 2018  
**TO:** MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
**FROM:** LAUREL PREVETTI, TOWN MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** SUMMER CUT THROUGH TRAFFIC  
A. FOREGO A TEMPORARY CLOSURE AT SOUTH SANTA CRUZ AVENUE AND WOOD ROAD FOR SUMMER 2018;  
B. APPROVE A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 TO IMPLEMENT TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURES IN ALMOND GROVE FOR SUMMER 2018; AND/OR  
C. PROVIDE OTHER DIRECTION FOR SUMMER 2018.

**REMARKS:**

Public Comments received after the distribution of the staff report and before 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

**Attachments previously received with Staff Report:**

1. Public Comments through 11:00 a.m. March 1, 2018.

**Attachments received with this Desk Item:**

2. Public Comments received between 11:01 a.m., Thursday, March 1, 2018 and 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

**PREPARED BY:** MATT MORLEY  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS

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Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

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**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) [<mailto:noreply@civicplus.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 8:44 AM  
**To:** Town Manager  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Customer Feedback Form

## Customer Feedback Form

We'd like to hear from you! Please complete the online form to share your concerns, suggestions, or praise with us.

### Contact Information

Name:	Kathy Winelman
Address:	Roseleaf Court
City:	Los Gatos
State:	CA
Zip:	95032

Please let us know how we are doing or what we can do for you!

I would like to be part of the committee working on the summer traffic problem that is choking our downtown merchants and all Los Gatos businesses including both of our businesses.

**From:** Kathy Kroesche  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 8:50 AM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Is this a traffic solution for Los Gatos

Dear Council Members of Los Gatos,

Is this measure possible for the Town of Los Gatos during beach traffic days?  
<http://newjersey.news12.com/story/37308527/leonia-closes-dozens-of-local-roads-to-out-of-towners>

Take Care,

**Kathy Kroesche**

**From:** Dene Kankel  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2018 10:42 AM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Los Gatos traffic

Hello,

Please see the copy below of an email I sent last year. My feelings on the issue and my experience are still the same. I am taking the opportunity to reiterate before the meeting tonight.

Thank you,

Dene' Kankel

Los Gatos Ace Hardware

**From:** Jennifer Liebthal  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2018 10:13 AM  
**To:** Marico Sayoc; Rob Rennie; Marcia Jensen; BSpector; Steven Leonardis  
**Cc:** JR Langer; Laurel Prevetti; Council  
**Subject:** Summer Traffic

Major and Council members,

I am writing in support of the continued closure of the o ramp to HWY 17 by the post office and blocking off of Almond Grove streets.

I would like locals to be able to continue to access our greatest downtown area and summer traffic is miserable when the Hwy is open.

Thank you,  
Jennifer a Liebthal

From: Maureen Smerdon  
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 7:02 AM  
To: Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
Subject: Beach traffic

Thanks for asking for feedback .

I wish it would be considered to not only close S. Santa Cruz but also the hwy 9 entrance. Even if they close it from 9-2 this would massively relieve congestion to town and still enable people to get on via Lark ave.

Do I need to come to the meeting to defend this recommendation?

I've never been to a town meeting before.

Best regards,  
Maureen

**From:** Raymond Roan  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 7:57 PM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Summer Beach Traffic Discussion

I read in [NextDoor.com](http://NextDoor.com) that the Town Council will discuss options for Los Gatos to deal with the congestion caused by the summer beach traffic. Since I will not be able to attend the Town Council meeting Tuesday evening, I will send my thoughts in this email.

The town has closed the entrance to HWY-17-South from South Santa Cruz Avenue. Although this approach has undoubtedly de-cluttered "down-town" Los Gatos (south of HWY-9), my wife and I would never know that because of the congestion north of the HWY-9 freeway entrances to HWY-17. I am sure that this gridlock also means that emergency vehicles also I strongly suspect that the mass of cars merging onto HWY-17-South from HWY-9 completely bottles up HWY-17-South and causes HWY-17-South to back up to the Lark Avenue freeway entrance, at least. As a result, even more cars will try to drive through town to get to the HWY-9 entrances to HWY-17-South.

Consequently, I see no relief for the Town of Los Gatos from automobile gridlock unless that Town Council decides to close both the

1. South Santa Cruz Avenue entrance to HWY-17 (one possible exemption to this closure, that is probably impractical, is to allow cars containing a Los Gatos resident, with a valid drivers license with a Los Gatos address, to enter the freeway at the South Santa Cruz entrance; if a car tries to enter the freeway there without a Los Gatos resident in the car, then they would be turned back and would have to drive all the way north to Lark Avenue)
2. The HWY-9 entrances to HWY-17.

By closing (to all but emergency vehicles) both sets of freeway entrances to South HWY-17, there will be NO incentive for beach-goers to try to drive through town in order to avoid the excessive traffic on HWY-17-South. In fact, I can not see any relief for Los Gatos from beach-bound gridlock anywhere south of Lark Avenue without closing both sets of freeway entrances (listed above). In addition, by removing the merging traffic from the HWY-9 freeway entrances onto HWY-17-South, the HWY-17 traffic will have a better chance of stabilizing south of Lark Avenue and the 3-lanes-to-2 merge at Lark Avenue (that is another source of freeway congestion).

So, please go one further step and close both sets of freeway entrances. Yes, there will be inconvenience for those Los Gatos residents who want to go the beach (if they have to drive north to the Lark Avenue entrance), but they will at least be able to drive within the town limits.

Thank you for taking comments prior to the Town Council Meeting on this difficult subject.

Raymond & Nancy Roan  
Lilac Way  
Los Gatos, 95032

From: mfarnady  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 5:31 PM  
To: Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
Subject: Summer traffic

Dear Councilmembers,

We have lived on Hernandez Avenue for the last 44 years. The summer traffic on our street had become impossible, very noisy and unsafe until the town closed the last onramp to the freeway. It was crazy to look out my front door and see cars lined up, engines running, as far as I could see in either direction. Impossible for us to leave our home every weekend for normal activities, let alone have people over or, heaven forbid, handle an emergency requiring a trip to the hospital. Always a possibility given our ages.

Please, please consider closing the Wood Road onramp again this summer. It made a huge difference. Or, consider posting some streets in the Almond Grove and Glen Ridge neighborhoods for residents only, which I understand forces Waze and other such apps to remove them as alternative routes during heavy traffic periods. Of course, the same might be done in other affected areas.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration of this difficult issue.

Sincerely,  
Marcia and Dez Farnady

**From:** Gavin Cato  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 5:00 PM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Summer Beach Traffic - a potential solution

One option to consider is something similar to how New Jersey handled the traffic during peak commute hours

<http://nymag.com/selectall/2017/12/waze-traffic-forces-new-jersey-town-to-shut-down-its-roads.html>

They provided local residents tags and charged for violations. Worth the read....

I do note that challenge for local businesses but we could actually help them with this as well...

Some ideas -

- 1) Tags/stickers could be provided to local residents for the cars (or simply have residents register their license plates in a database). Could extend the designation of local as far as needed...
- 2) Downtown businesses could provide a one time pass valid within a three hour window
- 3) The 17 downtown ramp and other key roads leading downtown to prevent the backups getting to the HW9 interchange could then be restricted on certain hours where beach traffic is highest with fines of \$200 to violators
- 4) For instances where there is an extenuating circumstance (accident shutting down 17) then restrictions can be dropped / fees waved
- 5) Recognizing tags via cameras on the cut through point to 17 downtown or key roads/intersections can enable enforcement while allowing local access to cut down on resources required from the town / that said, this should initially generate some revenue to offset the cost of implementation
- 6) To eliminate mistakes if a violation occurs, the violator can submit a temporary tag or receipt from a downtown business that is within three hours of the violation and the fee could be removed
- 7) For providing the temporary tags and encourage walking around downtown to drive local business, machines could be located in central areas to recognize local business receipts and provide temporary tags vs putting them in all the businesses.

Definitely needs to be flushed out but there are ways to preserve the benefits for the residents and local communities around our area as we reduce the beach traffic. With something like this, we support local businesses (even encourage it) and discourage the beach traffic both via the fines and the fact that he applications such as Waze will change the routing with the fines in place....

I think you're finding all of the residents and businesses looking forward to seeing some movement on the issue and a bunch of folks willing to help....

Gavin Cato  
Tourney Road  
Los Gatos

And just to be sure I have no vested interest in the technology selected but definitely am vested as a resident in seeing a solution....

From: Pam Shepard  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 4:12 PM  
To: Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
Subject: Freeway closure

I will not be able to attend but I do not know why you do not widen the freeway to bear creek road. It would be nice if it was widen in both directions

From: Ellen Blumenfeld  
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 4:34 PM  
To: Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
Subject: summer beach traffic

Dear Town Council,

Ever since N Santa Cruz ave was closed during summer peak hours the traffic on my street, Harding Ave, and some of the surrounding streets have been gridlocked during those times. Harding is a narrow street without sidewalks in many areas and cars parked on both sides. It was unsafe for children and walking dogs and impossible for my husband who is an on call surgeon to get out of our driveway and on to LG Blvd. Either keep N Santa Cruz open at all times or place a "No Left Turn between the hours of \_ and \_" on weekends for Harding Ave and Englewood, maybe Shannon too. It's out of control! Something needs to be done or the same gridlock and hazards will be repeated. I get that LG Blvd and N Santa Cruz are major streets which may be inundated with traffic, but small neighborhood streets? That is a disaster waiting to happen. On many occasions my neighbors needed to step out into the street, stop traffic, and have their partner move the car out because non locals using Harding as a so called short cut were unwilling to let us pull out of our own driveways.

Sincerely,  
Ellen and Ken Blumenfeld

**From:** John F. Kim  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 3:21 PM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public comment on dealing with Los Gatos summer traffic congestion

Dear Town Council,

My opinion is YES the town should again close the Santa Cruz Avenue onramp on weekends for at least part of the summer. I suggest closing it towards the middle of the summer beach season so we can compare before and after traffic behavior. Many residents who oppose the closure complain that it created extra traffic jams on University and Santa Cruz north of Hwy 9 and on Los Gatos Boulevard in the region of Kennedy/S hannon. It is possible that is true but it's impossible to say for sure since the amount of beach traffic and the use of navigation apps have both increased since the last summer when the Santa Cruz Avenue onramp was not closed. It's possible or even likely that without closing it there will still be traffic jams on University and SC Ave. and around Kennedy/S hannon during busy beach weekends.

So leave the Santa Cruz onramp open for the first 3 or 4 weekends of the beach season then close it for 5 or 6 weekends and measure the traffic differences on Kennedy and S hannon, in Almond Grove, and on University/Santa Cruz north of Hwy 9.

In addition I endorse the idea of redesignating certain streets as residential, blocking 1 or 2 turns from eastbound Hwy 9 into the Almond Grove neighborhood (for example no right turn onto Massol). It will be very important to monitor Google, Waze, and Apple Maps to verify that they are showing any road closures, turn restrictions, or redesignations of roads from collectors to residential.

I also endorse putting signs on Hwy 17 encouraging beach traffic drivers to stay on the Hwy and not to detour through town. The previous signs used in the summer of 2017 were informative but only visible to drivers who had already exited the freeway. It would be better if the signs would indicate that cutting through town does not save any time.

In the long run, the town should work with Caltrans to widen Hwy 17 to three lanes in each direction from Hwy 9 to Redwood Estates.

John F. Kim  
Roberts Road, Los Gatos

**From:** Cathy Weiner  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 4:08 PM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Beach traffic

I live on Massol, and I do not want my street closed. Two years ago when Massol was closed, it made it impossible for my guests to get in or out of the neighborhood. It doesn't seem fair for someone, not living in Massol, to ask for my street to be closed. Closing southbound 17 ramp made downtown usable and didn't create the nightmare backup from Almond Grove, up through Glenridge area to Ridgecrest, Monte Sereno. The only other solution would be to make Almond Grove for local traffic only and get Google and Apple maps to take them off their maps. Thank you.  
Cathy Weiner

**From:** Fred Faltersack  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 12:56 PM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Blocking of Beach Traffic Opinion

To whom it may concern.

I am AGAINST any manipulation of traffic by the closing or re-directing natural traffic patterns. My belief is that you tried it and it does not work! I along with many other Los Gatos Residents now stay away from trying to enter downtown because the congestion surrounding (the perimeter) the downtown area has been worsened by this practice. It's kinda like you've built impenetrable "wall of traffic" around all the downtown restaurants and merchants". Also, i've spoken with numerous restaurant owners/managers and every one has stated they are hurting because of this practice and as such...also against it! Please admit to yourselves that you tried, it failed, and let-it-go!

Good luck with whatever you decide,

Fred Faltersack

**From:** Christiane Webster  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 1:38 PM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Beach traffic plan

Just wanted to register my opinion as supportive of the closure of the So. Santa Cruz Ave freeway access to deter beach traffic!

Thanks,

-Christiane Webster  
Buena Vista Ave

**From:** Aimee DeGolyer  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 11:49 AM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Summer Beach Traffic

Hello,

I wanted to provide some input on summer beach traffic before the Tuesday meeting, in addition I had an unrelated topic that I will add, and would like direction on how it might be fleshed out.

- 1) Beach traffic. As we saw last year, shutting down Santa Cruz just meant diverting traffic to other streets in LG – essentially moving the problem around. Unfortunately, the long term fix needs to be widening highway 17, which I hope is part of the long term plan that our community is pushing for. In the short term, we should look for other programs to help ease numbers – ride share / park and ride / bussing programs (that would encourage additional public transportation beach-side). Anecdotally, I had a few downtown business owners tell me that business decreased over the weekend when Santa Cruz shut down – if this is happening we need to think about how we get more people into, and staying downtown to continue to bolster our local economy (not find ways to keep them out) instead of making a break for the beach.
- 2) New idea. Ironically, my second idea is about pedestrianizing Santa Cruz on the weekends (shutting the street down to all traffic to bring more people/foot-traffic in). Specifically, I would love to create an ongoing pedestrian zone during the summer – maybe Saturdays from 4 PM – 9 PM. So many people come to Los Gatos to eat and stroll – wouldn't it be wonderful if the entirety of Santa Cruz was a pedestrian zone (no vehicles allowed). We could encourage restaurants to expand into the street, have street vendors/trucks, entertainment, and allow alcohol consumption in this zone. Essentially create a destination for our town every weekend. Many cities embrace this in their business districts. Last summer I was in Tokyo with my family – the Ginza district shuts traffic to automobiles for the entire weekend. Considering how busy this high-end shopping district is with traffic during the week it is hard to imagine that it would be possible. But people flock there – to shop, socialize, and enjoy life. They do this for the entire weekend. Every year after the Christmas parade, I love walking up Santa Cruz with my kids letting them go safely on their own, and I wish we would pedestrianize the street. While I know we can't always have it that way, running a pilot for 5 hours every Saturday could show the interest and impact to business (I'd love to extend it more/earlier to take advantage of small business hours). Is there an appetite for such a program?

Thank you for offering the opportunity to provide my input.

Regards,  
Aimee DeGolyer

**From:** Liz Walker  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 12:20 PM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Beach Traffic

Has anyone considered shutting down Highway 9 entrance to Seventeen? Perhaps the traffic would be diverted from downtown and our neighborhoods.

**From:** Chris Szeles

**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 11:46 AM

**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>

**Subject:** Agenda Item: Summer Beach Traffic - Town Council Discussion

Los Gatos Council Members:

In order to mitigate traffic conditions and maintain the peaceful atmosphere for locals and businesses located within the township boundaries, I would like to propose the following:

- Proposal for a town ordinance of 'no thru traffic' within town boundaries on town-managed surface streets.

This proposal is to help alleviate congestion caused by traffic traversing the town surface street in order to bypass Hwy 17 congestion.

Based on a technical investigation, it appears that applications such as Waze and other traffic mitigation software are required of adhere to town/city traffic laws and ordinances. Adopting a 'no thru traffic' ordinance will most likely be a 'short-circuit' to mitigate all traffic bypass technology.

Thank You,

Christopher Szeles

**From:** Steve P  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 11:25 AM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Summer Beach Traffic - Town Council Discussion

Regarding summer beach traffic:

Please don't lose sight of the fact that the major traffic congestion in Los Gatos isn't solely caused by cars trying to get onto southbound 17 via the S. Santa Cruz Ave onramp. I'm confident people are trying to "cut the corner" by going down Winchester, Los Gatos/Saratoga Road, and many other local side streets in order to get onto southbound Highway 17 via the onramp at Highway 9.

It seems the town focuses solely on the downtown onramp instead of the multitude of the other possibilities for the traffic.

Steve Pace

**From:** Tricia Blue  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 11:30 AM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Summer Beach Traffic

I am a resident of the town of Los Gatos on Englewood Ave. When the South Santa Cruz Ave freeway access is closed during summer we cannot get down town, those of us on the "odd" numbered side of the street cannot get out of our driveway. The whole town becomes grid locked so I am voting against shutting the freeway access down.

Tricia Blue  
Corp. Sec.  
Blues Roofing Co

**From:** Christine Dumery  
**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2018 11:37 AM  
**To:** Town PPW <[ppw@losgatosca.gov](mailto:ppw@losgatosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Input beach traffic this summer

Hello,

Just wanted to share my input before the town council meeting.

As a Los Gatos resident, I'd definitely recommend closing the south Santa Cruz avenue on ramp to 17 south on weekends; however to free access to town, I would also suggest closing highway 9 on ramp to 17 south as well on weekends. This will help keep beach traffic on 17 south from Lark Ave on and free up the access to town.

Thanks for your consideration.

Christine D