



City Council

May 21, 2024
Packet Addendum #1

From: [Richard Morgan](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Via Appia roadway diet - Vote NO
Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024 1:43:51 PM

Louisville City Councilors,

Thank you for your service to our community. My name is Richard Morgan. My family and I live at 644 W Pine St. We've been Louisville residents for 25 years. Our backyard fronts to Via Appia.

I am writing to express our **vocal displeasure** with the Public Works Department's plan and Staff's misguided recommendation to restrip Via Appia into a 2 lane pilot project that is intended to reduce the roadway from 4 lanes of traffic to two lanes of traffic with a buffered bike lane. I strongly urge City Council to either vote to maintain the current restriping maintenance plan, OR maintain the current maintenance plan but consider installing a few more rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) at critical pedestrian crossing points along the Via Appia roadway.

Already, the City has restriped a stretch of Polk/Dahlia. I've driven the Polk/Dahlia route several times in the morning, in the afternoon when parents are picking up kids from nearby school, and in the evening. At any time of day, this is a very confusing stretch of residential roadway and makes me extremely nervous when there's oncoming traffic mixed with bikes/pedestrians or parked cars in the buffer zone.

Via Appia is a major thoroughfare. I don't doubt the accident statistics referenced by the Public Works Department, and granted, I'm not observing Via Appia 24/7, but in my 25 years, I observe an extremely low volume of bicycle use in the bike lanes. To completely revamp a major city thoroughfare at a cost of \$270,000 or more for an extremely low volume of bike use, seems extremely misguided. Moreover, during the Marshall Fire evacuation, this road was heavily used as an evacuation path for all neighborhoods connected to it. It was extremely clogged. Shrinking this roadway for the occasional cyclist is utter nonsense.

I do believe, however, that pedestrians and cyclists attempting to cross Via Appia, or South Boulder Road for that matter, is challenging. There are other good solutions to slowing traffic, such as the use of RRFBs or round-a-bouts, such as throughout the town of Superior. I would strongly favor the City Council approving the installation of a few more RRFB's at the lower cost of \$50,000 at several other high volume pedestrian crossing points along Via Appia, such as at Tyler, Pine, or Lafayette Streets.

One last major point, I read in the supporting documentation that several residents have recommended installing a traffic stop light at Pine Street. I VEHEMENTLY disagree with this suggestion. First of all, we experience "cut through" traffic from the neighborhoods above Washington Street. If you install a stop light at Pine and Via Appia, it will encourage more cut-through traffic traversing our quiet residential neighborhood endangering homeowners/kids/pets in the area that happen to be playing in or crossing the street. Moreover, we will experience cars stacking up into our neighborhood waiting on a green light or to make a turn. This would be intolerable. So, please, **do not** give this suggestion any further consideration.

Thank you,

Richard

Richard Morgan
303.956.8188 (cell)

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From: [psim1560](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Don't change Via Appia
Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024 8:27:44 AM

Dear Council Members

Please Please do not mess up Via Appia!! This is a main road through Louisville. I have stopped using Dahlia because the lines are so confusing. People are all over the road not knowing how to maneuver making it more dangerous!

Time and money would be better spent on controlling young kids riding crazy on the roads and doing wheelies in downtown intersections! The e-bike craze among young kids has gotten dangerous. Instead of using the e-bikes to assist them with pedaling, they use them as scooters not using the pedals at all. They are way too young to be "driving" on the roads with cars!! Please don't give them more control on the roads by messing up the lines on Via Appia. The citizens who drive and pay taxes should have a say. It's not just about the bikers.

Many of the young bikers feel "entitled" and by changing the roads for them, you are giving them even more reason to feel that way. They should have to learn the rules of the road and abide by them too if they want the privelege of riding on the roads with cars. We shouldn't have to change the roads to accommodate them.

My vote is **DO NOT CHANGE THE LINES ON VIA APPIA!**

Peggy Simpson
1560 Ridgeview Dr.
Louisville, CO 80027
psim1560@aol.com

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From: [scott eichorn](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Via Appia
Date: Friday, May 17, 2024 2:38:12 PM

I will keep this short and simple. Do NOT reduce Via Appia from 4 lanes to 2 lanes. You all are 0/3 on Polk, Via Appia/South Boulder and Garfield/South Boulder. Your changes made all those place worse, not better, for both cars and pedestrians. Enough of this nonsense.

-Scott Eichorn
1109 Lafarge Ave

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From: [Chris Gabriel](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: in favor of lane reductions
Date: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:59:42 PM

Hello

I'm writing in support of a lane reduction and traffic calming measures on Via Appia. Larger bike lanes (preferably protected by bollards or other physical barrier), curb extensions to make crossing easier, and a lane reduction would all help that road become much more enjoyable and probably transport more or the same amount of people since more people will be able to walk/cross/bike it.

These things will all help make out town safer and more livable.

There is more to life than speeding through a nice town at 40 MPH in a two ton vehicle. But I know you are likely getting tremendous pressure from the I NEED TO DRIVE MY CAR AS FAST AS POSSIBLE AT ALL TIMES crowd. Don't listen to them.

Thanks
Chris

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From: [Katie Walker](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: NO on the Via Appia road diet
Date: Friday, May 17, 2024 10:58:33 AM

Hello,

I live on Spruce Circle and we drive on Via Appia every single day. During busy times, it's already very difficult to make a left turn on to Via Appia from Church Ln. I'm concerned that the road diet will actually increase traffic and our wait times to try and get out of our neighborhood.

There are already fantastic bike paths in our city. I encourage the city council to encourage bikers to use the designated bike paths already in place instead of biking on the road. I would never bike on the road in Louisville or allow my kids to. The road diet is not going to make it safer. It's going to make this road feel more congested and create more hazards.

We also drive Polk/Dahlia every day to get to Monarch, and the new striping and bike lanes are terrible. I have seen several times that the striping causes more confusion and chaos. This road is not safe.

My suggestion is to create more underpasses for pedestrians and bikers so they can cross Via Appia safely.

Please say NO on the Via Appia road diet.

Sincerely,

Katie Walker

25 year Louisville resident

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From: [Mike Comcast](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Via Appia Road Diet
Date: Friday, May 17, 2024 9:00:17 AM

I think the plan to spend money on changing Via Appia is unwarranted.

The road is fine as-is.

Everyone that lives nearby knew they were moving close to a major arterial road through our city. It's a lot like the people that moved next to the Jeffco airport and are now up in arms over plane traffic. Via Appia has been a busy road for a long time. As someone who was stuck in terrible traffic during the Marshall evacuation, I think major arterial roads should be expanded rather than restricted for future emergencies. I also worked in Boulder when they spent lots of money to restrict traffic on Folsom Street only for it to cause major traffic and business disruptions and then had to spend additional money to return the road to the way it was.

Keep Via Appia as-is.

Mike Malec

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From: [Lucia Harrop](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Bike and pedestrian safety
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024 8:01:11 PM

Hello-

I'm writing to provide comments about the proposed changes to traffic patterns in Louisville.

I understand the intent to create safe areas for bicyclists to travel, however, the solutions the city has come up with will create additional traffic hazards for drivers and potentially more accidents. It's disingenuous to use the pedestrian fatalities to sell bike lanes- especially since one of those was not caused by congestion/traffic, etc but was because a pedestrian was in the roadway and jaywalking and the new patterns have been directly correlated with accidents. We already have numerous trails and bike lanes where bicyclists can transverse the city safely- putting bike lanes on roads that have adjacent trails is redundant and unnecessary. If people are following existing traffic rules we do not have a problem. The real issue is the increase in traffic in the city as a whole and speeding/poor compliance to existing laws. Making different traffic patterns won't change that. A better solution might be to look to other forms of transportation for commuters- like bus service, which Louisville is woefully lacking in, and increased traffic compliance efforts.

If the new patterns follow the same awful ideas that have been implemented on Polk I am very opposed as well. The new traffic pattern along Polk has created a dangerous situation for drivers and bicyclists. Confusing new and seasoned drivers alike. Not one single day passes where I don't see confused drivers nearly driving head on into oncoming lanes, weaving about and I've literally never seen one single bike on that stretch (as the bike path is literally half a block to the East and much more pleasant to ride both to and from connection points along Polk.) I'm an avid biker, and a daily commuter. These insane traffic patterns are not making the community safer or calming traffic but they are confusing drivers and making people avoid certain routes. Traffic on Cherry is significantly heavier as of late.

--Lucia

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From: [Trevor Ackerman](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Via appia proposal
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 8:51:24 PM

I support reducing to one lane each direction and narrowing the lane too.

I would also encourage flashing lights for the Eldorado lane crosswalk and replace the yield sign for a stop sign for your northbound mccaslin turn onto via appia to make it easier to turn left from Eldorado lane onto via appia

Thanks
Trevor Ackerman

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From: [Joshua Cooperman](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Sustained strong support for a Via Appia road diet
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:50:12 PM

Dear Louisville City Councillors,

I continue to wholeheartedly support City staff's plans for a road diet on Via Appia. Such a road diet will heighten safety for all users, advance equity for pedestrians and bicyclists, promote accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve connections between neighborhoods. Such a road diet will also combat climate change by increasing the share of trips taken by foot and bicycle. I will elaborate on these points on Tuesday night.

Best,
Josh

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From: [Deb](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Via Appia
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:01:33 AM

Via Appia is a major thoroughfare and as such should not be decreased in size. I live in a neighborhood off West Pine and cross Via Appia everyday either in my car or as a pedestrian walking my dog. I have never had a problem in 35 years. For those who do not feel safe crossing as a pedestrian there are three crosswalks with lights that can be used. I fail to see how decreasing the number of lanes and stacking traffic up makes crossing safer or easier.

Is speed a problem? I would say yes. The obvious solution is to place a traffic officer on the road and/or cameras. I cannot recall a time when I have seen a Louisville police officer on Via Appia giving out speeding tickets. Punishing speeding with a fine is definitely more affective than slowing them down with a traffic jam that will just cause additional speeding once they get back to a four lane road (e.g. South Boulder and McCaslin).

As an aside I recently had a guest from out of town driving my car down Polk/Dahlia. Luckily I was in the car with them as they were completely astounded by the lines and had no idea what to do. I won't even repeat their comment. I mention this because we need to start using a little common sense in how traffic problems are being addressed. Perhaps simpler is better and the old "tried and true" methods should be implemented as the first solution.

Thank you,
Deb Saret

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From: [Lindsey LeCuyer](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Traffic engineering feedback
Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024 10:54:14 PM

Ahead of the upcoming discussing of the Via Appia "road diet" this coming Tuesday, I feel compelled to email again.

Light timing has been improved at some major intersections - thank you to city traffic engineering staff!

After reading over the proposals and talking with more Louisville residents, especially those who live on the Via Appia corridor, I still believe strongly that the "Road Diet" proposed for that city artery is wrong. I feel that city staff are eager to something new and innovative, and are ignoring the realities of that road:

1. It is a critical route for emergency services and those vehicles would be forced to drive in bike lanes to serve our community. As the spouse of a cyclist who has been transported by Louisville rescue staff, this is ironic.
2. Cyclists don't need more space on this road - the path that it follows is easily achieved through side streets and bike paths, and the existing bike lane stays snowed in for much for the colder months.
3. Via Appia is a town artery, not a neighborhood street. If it is clogged, traffic through neighborhoods will increase.
4. Many neighbors share my observation that if traffic is limited to one lane in each direction, there will be even fewer gaps in which to safely turn in and out of side streets. My friends who live along Via Appia are dreading having to use this newly adjusted road.
5. In 15 years, I have never seen a police officer enforcing the speed limit on Via Appia. I have seen maybe 8 people biking along the road.

Thank you for your service to our city, and for listening to citizens when making important decisions. Innovation is wonderful when it makes sense! This feels like the city trying to garner attention for doing something trendy that's not necessary and will end up needing to be reversed at taxpayer cost.

Thank you for reading,
Lindsey LeCuyer
Ward 1 resident and Louisville-based non-profit executive

On Nov 1, 2023, at 12:03 PM, Lindsey LeCuyer <lindseylecuyer@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good morning, council members!

As a runner, mom, cyclist, driver, and environmentally concerned Louisville resident, I reviewed with interest the changes being planned for Via Appia. I support efforts to make cycling safer in our city, and to improve sustainability, but this change looks like an impractical plan that addresses a problem that doesn't

exist, and creates a new one. Via Appia is a lovely stretch of road, with two lanes in each direction allowing drivers to safely pass cars that are turning onto the many side streets. Forcing traffic to slow down in one lane will not magically decrease the number of cars and increase cycling. We have seen that tried in Boulder, without success. It will more likely frustrate motorists, pushing them to instead plan their routes through neighborhoods, driving angrily through streets where families walk and bike. It takes what was a smooth-flowing artery in our city and turns it into a slow-and-go experience of braking and accelerating as cars make turns into the the neighborhoods.

I'm curious to know whether or not there is data showing that this kind of road design has a positive impact on the number of cyclists using the route, or decreasing vehicle trips in a city. Perhaps I could be convinced that it's a good idea. If not, then it should not be implemented.

I would, however, love to see efforts made to improve light timing within the city so that traffic flows more smoothly, reducing greenhouse gasses. That's a much less invasive and costly change!

Lindsey LeCuyer
Ward I Resident

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From: [MIKE Koertje](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [MIKE Koertje](#)
Subject: restriping Via Appia
Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024 9:03:33 PM

It appears that at your May 21, 2024 meeting, City Council is considering Staff's recommendation to reduce Via Appia to one lane in each direction as part of a restriping contract. I urge you not to adopt Staff's recommendation. Those of us you live near Via Appia already find it very difficult to turn left onto Via Appia during significant portions of the day, and if traffic is reduced to one lane each way, traffic will turn into a constant slow stream and turning left into that will be impossible at peak times, unless traffic lights are installed at intersections such as Lafayette, Tyler and Pine. This will become more pronounced as densification of Louisville increases in the next several years. We will be forced to find alternative routes to McCaslin, such as the obstacle course on Polk/Dahlia, which will increase traffic on that street, including past Fireside Elementary. I have no problem with the alternatives of narrowing the lanes and installing more flashing crosswalks.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Koertje
887 Welsh Ct., Louisville

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From: [Eric Berger](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Via Appia Project...
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 12:44:53 PM

To the City Council,

After reviewing the data and information provided regarding the Via Appia project, it still appears that the work suggested is not in the best interest of the citizens. The data shows that even with the current set up there have been very little incidents that require such a drastic action. Please consider leaving the two lanes and instead approve actual items that protect the lives of all users of the road.

Items such as,

-Leaving the two lanes and making them 10 feet to provide a bigger buffer for the cyclists, which by increasing that buffer will also benefit the crosswalks.

-Install a traffic light at Pine and Via Appia. It has been brought up before and noted in the report but unfortunately it was misrepresented in the report. In the report the person stated that this would cause "congestion" which was one of the items people complained about with making it one lane. This is being twisted to look bad. The fact is it would be a controlled congestion. This would be better the uncontrolled congestion cause by the single lane project. A light would allow the safest way for a crosswalk to be used not only for Via Appia but Pine as well. It also helps reduce speeds and allows controlled breaks in traffic for other intersections on Via Appia. It also helps with safer traffic on and off Pine Street. Every one of these items is an intended goal with the "single lane" but the single lane cannot guarantee that any of that will happen. It was even more disappointing to hear one of the City reps that was at the open meetings state that the reason lights were bad was because they would cause more emissions, noise pollution, and cost too much as the reason for not doing it. Life safety should have a higher priority than all three of those.

-Adding flashing crosswalks. Especially at the skate park entrance. How that was not part of the original project is baffling. There should have been at least a flashing sign, but better yet there should have been one of the crosswalk traffic lights like the one on Pine Street and Lincon area. There should also have been a traffic light installed at one of the recenter entrances, which is pretty much the standard at most of the recenter in the area. Again, why one was not installed when the last remodel was done was very short sighted.

As the data shown in the reports that were done after meeting the public about this project it appears that there is more focus on costs then doing the right thing. Please spend the money to do the right thing for the safety of the drivers as well as all of the other users and leave the striping alone. Instead of "Testing" a new pattern, spend that money more wisely to make

changes that would be beneficial for all the current and future users. Yes we can make Via Appia safer by adding safety features and **not** change a traffic pattern that has been proven to work as the data in the report shows.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to read this email, have a safe day.

Berger

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