

On Thursday, July 6, 2023 the Rossmoor CSD hosted Orange County Traffic Engineer Wei Zhu and her team of consultants to review and discuss some potential changes to the Montecito corridor in Rossmoor.

The meeting summary below was presented to the RHA Board of Directors on Tuesday, July 18th and the Board felt our neighborhood should be aware of the meeting summary.

Orange County Traffic Engineers and their consultants will return to Rossmoor on Tuesday, September 12th at the regular Rossmoor CSD September Board meeting. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Rush Park Auditorium. See flyer below for details.

Meeting Summary

One of the most significant changes to street design in decades in Rossmoor is under consideration by Orange County's traffic engineering office. RHA wants to keep the community informed about what is involved and how it may affect the community.

The changes involve the design of Montecito Road, following more than a decade of complaints from nearby Rossmoor residents about condo residents taking up street parking. The RHA and the Rossmoor Community Services District wrote letters asking the county to evaluate how it could address the parking problems.

The longstanding parking problems grew worse in recent years when the Shops at Rossmoor prohibited Seal Beach condo residents from using the shopping center parking lot overnight, forcing dozens of parked cars onto the Rossmoor residential streets that intersect Montecito.

The possible changes in the road design were outlined at a RCSD public meeting by Wei Zhu at Rush Park on July 6. Ms. Zhu and the county's consultant are refining their proposals and will present them to the community on Sept. 12.

The fundamental question in all of the redesign options is how much of the roadway along Montecito and surrounding Rossmoor Elementary might be converted to either bike lanes or additional parking.

An alternative proposal by some of the neighborhood residents for a permitted parking system, which would not allow condo owners living in Seal Beach to park on Rossmoor streets, has met resistance from the county. Zhu said the county does not have the resources to manage permits or conduct enforcement.

The county has four current options for parking and a set of proposals to improve traffic circulation around Rossmoor Elementary School further north west on Montecito.

Montecito currently has four traffic lanes, two in each direction, and two parallel parking lanes on each side of the road. The county is considering four proposals that would all convert the road to two lanes for traffic and a center turn lane, thereby creating roadway space for more parking and/or the installation of bike lanes.

The design that would create the most additional parking, identified as Option 4, would change the east side of the road from parallel parking to angled parking and keep parallel parking on the west side. The changes, which would extend as far north as Bradbury, would create 183 new parking spaces.

Another option would create two bike lanes by eliminating parallel parking on the west side of the road and converting parking to angled parking on the east side. It would create 62 new parking spaces.

Two other options would create two bike lanes and maintain existing parallel parking on the road. It would create no new parking.

The bike lanes would improve safety for bikers, though county officials say measurements on the road show current bike use is modest. If no new parking spaces are created, the current complaints about condo residents flooding the neighborhood with their cars would remain.

The county is also considering a number of options to improve traffic flow around Rossmoor Elementary. The options include creating bike lanes by changing the current four lanes to three lanes of one-way traffic in the loop that includes Shakespear and Bostonian or reducing traffic two lanes in each direction and using the extra space for bike lanes.

The changes could also include the construction of two roundabouts on Montecito at Bostonian and Shakespear, which currently have four way stops. The roundabouts would theoretically move more traffic efficiently.

NOTE: Orange County Traffic Engineers and their consultants will return to Rossmoor on Tuesday, September 12th at the regular CSD Board meeting. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Rush Park Auditorium.

See flyer below for details.



Rossmoor Traffic Study Presented by OC Public Works

Tuesday, September 12 | 7:00 P.M.

Rush Park, Auditorium, 3001 Blume Drive, Rossmoor, CA 90720

Objectives

Address the following Rossmoor community concerns:

- Congestion on Montecito Rd and Bradbury Rd
- Parking difficulties on the residential streets that are adjacent to Montecito and Bradbury
- Safety concerns, including speeding, on Montecito and Bradbury in particular
- Congestion related to school activity

Potential Treatments

- Reduce Vehicle lanes
- Add Bike Lanes
- Roundabouts
- Angled Parking



OC Public Works wants to hear your voice before making significant changes to traffic and parking in the Rossmoor Community.

In preparation for the September 12th meeting, please submit any questions or comments to: RCSD@rossmoor-csd.org