

**From:** Rosario Rodriguez  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** Scott Bailey - Reserve (scottbaileyimc@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Response to TSC Request 2/23/2023

Hi Scott,

Thank you for inviting me to last Thursday's Traffic & Safety Committee meeting. I hope the discussion of roles and relevancy brought clarity to the committee members.

I felt that the Folsom Municipal Code cited by Mark Rackovan, Public Works Director provided the group clarity of the roles for the T&S committee and its influence in the decision making with city staff. There was a good discussion as to why the T&S committee acts as an advisory committee, and how city staff may at times feel compelled to override those decisions when such decisions are not based on sound, factual data or conclusions are not in the public's best interests. I provided the group my input during the discussion that agenda items going to the T&S Committee should be evaluated to the overall city-wide priorities of any topic to ensure decisions are fiscally sound. That has not been the case and it's important that the T&S Committee have this perspective when making recommendations.

After what I felt was a very lengthy discussion on the topic of the signal light at Gionata and East Natoma, it appeared that Mark's explanation resonated with the residents of La Colina. One doesn't have to agree with the decision, but I felt Mark was clear in his explanation. I was very disappointed in your request for the city council members and T&S committee to meet in what I felt was a desperate final attempt to get this item discussed between the City Council and the T&S Committee. I'm not sure what more information Mark can communicate and explain that will make everyone clear on the decision by our city's traffic engineers, which are supported by independent studies by qualified consulting firms (see attached) and have been supported by past City Managers, Public Works Directors, and council members. My colleagues have the liberty to contact Mark at any point to discuss this topic. I am perplexed at your persistent attempts to get this item before the council. On numerous occasions now for more than two years, this item has come up for discussion and the answer has not changed because the priorities continue to be the same. Our traffic engineers do not recommend that we put a signal light at Gionata and East Natoma based on their professional judgement and experience, and in the absence of any contradictory findings from any other traffic safety professional. I feel that an exorbitant amount of data from the Local Road Safety Plan, the Intersection Control Evaluation and the California Office of Traffic Safety has been provided that does not warrant a signal light at Gionata and East Natoma. In addition, the traffic studies also confirmed what our traffic engineers recommended. This council also received a "calls for service map of traffic collisions", and East Natoma and Gionata falls in the lower 25% of the map of traffic collisions for data pulled from 9/1/2021 – 1/23/2023. There are currently 18 intersections on the Intersection Control Evaluation, and Gionata and East Natoma is

not on this list. At a time when I felt that you, Mark and I needed to sit down to discuss conflicting information I had received, I set up a meeting on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. We clarified that the traffic volume on Folsom Lake Crossing was not the estimated 38,298 daily count on your summary sheet vehicles per day that you calculated, but the actual volume was 29,868 in 2022. We had a lengthy discussion about traffic priorities and the role of the T&S Committee. I left that meeting believing that we were on the same page after a 1 ½ hour discussion. A few days later, you requested the entire council attend the T&S meeting to bring clarify of your roles and relevancy, which you should have known that it would have been a clear violation of the Brown Act.

My biggest concern right now is can you, as the Chair for the Traffic and Safety Committee, lead objectively with the entire city's best interest in mind. The residents of La Colina have had false hope the past few years that if they advocate hard enough, they will be able to disrupt the city's priorities on capital improvement projects by expediting a signal light at Gionata and East Natoma. You have been a strong advocate of this endeavor and have blatantly disregarded our traffic engineer's recommendations that is supported by data, analysis, and sound engineering judgement. My colleagues that want to see a signal light at Gionata and East Natoma have not reviewed the data against the city-wide's highest priorities, or they would understand the impact of this request. I have no problem challenging decisions made by staff, however, when data does not support the request, it becomes overwhelmingly redundant using staff resources that are already scarce. When you continue to raise this issue for discussion, it sends a very loud message to the public that our licensed traffic engineers are not to be trusted for their professional expertise.

Your request for an ad-hoc/meeting for council members and T&S committees to discuss this issue is not acceptable as there is a process in place for escalating issues. What you're asking me to do is to be biased and unfair to all the other issues from residents in the entire City of Folsom. The same expectation I have of the Traffic and Safety Committee, I have of my colleagues on the City Council. The Code of Conduct is no different for Commissions, Committees and Council Members. We are to govern with the "highest level of ethical conduct". It states, "that businesses and residents are entitled to fair and accountable local government and to be represented by public officials who act in an ethical manner". If this council disregards the data available for decision making, then I will be sure to hold us accountable to do the right thing for the entire City of Folsom. If this item were to be agendized at the city council level and my colleagues disrupt our city's highest priorities where data is utilized to identify those priorities, to approve a signal light at Gionata and East Natoma (over the city's **current highest** priorities), I would bring attention to this matter publicly because I do not support misuse of power from council members. In addition, I will also be the biggest opposition to a sales tax measure on the basis that this council misaligned public funds for the benefit of council member's districts. Council members are elected to serve this city through responsible leadership, demonstrating honesty and strong ethical principles in all actions and decisions. I am prepared to protect the best interest of this city that has been my home since 2008, and where I've built a business since 2016 and where I was elected to serve as a councilmember since 2020.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. I am always open to discuss this matter further.

Thank you.

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