

Dear Planning and Community Development Department,

As the longest term resident of the Nakata Ave./Taurnic neighborhood, I have seen great change in our neighborhood over 32 years. But what evolved is a precious resource that would be terribly damaged by the extension of Wallace east of Nakata. Nakata is a narrow, clearly residential street that has come to be used by pedestrians and bike riders from all around the neighborhood. Generations of kids have played out there, shooting hoops, playing street hockey, drawing with chalk, and, of course riding bikes. I ran a home day care for 16 years that made much use of this street; at various times there were three others within one block. Linking this road to an extended Wallace would more than double the traffic on Nakata, and if the road goes all the way through to Madison, it would become a major arterial. There would also be negative impacts for Grow and the short stretch of Wallace between Nakata and Grow. Madison was designated by the city as a primary corridor, not Grow and certainly not Nakata. The City's own transportation plan is supposed to reduce cut-through traffic by focusing on primary travel corridors. It should encourage non-motorized connectivity by improving a sense of safety for pedestrians and bike riders. Connecting the proposed development to Nakata by way of Wallace would mean we cease to welcome my Grow neighbor who is frequently on Nakata with his little grandson on a coaster bike, the middle schooler who I see at all hours practicing on his skateboard, and Maria from down on Lovell who walks to the store most every day. The families who ride to Ordway each weekday would use their cars instead. I understand that development is inevitable here in "Old Winslow", but it should not be at the expense of the people who live here in our neighborhood, all of whom moved here expecting it to maintain its longtime character.

Thank you for your consideration.

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City of Bainbridge Island

JUN 08 2017

Planning and  
Community Development