

## Marlene Schubert

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**From:** Virginia Walker <vthwalker77@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 3, 2021 6:27 PM  
**To:** PCD  
**Subject:** COMMENTS RE: GROW COMMUNITY PLN13551|FSUBA & PLN13551|SPRA

### COMMENTS RE: GROW COMMUNITY PLN13551|FSUBA & PLN13551|SPRA

Heavily travelled by pedestrians throughout each and every day, Shepard Way NW is an important part of the downtown "trail system". Walkers are often families, walking abreast and in conversation, often two parents, one with a toddler to the side holding his/her parent's hand, with the other parent pushing a stroller with another child, as well as one of the parents holding a leash with the family dog yet further out to their side. Sometimes this sight is one parent and two children, other times it is two parents and one child. And yet other times, it is two parents and three children. And sometimes, it is numerous very young children from the child care center, out for a walk on this "trail". This sort of sight is frequently seen, particularly since the child care center is right there at the corner of Shepard Way and Ambrose. And this configuration of people, frequently seen, would be a pedestrian width/breadth of four+ people with a dog, all of which would be impossible for them to navigate should Shepard Way be narrowed. The sidewalk proposed would not even come close to providing safe passage for the current heavy usage.

Once a safe and calm pedestrian passageway on a designated "trail" by commuters, those enjoying a stroll, dog-walkers, children, shoppers, visitors, business owners and their employees, students and more, the Grow Community development manipulated the intended nature and use of Shepard Way NW to accommodate automobile traffic. This change, which occurred in approximately 2016, has caused a discouragement of pedestrian travel and subsequent harm to the peaceful enjoyment of the pedestrians of our small town and their participation in and contribution to local commerce. What was once an enjoyable "pedestrian trail" was paved over and made into a road to the code-required width in order to serve the automobiles owned by the residents of the then-new development.

To now request a narrowing of the "pedestrian trail" and even further change this heavily pedestrian traffic thru-way, is not only dangerous for pedestrians and automobiles, it is in opposition to encouraged pedestrian use. This proposal is a further manipulation over time of what is actually a heavily used "pedestrian trail" to accommodate the developer's interest in being able to provide street parking for high-density housing in lieu of and in exchange for pedestrian safety. This proposal is dangerous for a multitude of reasons, not only for pedestrians. For example, an emergency vehicle (for which the need will inevitably and eventually arise) will be unable to make passage on the narrowed roadway (which is actually meant for pedestrian use - not automobiles) and could very well cause loss of life due to lack of ability to make passage (or causes roadway blockage).

It appears that the reasoning behind this proposal to narrow our designated "pedestrian trail" into a single-lane two-way roadway to accommodate automobiles is an effort to allow for the construction of a higher number of units than was in the original plan - which can be interpreted as being driven by economics and profits rather than protecting the safety of our valued and encouraged pedestrian life and activity.

The narrowing of Shepard Way NW is dangerous and should not be allowed. It is unsafe for pedestrians, unsafe for automobiles and will ultimately cause harm or loss of life to someone in the future, and the City of Bainbridge Island will be held responsible, should the the City approve this proposal.

Thank you,  
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