



October 5, 2021

Dear Huntsville Residents,

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In recent days the Town Council and staff at Town Hall have received questions regarding the construction work being done on the corner of 7400 East and 200 South in the center square of Huntsville. I would like to address the residents directly in this effort.

I have been in the habit of thinking about our wonderful town and its needs as I travel a lot in my profession. The intersection at 7400 East and 200 South has gone through many changes over the years with added foot traffic, bike traffic and the moving of the elementary school at that location. The streets are wider and car speeds have increased there. Foot traffic for businesses and park events have also increased at that location over the years. While I was traveling in 2018, I saw a traffic calming measure that suited the beauty of our town and presented the idea of a roundabout in our Town Council meeting November 1, 2018. The Town Council, comprised of Bill White, Bill Wangsgard, Max Ferre' and Wendy McKay were interested in the concept, and we agreed that we would like some additional input from Rex Harris, our Town Engineer, residents and business owners. We met in a work session August 29, 2019 where the original idea of a roundabout was abandoned in favor of pursuing a plan for a 4 way stop. The group at work session felt this would be a better, safer, more effective option.

In January 2020, the Town Council was presented with a signed petition from residents that saw an overall need to address traffic concerns in Huntsville Town. The petition was presented by our Planning Commission Chairman, Doug Allen. The residents who signed the petition suggested traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, be installed throughout Huntsville and the speed limits be reduced to 15 mph. In response, the Town Council purchased electronic speed limit signs that have slowed traffic on 100 South and 7700 East respectively. The signs were purchased with money donated from the Huntsville Marathon.

At the April 16, 2020 Town Council Meeting Matt Robertson from Jones & Associates presented a beautiful plan for a four way stop at the intersection of 7400 East and 200 South. The Town Council solicited a bid and ultimately decided the cost of the project was prohibitive. It was suggested by a Town Council member that the project be added to the Capitol Improvement Plan and that we could look for additional funds to help the project along.

I was traveling through Camas, Washington in 2021 and was inspired by a four way stop that was beautiful and thought it could help our town. I took pictures and sent them to a landscape designer to see if Huntsville could replicate the beauty of this project, encourage slower speeds and increase safety with a four way stop at this particular corner, for a better cost. The designer did just that and the drawings were presented at Town Council meeting on June 3, 2021.

Since that time, the Town Council put the project out to bid, participated in a traffic study done by a separate entity, engineered drawings, and had the drawings reviewed by our Town Engineer, Jared Anderson. The construction began in the last few weeks. The construction will be funded by a combination of monies set aside for road project funding and donations from the Huntsville Marathon.

The road was cut, removed and outlined by safety stakes. Planters will sit at all four corners of the intersection on 200 South and 7400 East. Many residents have commented that the road is very narrow, and they would be unable to make turns with trailers and other large vehicles. Let me assure you, we have been working with our engineer in this regard. The planters will not sit along the road cuts. The planters are located back from the road and pavers will be laid in much of the area where the asphalt is missing.

As a Town Council we feel that the safety and beautification of this corner in the center part of Huntsville is important. We also strive to keep our residents updated and informed to the best of our ability. This project has been discussed in multiple public meetings and ideas from residents have been solicited and beneficial in the development of this project. I appreciate the input from our residents. They are the best and make Huntsville the very best place to live. Please consider attending our future Town Council Meetings or watching them on YouTube. Please visit our website and consider participating by commenting either in meetings, email or serving on a committee. We need you!

It has been a privilege to serve this community as your mayor for the last 12 years. I have rubbed shoulders with the best!

Sincerely,

Mayor Jim Truett

