

Delivered 2/13/2008

Good evening councilpersons. My name is Keith Shillington. I live on Leucadia Scenic Court on the north edge of our fair city. I own and operate a small business at the corner of E and 2nd Streets named the E Street Cafe.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns about our great city. I have several things to point out this evening.

Traffic Safety. Specifically the traffic signals on Coast Highway at "D" and "E" streets. I walk this area quite frequently, and am often witness to illegal behavior. It is quite common for an inattentive driver to run these lights once they've shifted from flashing to solid red. Changing the priority of the first green from the lettered streets to Coast Highway would prevent the bulk of these driver errors.

Of course, undergrounding the train would reduce this common driver error, but that seems to be reserved for Solana Beach.

Another sticky point in my commute is the intersection of Vulcan and Leucadia Boulevard. I'm glad to see that work is progressing on this intersection; and looked for something about the plans on the website, but found only outdated documents. I'm hoping that the redesign of this intersection will help to improve flow. And there's that train again. I hope that each of you have had the pleasure of waiting 8 minutes or more to cross that intersection.

Parking. Downtown seems to be undergoing a sort of Renaissance. Not sure exactly why, but there are more people that want to hang out and shop in town than there were four years ago. Sure would be nice if there was a decent place for employees of the downtown businesses had a place to park that was convenient but out of the way of customer parking. Lot B for example. Right now it's kind of tough to walk to your car parked in Lot B wearing any sort of dress shoes...

What is in the way of at least paving Lot B. Of course, as a merchant leasing a zero lot line retail space; I'd love to see the city build a fee for parking structure there, with reasonable options for merchants to purchase validation stickers; and truly reasonable monthly fees for locals. How novel, the city could: generate revenue, support increased density, support local businesses and help control erosion along the rail corridor all in one declarative action. And with the coming Pacific Station; these problems are only due to get worse, not better.

Loitering, Skateboarding and Sidewalks. No code on the books that prohibit loitering in the public right of way. We have a growing problem with people loitering downtown. Isn't that the polite way to talk about the growing population living on the streets of downtown Encinitas? And it seems that the sidewalks, with their topsy turvy surfaces as a blessing of poor choices for street trees, have become the greatest skateboard craze. I don't have a problem with that, per se; but when the young skateboarders are taking to the streets, or more accurately taking over the streets; and terrorizing pedestrians; enough!

Skateboarding isn't a crime. Skateboarding is an art form and a sport, and for some a transportation choice. Responsible skateboarding.