

To the MVC,

I was unable to attend the hearing about the roundabout proposal Thursday evening, September first, due to a permanent Thursday evening commitment elsewhere.

Were I able to attend, I would urge you to deny permission for this project to proceed.

I advocate this for the following reasons:

The project is not in keeping with what might be described as the "Vineyard Esthetic". Adding off-island style engineered roadwork detracts from the beauty of this place. People do not come to the island to experience the joy of using a rotary. To put it plainly and opinionatedly, the project would be an eyesore. Ugly.

The project is a waste of money. A million dollars or more, in these straitened times, could be better put to use elsewhere, or could even not be spent, and provide the collective benefit of not increasing taxes. Unnecessary. Any "pro" argument that the money "doesn't come out of our pockets" is specious.

I question whether the **roundabout** makes any improvement in traffic flow, either in timing or in the number of vehicles that can pass through in any given time period. And to what purpose? So Edgartown-bound traffic can sooner experience the gridlock of the Triangle area? So VH-bound traffic will arrive in time for a longer stay at the Look Street intersection? This point will be attacked ad nauseam by the highway engineers, whose viewpoint should be tested for bias.

The project addresses a congestion issue that occurs for a small fraction of the time in any given year. We should simply realize that summer traffic is something you have to plan for and deal with. In a jam? Take a breath, look around, roll down your window, and don't stress out.

Finally, the existing fourway stop sign configuration works. Cheaply, and reasonably well.

You don't tear down your house and build a new one just because some shingles need replacing. If something isn't really broken, you don't have to fix it.

Sincerely,

Tom Hodgson
West Tisbury