

## Paul Foley

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**From:** Craig Hockmeyer [craigcycle@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 11:17 AM  
**To:** foley@mvcommission.org  
**Subject:** Roundabout debate

Dear Mr. Foley, M.V. Commission,

I write you today concerning the proposed Roundabout at what is known as "the Blinker" in Oak Bluffs.

As I understand it, the intersection has had too many bad accidents over the years usually involving the traffic that is attempting to cross the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven road. These travelers on Barnes Road had to previously stop and try and cross the road while the traffic on the Edg. V.H. road had only the flashing yellow light. The intersection now has a 4-way red flasher and stop. As far as I can tell, the main bulk of traffic is traveling the Edg.-V.H. road, and because of the 4-way stop, traffic gets very backed up, and there is confusion amongst the drivers.

I have lived on Martha's Vineyard since 1970, and I have heard the antique dialog that "Martha's Vineyard has no traffic lights, and we want to keep our island charm and not have traffic lights like they do off-island". I can relate to and understand this thinking and I am in total agreement that we should be doing our best to preserve "the island charm".

Unfortunately, our island charm is now clogged with much automobile traffic, especially in the summer months. Fortunately, our island is also very small, and it's road system is only so big. I have also heard "once we allow a traffic light, we'll have them all over the island". I don't believe that would be the case. We don't need them all over. We do need a few.

Today, modern traffic lights can be timed via computers and cameras and road sensors.

I have witnessed these "smart" light systems in operation on Maui Hawai'i.

The main road (in our case the Edg.-V.H. road) is given a steady green light. When cross traffic (from Barnes Road) comes to it's steady red light, the sensors in the road confirm what the camera is seeing and changes the lights to allow the cross traffic. Once the cross traffic is clear (or within a time, if the main road is getting backed up), it switches back.

Truly very simple, and perfectly functional. (This system would also accommodate bicycle traffic in the easiest, most functional way.) The light system is also much more affordable than a roundabout I'm sure. Not to mention the visual off-island aspect of a roundabout and the needed land-taking and hostile development.

The traffic light idea has to be considered equally with the roundabout idea. Certainly this is not the only 4-way intersection on the planet that has had to deal with increased traffic. The "lack-of-traffic-light" dialog is also untrue, since if you view out Vineyard Haven harbor anytime at night, you will see the steady green light of the drawbridge. Very off-island looking in my opinion.

I say if we'd really like to preserve our lack-of-traffic-light charm, we should eliminate the green light at the drawbridge, it is un-necessary. Once the gates are up and the red lights are off, everyone knows to go- we really don't need that always-on green light.

The "Blinker" has always been a traffic-light intersection. Transforming that area to a roundabout would truly change our island appearance. Please re-consider this proposal for a roundabout, please do consider a modern, low-impact, computer/camera light system.

Thank You for your consideration.

Craig Hockmeyer  
Craig's Bicycles  
Vineyard Haven

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