

To the MVC,

I am unable to attend the hearing this August 4th, about the "roundabout" proposal, due to a permanent Thursday evening commitment.

Please deny permission for this project to proceed.

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 roundabout or rotary. To put it plainly and opinionatedly, the project would be an eyesore. Ugly. Out of place.

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. This proposal is an example of a modern tendency to apply complex solutions to simple problems.

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? The fine points of traffic flow will surely be addressed ad neuseam by the highway engineers. Any opinions by State professionals, whose opinion creates potential work for themselves, should be carefully inspected for conflict of interest issues.

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 to be expected and to be dealt with. In a traffic 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