

Hilda Pleasants thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She is a home owner and a property owner with a business in downtown Lynn. She wants to know what this group of people needs to do to say we do not support DOT's plans for widening to four lanes and asked how we let them know. She supports the bikers and walkers only. She asked where they are going to take property from, her front yard. She has a doctor's office and church beside her.

Bruce Heckelman resident stated that he came here from Utah, because of the rural characteristics. The bike lanes and sidewalks would be a great idea for bicyclists and runners. Highway 108 is very dangerous. Maybe 108 needs to be widened to add bike lanes on each side of the road. This is characteristics of a rural town. It is one of the most beautiful entries in any small town in America.

Becky Oliver resident of Columbus stated that in 2008 she was at the meeting and DOT members were present. When they were talking about the Foster Creek development coming they told them that it would ruin the character of Columbus. Back then the roundabouts were a band aid, not permanent, they were going to widen the bridge. There are people that still don't know how to use the roundabouts. DOT needs to work on the clover leaf that has been talked about with that money and bicycle lanes. She hasn't heard anyone say they wanted the four lanes.

Andy Haynes thanked the council for having this meeting. He is opposed the widening of 108. He has given this information to Paula to convey their message to the RPO. He has been a resident of the same property for 70 years. Everyone believes this is a quality of life issue. Our town announces to visitors to who we are and what we are. He asks people who come here, why Tryon. They have driven downtown and it seems like a charming community. It looks very nice. He has spent time and money to make the entrance to Tryon look better. DOT plans would ruin the character. Improvements may need to be made to 108, but he would like to leave as is.

Phil Burris president of Hunting Country Association stated that on February 2nd they held a meeting and it was a unanimous vote against the widening of 108. In 2007 plans were denied to build a bypass. The Town of Tryon was against the bypass and DOT put the plans in the drawer and they pull them out every eight or ten years.

John Garguilo business owner in Tryon, stated that everyday people come into his store and tell him how much they love this town. They have found a real jewel here. He thanked the Lane's for what they have done. It is very frustrating to follow someone going ten miles per hour. A bike lane he sees as beneficial.

Robert Lang stated that he came here from a large area and he appreciates what DOT is doing. In 1996 it was determined that in 2020 the road would be well over capacity. If you build it they will come and more commercial development will come. It was decided then that the four options were not feasible. The population of Tryon in 1898 was 550 and it has increased by a little over 1,000 in 120 years (currently 1600).

Doris Hinds of Hunting Country stated that she likes the roundabouts.

Tamara Reeves stated she loves it here, it's pretty much the same as it was in 1982. Her friends at sculpting studio, most have moved here because of the small town atmosphere. She doesn't feel like

this is a good plan. If you move here you should know that you are going to be behind slow cars, because you are in Polk County.

Linda Eiserloh resident, stated she came from a nice neighborhood and is against the widening of 108. Each day her and her husband are grateful they are here. She gets a sense of belonging here.

Steve Collie stated most of what he was going to say has been said. They wanted to show their opposition of the plans. Think of Boiling Springs, SC when you think about the widening of roads. See what happened there.

Jonathan Gerst lived here two years, hydrogeologist, stated you need to think of the environment, safety and health advantages of bike lanes.

Kim Clement stated she came here in 1992 and is opposed to the whole thing entirely. She has witnessed many accidents because of speeding. She stated the middle lane will be used for a passing lane. People are going to get hurt. There are many other roads for pedestrians and bicyclists. She would like to see a three way stop instead.

Olivia Whiteside stated she is against this. These lanes are not needed. It's ridiculous. She hates to see this happen. It will ruin the entrance to downtown Tryon. Pineville was a small town until the extra lanes came, now the town is unrecognizable.

Marilyn Doheny has been here for seven years stated that she owns a business here and she doesn't want to live in a cement city. She loves the idea of bike lanes and a passing lane. On the other hand she is very distraught about Joey and Roy and wants to know when that discussion will be.

Wim Woody asked if there was anyone in the county in favor of DOT plans. Mayor Peoples stated that he hasn't found one person that is for this.

Sam Lovelace stated that 108 and 176 are so beautiful that people have written songs and poems about it. Jim Bartlett stated that everyone needs to be careful with what you want. If you want a passing lane then you might be agreeing with their plans (four lane road).

Billy Moss stated that he remembers when there used to be a place where you could pass. It is the responsibility of everyone to be courteous and watch what you are doing.

Ollis stated I-74 was not discussed at the meeting, only Highway 108. Plans may have been fast tracked for TIEC.

Ann Gibson lived here over 30 years, stated that shoulders added might be good, but certainly no passing lane.

Commissioner Ingham stated maybe they will find out it doesn't make sense. The car counting includes his twenty trips between Tryon and Columbus. You need to take in the scenery. He wondered if anyone from DOT actually has ever driven the road to Tryon.

Mayor Peoples stated the best advice he could give is to make noise and write letters to DOT. When he meets with legislature tomorrow he is going to let them know at least a hundred people have made comments that they are not happy with the plans for 108. Someone suggested using postcards instead of letters. Commissioner Ingham suggested everyone send the same postcard, maybe write Highway 108 on the card and draw a line through it, might give them the hint. Ms. Clement asked about the project number to include on the postcard.

Mayor Peoples stated that he would look into that. He thanked everyone for coming and stated the Board will resume their regular meeting at 7:00 pm.

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk

