

**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 9:15 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

No new roads! Narrow the existing ones! Slow the motors!

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 9:27 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Yes, please trim road expansions and focus on sidewalks and traffic calming, especially sidewalks! And, more bike lanes, please.

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 9:30 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Dear Ian, Don't care much about widening Forum and would rather see money directed toward public transportation. Sidewalks on busy streets should be 6 feet wide. A roundabout on Forum (or anywhere) should be built with forethought. See:

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/roundabouts/fhwasa10006/#s61>

On this page you will find more data than anyone wants about roundabouts. I think there should be a minimum diameter. I think mini-roundabouts (Rollins and Fairview) should not be built at all, but especially not on roads that experience heavy traffic, even if it is periodic.

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 9:38 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

I am with you on everything you said. The expansion of roads is crazy, I simply want Maplewood drive fixed so it's not so rough. We continue to dump money into silly road

expansions and the city can't maintain what they have. I have emailed and called John Glasscock for 2 years to try and get Maplewood drive repaired and he acts like he doesn't care. So no, unless they step up and take care of what we have I will not support more money for wider roads.

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 9:51 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian:

Thank you for your articulate, concise explanation of sales taxes. I agree with your reservations regarding the expansion of intersections. We could not have elected a better City Council member than you.

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 9:55 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

I vote for the roundabout at Wilson's. Sounds reasonable to me. Thanks for working to keep our taxes reasonable.

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 10:06 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

So to clarify, you support continuing the sales tax, but primarily using it in non vehicular ways?

Have a blessed day,

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 10:17 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

thanks, Ian. I appreciate your letter. It is clear and informative, not hard to read. And I support you in your efforts to change the paradigm. Lets see if the council has it in it to think anew.

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 10:40 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

I like the idea of addressing the safety concern at the entrance to Wilson's by slowing traffic and adding a large roundabout.

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**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2015 11:01 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** I oppose sales taxes, but especially agree that we shouldn't approve the Capitol

I oppose sales taxes, and especially agree that we shouldn't approve the Capitol Improvements one.

To get the newest CID sales tax, does that have to be voter approved and, if so, when would that vote occur?

I appreciate you asking for input.

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On 5/1/15 11:20 PM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Hi Ian!

I am fully in agreement with you that I don't want to see widening of roadways and would rather have funds invested in alternative transportation, traffic calming and sidewalks.

Thank you so much for your work!!!

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On 5/1/15 11:55 PM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Ian,

I love the idea of a roundabout at Wilson's and if the money is saved to not widen Forum, perhaps it could be spent to put a roundabout at Chapel Hill and Fairview which is a horrible bottleneck. I also love speed bumps. I often take side streets. I take longer to get places at times, but generally I keep moving instead of jammed in traffic. People need to plan more time to get places during "rush" hours. I have seen by widening so called bottlenecks that speed increases, then more accidents occur, then no one moves.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 1:53 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Increasing the availability of public transit is in fact the best thing that can be done to address traffic congestion. The problem you're facing with Forum is all those drivers are middle class commuters who have no motivation to change their driving habits or time to research alternatives. Also, the bus routes do not go within walking distance to most of their houses. Until autonomous fleets of self driving cars are available to everyone on-demand, the best thing the city could do to reduce traffic in these problem areas is run a subsidized copy of Über (without the rate hikes) that is available 24:7 (double bonus, this would also solve the problem of the absolute garbage that is the sum total of all the private taxi services). Also, eliminating left-turn options into that stupid gym on Forum (and everywhere else in this route) would help. The lights that stop traffic on stadium and providence need to be coordinated and changed so that traffic trying to get on these roads has to wait longer. The intersection of these two roads really needs some serious consideration too.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 3:52 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Thank you, Ian, for your ongoing efforts at keeping "us folks" in the loop and participating.

Sure, I support the notion of spending less money and approaching our congestion issues with traffic calming projects instead of mega-expensive road changing projects. Over the years I have seen many MANY road and highway projects around Columbia, many of which created new and, sometimes, even bigger congestion problems!

Let's go with the economical and efficient. It simply makes the most sense.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 6:33 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

I completely agree with you that a more low-cost solution should be devised for the Wilson's issue on Forum rather than going to four lanes. I don't think the problem there is terribly serious the vast majority of the day.

And I know how traffic calming has been a low priority at the same time we have a massive backlog of these requested projects.

For instance, all of the streets between Ash and Worley from McBaine to Ridgeway need traffic calming now, just like the successful Alexander project. It's important to note that these lengthy (.3 miles!), straight streets could not be built today under current design standards because of concerns about traffic speed. We need to correct them immediately before more kids are imperiled.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 6:39 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Just one practical observation - making traffic calming devices a focus of the capital improvements sales tax is good way to ensure its defeat at the polls.

I can't possibly imagine a roundabout near Wilsons, driving that route nearly every day. Given the limited space, it would likely turn out worse than the roundabout at Fairview and Rollins - a roundabout so small and inefficient that I can barely navigate the intersection with my truck. Trying to put something like near Wilsons would likely be a disaster.

Just my thoughts.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 7:01 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

While I want the current roads to be well maintained and bike lanes added to those currently without, I don't want to see any new car lanes.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 7:06 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Dear Ian,

Thank you for this update.

I agree that expansion of Forum to 4 lanes is not a good use of funds given the backlog of existing maintenance issues throughout the city. It is well documented that expansion of arterial roads serves to increase traffic rather than ease congestion. And the total cost of this project is not worth it.

I would much prefer to see funds from the Capital Improvements tax use to address traffic calming throughout the city. Our own neighborhood has sought traffic calming and has been told that we would have to wait nearly 10 years for action. We should catch up on these omirjvements before spending so much on an expensive project such as widening Forum.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 7:39 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Dear Ian Thomas,

I completely agree with you and also hope that any funds raised through the Capital Improvement Sales Tax might also go towards denser downtown development. If we begin widening roads into the suburbs, Columbia will remain a small town with large suburban

populations. I hope we can become more centralized and develop a stronger identity through living more closely together.

Thank-you for your thoughts,

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 7:58 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Road expansion

Mr. Thomas,

The idea of expanding roads is unsettling, when we still don't have the means of sufficiently plowing the majority of our streets to ensure Columbians can safely transit out of their neighborhoods during snowy and icy days, however, I do love the idea of being able to provide our hard working and much needed departments with new trucks. As well, my wife and I are fans of walking and biking, is there any room for extending sidewalks or bike lanes?

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 8:02 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Yes Ian,

I agree with you. I don't think that widening Forum Blvd. is a good idea. For all the reasons you stated and because it will also degrade the environment (more run-off, more traffic going at higher speeds). I would not support using taxpayers money to widen this road.

Thank you for informing.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 8:37 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Good morning Ian,

I like the way you think and I support the plan you outline below.

Thank You for your service to this city!

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 8:46 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Sorry, not much critique here. I am with your analysis 100%!

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 9:04 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

I object to spending \$14 million for Wilson's benefit. It would be cheaper to buy the flood plain property from Wilson's, tear down the buildings and make it passive parkland.....and give Wilson's enough money to re-build elsewhere...preferably not on a flood plain. That would be less than \$14 million....and I know, would never fly....but a voter can dream, can't she?

I think the traffic circle is brilliant, however, before another one is built in town, there needs to be some major education and marketing done.....and a little law enforcement would help too....having a police officer (during rush hour and other busy times) at a circle to teach people how to use it properly would be time well invested in Public Safety (I think 'Yield' is a difficult concept for Americans!!!)

Thanks Ian.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 9:25 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Mr. Thomas,

I support the widening of Forum Boulevard. I enjoy tremendously the trail system that Columbia offers, however I also dread twice a day using Forum Boulevard. It not only



slows me down from getting home, it is also a very unsafe roadway with head on collisions not an uncommon sight.

I think there is a balance in both the expansion of roadways and bicycle/commuter facilities. In the specific case of Forum boulevard it would be interesting to compare the cost per pedestrian/bicycle commuter use of the new forum boulevard trail project that will parallel the widening to the cost per vehicle user in the same stretch of roadway.

An idea for you to entertain would be to propose a dedicated percentage of transportation funds to pedestrian/bicycle/ada uses. That will then distribute funds for the best projects for all modes of traffic without polarizing non-vehicle commuters against vehicle users.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 10:08 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Capital improvements

Ian,

Dan Cullimore forwarded your newsletter to us in Fulton. We are still property owners in North Central and I am always watching the direction of things in Columbia.

I am cheering for the priorities you list. We must protect the character and safety of neighborhoods.

I agree with you that more wide roads just increase traffic, speed, pollution, noise, and upkeep expense.

Thanks for your leadership!

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 10:44 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian, thanks for the information on the Capital Improvements tax.

I agree with you that the amount of money to be devote to the Forum improvements seems excessive and that other methods could and should be used to deal with congestion on that road. (the construction itself would create MASSIVE congestion and for a very long time).

I am tired of traffic calming projects that could increase neighborhood safety and quality of life being backburnered or taken off the table entirely, and would be more likely to support renewal of this tax if the monies were reapportioned away from a massive Forum expansion and toward other methods of improving traffic flow and safety, including prioritizing neighborhood traffic calming projects.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 11:04 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Thank you

Ian,

Thanks very much for the email regarding the expansion of Forum Blvd. and other issues. I like your idea of a roundabout near Wilson's rather than the four lane expansion. We (as you well know) in the fourth ward have so many other infrastructure issues like crumbling sidewalks, huge potholes in our streets, that need to be addressed with the same energy that is now being put into the newer parts of town and new development. Supposedly, the Old Southwest is prime real estate, but it's starting to look pretty shabby in many areas. The increase in the number of rental homes and disintegrating infrastructure do not bode well for our neighborhood. We have lost one beautiful part of town to the East Campus development, let's not lose another. In spite of the many improvements to East Campus and the staunch support of its permanent residents, it remains a crowded and sometimes unkempt part of what used to be an elegant neighborhood.

All of the arguments that you make for not widening Forum Blvd. in order to accommodate members of Wilson's Fitness Center, make good sense and for me, illustrate the logical, rational reasons for deep sixing that project. Good luck and thanks for asking!

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On 5/2/15 11:11 AM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Dear Ian - Thanks for sending me your newsletter. I share your view about the

road expansion projects, the one proposed for Forum and Woodrail in particular. It seems that funds from the capital improvements sales tax could be put to better use.

I strongly support the extension of both of the sales taxes that are due to expire. As a big fan (and heavy user) of both the trail system and the parks, I'd be interested to hear at some point about projects that might be funded by the (renewable) parks sales tax.

best,

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 11:36 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

Thank you for your informational email and thoughtful analysis of the Capital Improvements Budget. I agree that spending 13.7 million for the 1 mile widening of Forum Blvd. does not sound like a wise solution. The Planning and Zoning Commission should have anticipated the traffic problems and should not have approved the additional Woodrail development when it was first proposed. I think your ideas of slowing traffic, adding roundabouts, sidewalks, etc. have a great deal of merit.

Thank you for your outstanding service to the community.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 12:15 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Thank you, Ian, for this very helpful explanation of our sales taxes. I am in full support of your view.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 12:25 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hi Ian,

Yes, I agree with your concerns and proposal to divert money toward public transportation and away from expansion projects. Thank you for all the research you've done on this!

Thank you,

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On 5/2/15 12:34 PM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

We would support your proposals.

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 3:40 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hi Ian –

Thanks so much for doing these 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Info and Updates and for including us, even though we're not in your ward. The info from the one below will hopefully help more citizens understand where the city's money comes from and where it goes – increased transparency – and as you well know, that has been a citizens' complaint for many, many years.

As I'm sure you already know, Joe and I are much, much more interested in traffic calming projects than in the millions and millions of dollars for road building/expansion and building. As you mentioned a much more modest improvement to Forum could be done and save millions of dollars that could be used for building sidewalks on major streets (to build all that we need could take 50, if not more years, so we have to start somewhere) and expanding COMO Connect.

+++++

**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 8:17 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Dear Ian,

I can certainly see a LARGE roundabout working at the intersection of Forum and the Wilson's entrance/exit. I have observed at the Fairview Road roundabout is that it is so small people are hesitant to pull out and it really does not work as smoothly as it could. It is simply TOO SMALL.

Any idea to save money on one project (and 14 Million is a lot of money for one mile ((or less)) of road widening is frankly, ridiculous. We have too many problems in this town to waste money like that!

Thank you for keeping us apprised of what is going on and asking for our opinion.

Take care,

+++++

**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 8:32 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Dear Ian

Thanks for your informative information on the city taxes.You are raising some intriguing Questions

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On 5/2/15 8:48 PM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Ian, who owns Wilson's that they can cause traffic problems to the extent that widening Forum is even considered. Why not just prohibit left turn in, at least during high traffic hours?

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**Date:** Saturday, May 2, 2015 8:03 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hi Ian,

Thanks for sharing this information. I trust your information and decisions about specific traffic improvements, as you have definitely thought about and researched this topic more than I have. My only request is that we do not in any way reduce the amount of funding we request from the public for this category of expenditure. Nationwide, first the republicans, now even democrats, have convinced the public that taxes are bad and it has become political death to advocate increasing them. We simply don't pay enough

taxes to support our infrastructure, and we are going to have to admit that some day. Costs for everything taxpayers themselves buy go up, taxpayers get raises, yet they still think our taxes should stay the same, even though the cost of construction continues to rise like everything else. Don't get me started : -)

I also agree with you about expanding public transit.

Thanks for asking!

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**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 6:52 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

The problem with not widening Forum is that it is the only north-south roadway between Providence and Scott. Traffic congestion is only likely to increase with additional growth south of Nifong. It would be a tough sell but a 3 lane bridge/roadway would cost less (much shorter and less hillside removal/retaining walls), solve the left turn problem at Wilson's, have less environmental impact and cause less disruption during construction.

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**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 7:35 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Thanks Ian,

Something needs to be done on the Forum squeeze, the roundabout seems like a good idea if it will fit.

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On 5/3/15 8:49 AM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Thank you for your newsletter and your thoughts on issues coming before the council. My own thoughts, as I read over the issues, are that the city should not continue to approve building that creates more highway problems. The

planning needs to get out in front of the infrastructure problems - roads, utilities, sewers. You refer to "traffic calming" possibilities. I live near Rollins and Fairview. The round about there is too small to be safe. Drivers on Rollins whip through the round about creating a hazard.

Thank you for your efforts to guide our community.

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On 5/3/15 11:41 AM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Ian,

I live in the Chapel Woods subdivision and I am a neighbor of Don Spiers, our association president. Don was kind enough to forward a few of your emails to us and I wanted to comment about the Forum issue, specifically the Wilsons entrance. My wife travels Forum everyday and witnesses the mess at Wilsons. Traffic backs up in both directions in the morning due to vehicles trying to enter or exit Wilsons. Something needs to be done there to allow through traffic and make it safe for entering/exiting traffic. I don't see any way to solve this without widening the bridge or somehow creating another entrance(not sure where). Doesn't Wilson's have any responsibility for a solution? This wasn't as much of a problem years ago before Wilsons expanded to the "megaplex" it is today. I agree a roundabout might work but I don't think there is enough room at the Wilsons entrance. I've heard talk about a roundabout at Woodrail and a divider at Wilsons not allowing crossing traffic which might work better but probably wouldn't be popular with the Wilsons customers. Probably would need another roundabout at Katy Lane or the trail entrance. Seems like an expensive solution but may be less the redoing the bridge.

Long story short, if the entrance to Wilsons and a section of Forum could be reconfigured, we could avoid the expense of widening the whole section including the bridge.

One more comment. The entrance was temporarily reconfigured as a right turn in, right turn out only, with a divider, during the Scott Blvd construction and closure. Since there was much more traffic re routed on Forum, it's hard to tell if this would be a permanent solution. I would be very supportive of this option without roundabouts, but I'm sure the Wilsons customers would not.

Thanks for reading my rants!

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**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 1:04 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear Ian,

Thank you for the information. I agree wholeheartedly to not spend money on expanding Forum.

Slowing traffic as they get to the bottom of the hill...or even from the tops, is good. The roundabout is ok...

I do hate them...but see the use here. Maybe Wilson's should be required to help with costs???

+++++

**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 1:17 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian, I am in agreement with you but unfortunately I live in that county. Good luck with your effort. I agree \$14 mil is way too expensive to widen a 1 mile section to improve safety and access to a business built in the flood plain.

+++++

**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 1:31 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian, I appreciate your presentation but believe that it most likely is a combination of both. We need a better return on the projects that we take on and more reporting on the success or failure of such.

+++++

**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 2:28 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hello Ian,

I agree with everything listed here:

"Do you agree that traffic calming projects, building sidewalks on major streets that are lacking them, and expanding our public transit system can improve mobility and quality



of life at a fraction of the cost of excessive road widening projects? "

I, like many others, would be more than willing to ride an expanded bus system (with a reasonable travel time and schedule) - in fact, it would be my preference when commuting. The transit system here in Columbia is lacking when compared to similar sized cities in other areas of the country. With the influx of new housing and building in general, it seems that building the infrastructure to support public transit would alleviate many of these issues while not introducing new problems. In addition, this may also lessen parking issues for those who work and go to school at MU and the neighboring colleges.

Thank you for the update.  
Best,

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**Date:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 2:56 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Thank you Ian,

I need help knowing about these things. I simply can't find time to read up on all the issues affecting my life much less form learned opinions or make decisions concerning these seemingly simple, yet complex, topics.  
I thank you for explaining clearly, rather succinctly and fairly.  
You possess a character that puts information in a manner I find welcoming, generous and grounded.

+++++

**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2015 9:13 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian - I agree with your CIP assessment.

+++++

**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2015 10:19 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** \$13.7 million project to widen Forum Boulevard to 4 lanes between Woodrail and Chapel Hill

Ian,

I understand your concern about the price tag of this project for the relative distance of road. I wanted to offer another perspective for you to consider, though:

The population center of all of Columbia, indeed all of Boone County, surrounds this roadway. In terms of maximum use by the maximum number of taxpayers, it would be difficult to find a City-maintained road that is more utilized by a majority of taxpayers than the road system in this area. The traveling public makes great use of Forum Blvd. at all times of the day, and heavy use during commute times. Given its location near the population center of our community, I think improving this vital transportation infrastructure in that location for automobiles is a worthy project.

Other modes of transportation are worthwhile, but automobiles will still carry the majority for years to come. Given that and the location of this project, I believe it is worthy of support.

For what its worth, I'd rather see a roundabout at Fairview and Chapel Hill before I see a "service center" building anywhere south or north as well.

Thanks for the invitation to comment and I appreciate your service.

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**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2015 10:57 AM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hi Ian, You are absolutely on the right track with your plan to divert the road widening money instead to traffic calming. It would be great if there was a dedicated bike lane all the way up Forum, but I agree that doing something to improve the entrance to Wilson's (roundabout would be great) would help address the problem. We don't need to increase any traffic speed, we need to slow things down.

Keep up the fight!

+++++

On 5/4/15 11:34 AM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Ian,

That was one hell of an update. Very excellent information. I have mixed feelings about the Forum widening. Because I drive and bike it a lot I'm acutely aware of the need for improvements/more capacity. I like your notion of the round a bout, but would this be possible in light of the design related to bike/ped improvements? I guess the staff would just have to take a look it. The thought of spending \$14M for a couple more lanes from Chapel Hill to Woodrail is befuddling.

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**Date:** Monday, May 4, 2015 11:53 AM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

I support your efforts to re-direct monies from improving roads for single-car/ single-occupant to improving all manners of public mass and non-motorized transit. If Forum can be made more safe by a round-about or other traffic calming measure, I say go for it.

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015 6:48 AM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Dear Councilman Thomas:

Thank you for asking my thoughts on road expansion projects.

I support building sidewalks on major streets that are lacking them and expanding our public transit system.

I have mixed feelings about "traffic calming".

- I favor Level 1 devices (signage, pavement markings, police enforcement, portable radar speed displays, etc.).
- I do *not* favor some Level 2 devices including speed humps/tables and raised crosswalks or intersections, believing they may calm traffic, but they

may also “calm” emergency vehicle response times, create snow removal problems, and increase noise.

- I favor some Level 2 devices including chicanes, entry islands, medians.
- I do *not* favor the creation of mini-traffic circles like the one at Rollins and Fairview where buses, trucks, and snow plows must drive across it and, by squeezing it into an existing intersection, very few vehicles can be in the circle at any time.

I favor extending the capital improvements sales tax for a specific number of years if the funds are earmarked for one-time, large-scale projects like widening Forum between Woodrail and Chapel Hill as long as turn lanes or a median are part of the project at Wilson’s by Hinkson Creek on Forum, a significant problem, and one for which I do not think a roundabout of the type typically built in Columbia is likely to adequately solve. A barrier and entrance/exit lanes, similar to the one at Chapel Plaza Ct, would be a better solution. I suspect anything short of widening the section to four lanes is a short-term solution and, if funds can be earmarked in the funds generated by extending the sales tax, then we should just get on with it. Although individuals may be driving less, the local population and number of visitors is increasing so traffic issues are have not lessened.

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015 7:21 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** capital improvements sales tax proposal

Ian, thank you for the regular email updates. I do agree with your thoughts on trimming back road expansion, especially the Forum road project. As a tax payer I feel I am subsidizing a private entity (wilson’s). Instead of installing a roundabout should there be consideration given to eliminating a left turn into wilson’s facility? I do feel very strongly that the city of Columbia accommodates businesses for making poor decisions (ie wilsons building a facility in a flood plan with limited access) Thank you for representing us and soliciting our feedback

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015 7:40 AM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

I agree with your reasoning on Capital Improvements.

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015 9:26 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hi Ian,  
Thank you for bringing this issue to your newsletter—I really appreciate this type of information during the stage when we can still affect some positive change!

I completely support the installation of a roundabout at the Wilson’s entrance as long as the roundabout conforms to standard design parameters. I strongly oppose the \$13.7M proposed widening of Forum Blvd. since the expense of the project seems completely disproportionate to the traffic problems in that section of road.

If I may editorialize: It was irresponsible for developers to encourage so much traffic in such a constrained location (between a creek and a bluff). If I had my druthers, we would place Jersey barriers on the centerline and let southbound customers figure it out. What’s more: If the developers of that real estate think that that is unfair, then they should finance their own roundabout or lane widening. (I would like to know how many years it would take for the city to recoup \$13.7M in sales tax from Wilson’s and adjacent businesses.)

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015 11:17 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hello Ian,

I feel that Forum Blvd. does not need to be widened to 4 lanes. A roundabout near Wilson's

seems a good solution, although I would bet that the majority of others might not agree. It is unfortunate that Wilson's and the other businesses in that location ever built there in the first place.

I am all for more efficient transportation (e.g., public transportation, walking and biking), and believe that funds diverted to these are almost always wisely spent.

To respond directly to your question: Yes, I do believe that "traffic calming projects, building sidewalks on major streets that are lacking them, and expanding our public transit system can improve mobility and quality of life at a fraction of the cost of excessive road widening projects".

Thanks for your continued efforts and your significant accomplishments on the City Council.

Regards,

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2015 6:04 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hi Ian

Thanks again for yet another thorough email! I always learn so much!

Caleb and I chatted out this the other day and we both agree – it does not seem to be worth the money to invest in that stretch of Forum. I have heard rumors in the past of the option of a round-about and think that would be a good solution. Wilsons' entrance certainly does need to be addressed.

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On 5/5/15 12:11 PM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

I'm with you, Ian. Wider roads are the transportation equivalent of bigger, fatter power lines. When we accommodate more stupid, unsustainable bullshit, that's exactly what we get.

I ride my bike down that one-mile stretch of Forum Blvd four times a week, and I don't think it's that bad at all. With a little paint, signage, shoulder repair and occasional sweeping, it'd be downright bike-friendly.

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**Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2015 5:21 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

Thank you for the email. I completely agree with you here. I also continue to urge you to find solutions to slow traffic in our neighborhoods specifically along Stewart Road / Edgewood Ave.

Thank you,

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**Date:** Thursday, May 7, 2015 6:58 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian..regarding your position on the Forum/Wilson conundrum.

While it does get congested at certain times, that is the price we pay, as benignly, trafficked primary roads continue to fall prey to car commuting neighborhoods; we can not afford to resolve every congested area currently or in the future in this expensive manner.

That bridge appears quite sound and serviceable, so no safety issue there.

Emergency vehicles can still transit through the area.

I do not agree that this is a safety issue above and beyond any other area in our town; folks speed, period. This is a law enforcement issue.

Looks like a great spot for a round-a-bout.

In the absence of a significant and painful increase in gas price or tax, conditions over which at the local level we have no control, there is no stimulus to change behavior, and I absolutely agree with your positions regarding promoting a more efficient and effective transportation system.

Thank you for your continued efforts,

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**Date:** Thursday, May 7, 2015 9:09 AM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>, Laura Nauser <[ward5@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward5@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

Thank you for your email. I'm also copying Laura Nauser on this reply, as her ward is also impacted by the badly needed improvements to Forum Blvd. I'll start off stating that neither I, nor my company, are in favor of taking money away from road expansion projects to use for neighborhood calming, the bus system or any other use. Roads and infrastructure are an essential part of city government and should be given priority funding over other uses. I am in no way okay with the thought that we can't afford to maintain and improve our roads when the City continues to dump millions into non-essential services. My specific thoughts are:

- Expansion of Forum Blvd. (and Nifong Blvd.) has been badly needed for many years. I've attached photos showing what the nightly commute on each roadway looks like. The city should not be okay with these types of situations and allowing them to continue is harmful to the environment and adds stress on our citizens.
- There is no doubt that the Wilson's entrance on Forum contributes to the problem. But a roundabout is not feasible and won't solve the problem. Barbara Hoppe's response to my continuing complaints about the roadway was to lower the speed limit. That has not improved traffic flow or decreased the number of accidents. In fact I bet the data would show a similar number of accidents near the Wilson's area but a dramatically increased number of speeding tickets along the roadway. This is not the right way to deal with a problem. The best immediate solution would be to eliminate left turns in and out of the Wilson's entrance. That seemed to help move traffic last summer when Scott Blvd. was shut down.
- It can easily be shown that road expansions and improvements increase sales for the businesses located along those roadways. This increase in sales directly



leads to an increase in revenue for the City. If we continue to force bad roads on residents and visitors, less businesses will open, people will spend less money and the city will have to make cuts in a wider variety of services.

I again thank you for taking the time to read my input and implore you to do what's best for the City of Columbia as a whole, which means prioritizing road expansions and improvements over all other projects and uses. Traffic calming, sidewalks and public transit will do nothing to help improve the quality of life for the 99% of residents that choose, want, and need to drive vehicles on a daily basis.

Thank you,

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**Date:** Thursday, May 7, 2015 1:21 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Ian,

I DO NOT support spending 13.7 million to widen Forum for the 1.1 mile distance between Woodrail and Chapel Hill. Even though this "trouble spot" frequently interferes with my getting where I'm going, it's simply not worth that kind of money.

That said, I DO support taking corrective action to address the safety hazard that exists at the entrance to Wilson's. That is a very dangerous place to ride/drive. I also support extending both of the sales taxes which are sun-setting. The capital improvements tax includes funding for roads which, your arguments notwithstanding, will continue to be a significant concern for the foreseeable future. But as you note, it also generates revenue for expenditures which I feel are worthwhile.

It's mind boggling that \$14 million only buys a mile's worth of expansion/widening for a road--I just don't understand how it can cost that much.

Cheers,

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**Date:** Thursday, May 7, 2015 3:08 PM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

You're certainly right in taking the emphasis off of widening streets. Until later, :)

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On 5/7/15 7:34 PM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Dear Ian,

Sorry it's taken me so long to respond to your email. I agree with you that we need to minimize the road building projects, since we then are responsible to pay for the upkeep of the new roadways. There are indeed areas that need some help, however, such as the entrance to Wilson's on Forum. I drive through that area every morning, and it seems to me that even a light to allow cars to enter and exit the gym once in a while would be a less expensive fix than re-building the whole area. Does a roundabout slow traffic less than a light? It would be more expensive, I'm sure of that, but less expensive than re-doing the road to 4 lanes. I really think we need to keep things to a minimum in this economy.

Yours,

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**Date:** Friday, May 8, 2015 9:41 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Street a d Road Question

Mr. Thomas;

Thank you for your e-mail. In general I agree that road projects designed primarily to benefit business owners are of only secondary importance. However, in my opinion far more emphasis should be placed on maintaining our current streets and roads in optimal condition. So, in summary I am far less interested in public transportation, bike paths, etc., than in simply being able to get from point A to point B safely and efficiently.

Thank you again.

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**Date:** Friday, May 8, 2015 8:40 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Yes I agree with your closing statement especially public transportation and sidewalks .People need transportation to get to work. Some research has tied unemployment rates to lack of public transportation.

Sidewalks are important,It is amazing that only one block of West Blvd south of Broadway has a sidewalk -not sure about north of Broadway.

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On 5/12/15 10:01 AM, \_\_\_\_\_ wrote:

Dear Bike Man,

Thanks for the informative note. I, too have concerns about these expenditures. I hope to see you at Dunn's on Sunday. Sincerely

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**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015 11:57 AM

**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements

Ian,

I appreciate your "thinking ahead", Ian.

I am seeing more "in filling" building within the central city, and there will be more traffic to contend with; better that, than building outside the city boundaries, with additional requests for city services. I love your idea of simplifying the proposed upgrade on Forum, and those Roundabouts are amazingly successful in other spots.

I think future efforts within the city should center on sidewalks, biking and riding the bus as much as possible. I see many parking lots filled with cars, for instance Shelter Insurance, but mostly it is the University's cooperation that can make the most difference in NOT providing more parking,--. Did I read that the city is going to hire someone to help with making bus transportation a more viable option, as I really think it is? Can the city make a BIG DEAL as to why one person driving in one car everywhere is not democratic, is wasteful; do we really OWE car manufacturers a living??

Sue B

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**Date:** Thursday, May 14, 2015 11:38 AM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** transportation tax

Dear Ian,

I certainly will not vote for a sales tax that will spend money to widen Forum Blvd.

Best wishes

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**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2015 12:35 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Capital Improvements Sales Tax Proposal

Hello Ian,

Thank you for the update. As usual agree wholeheartedly with your suggestions and your reasoning on everything addresses below.

I hope to see you at Dunn Bro tomorrow.

Best regards,

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**Date:** Friday, May 22, 2015 12:29 PM  
**To:** Ian Thomas <[ward4@gocolumbiamo.com](mailto:ward4@gocolumbiamo.com)>  
**Subject:** Your Solicitation of Ward Constituent Opinions

Ian,

I thank you for your thoughts regarding the disposition of our city's various sales taxes; I appreciate the opportunity to respond. Knowing each other as we do, it will come as no surprise that my perspective differs from yours.

Although I am intimately familiar with our city's five sales taxes – having been a part of the groups which either initiated them or promoted their renewals over the years – your review is helpful to constituents who have been less involved in our city government. I believe that

your review would have been even more meaningful had you included the underlying philosophy of **why** each of these was proposed, **when** each was initially approved, **how often** the “sun-setting” taxes have been renewed and a **list of the projects** which each of them has funded. I realize that this would require considerably more research effort and that a Councilman’s time is precious, but I believe such additional information would help your readers to put in perspective the value of each of these local taxes. The funded project lists are particularly meaningful. This is well-documented information and is especially helpful when renewals of the sun-setting taxes are being promoted.

Although we share a dedication to bicycling we differ in our thinking about the value of our bus system, our many trails, street markings and intersection configurations. I do not believe that these efforts will result in a significant percentage of Columbians shifting their primary transportation mode from the private automobile to mass transit or bicycles. The bike accommodations are helpful safety enhancements for those who already ride regularly and likely encourage more recreational riding. But I am doubtful that the investment of over \$20,000,000 in federal funds these past several years has effected a significant “transportation mode shift” of 2% or greater.

As you know, I am a dedicated bicycle commuter and encourage other to be also. Bicycling has health and money-saving benefits for riders; it helps acclimate drivers to the fact that other vehicles share our roadways and shows drivers that cycling is a legitimate transportation method. But it does not relieve street congestion; think of the line of cars crawling along behind a cyclist pedaling at twelve miles per hour. And it has an impact on the city’s gasoline sales revenues. We should never overlook or fail to mention that all good things come at a cost.

I disagree with your contention that we cannot afford to build roads. This is precisely why the transportation sales tax was initiated and continues to enjoy voter support. Contrary to what a small but vocal and activist minority of Columbians would have us believe, our citizens expect our city administration, and by extension the City Council, to develop our city in a way which accommodates our own personal means of transportation – private automobiles. This is not New York City, Boston or London. Our Columbia residents will continue to own and use personal automobiles as their primary means of mobility. Furthermore, we have nearly 40,000 student residents, a large percentage of whom for the first time in their young lives, are enjoying an automobile dedicated solely for their use. A percentage of them will walk, bike or bus when it is convenient and the weather is nice, but their cars will remain their primary mobility choice.

I suspect that the studies to which you allude, indicating that Americans are driving less, may well be indicative of increased gasoline costs as much as anything else. These studies use data that are several years old and very likely are no longer accurate now that gasoline prices have

fallen from the record highs of three years ago. The bottom line is that our citizens will continue to drive their own cars. On a “per capita” basis they may drive fewer miles, but given that our community continues to grow, we can expect that miles driven within our corporate city limits will rise. It is essential that our city government plan for and accommodate this. Building streets to accommodate our citizens’ need to move about the city is one of the most basic responsibilities of our city government. If the transportation sales tax is not vigorous enough to meet these needs – and I am not convinced that this is the case - then additional financing needs to be found for this purpose. This may be in the form of new revenues or a reallocation of revenues that currently fund other programs or projects. Syphoning funds from roadways for other purposes, even alternative modes of transportation, is ill advised in my opinion.

Your negative comments about Forum Boulevard fail to address the fact that there are several pinch points on this roadway south of the Chapel Hill road intersection. Certainly the entrance to Wilson’s at the Hinkson creek is most troublesome, but slowing traffic and installing a small, one-lane roundabout is not the best solution in my opinion. What is needed is more stacking capacity for south-bound traffic waiting to turn left into the facility so that through-traffic can continue unimpeded. Perhaps widening Forum at that location, creating a left-turn lane with ample stacking capacity, would relieve this congestion. Another option would be to install barriers which make the Wilson’s access “right-in and right-out only”. Either of these options would be simpler and cheaper than a roundabout.

But relieving the bottleneck at Wilson’s does not address similar problems elsewhere on Forum which is now, by use if not by classification, a major arterial in the southwest part of our city. The intersections of Forum at Green Meadows and Nifong both cause traffic stacking at morning and evening commute time. Traffic delays at these intersections will continue to worsen unless relief is provided in some manner. It is highly unlikely that relief will come in the form of a significant number of those commuters adopting alternative transportation methods. In my opinion it is a pipe dream to anticipate that large numbers of the residents living in neighborhoods accessed by south Forum, west Green Meadows and west Nifong will become bicycle or bus commuters.

For better or worse, we are an “auto-centric” society at this time and we will remain so for at least one more generation: bicycling is still viewed primarily as a recreational activity and not a valid, primary means of transportation for adults. We need to address our traffic challenges through the configuration of our roadway system even as we encourage our citizens to consider and try alternative transportation. This “modal change” from personal cars to alternative transportation cannot, and should not, be forced upon the population either legislatively or by default because we have not addressing our roadway system.

Finally, my Friend, some constructive criticism from a ward constituent. The penultimate

paragraph of your note says:

“Please email me and let me know your thoughts on whether we should trim back certain very expensive road expansion projects in order to develop a more efficient and economical transportation system. Do you agree that traffic calming projects, building sidewalks on major streets that are lacking them, and expanding our public transit system can improve mobility and quality of life at a fraction of the cost of excessive road widening projects?”

Your choice of words such as “certain very expensive”, “more efficient and economical”, “Do you agree”, “at a fraction of the cost”, and “excessive road widening”, are so leading as to make any survey virtually useless if unbiased respondent opinions are the objective. Such language identifies the surveyors’ opinion, encouraging respondents to agree and discouraging contrary responses since the surveyor states an obvious mind-set at the outset. If you wish to get truly unbiased responses, more care must be exercised in the construction of the questions.

Jim

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