

The proposed widening of Highway 1 has been pending for many years because of public opposition. Pacificans do not want a wide freeway through the middle of our city that seeks to attract visitors.

Widening Highway 1 is a 1960s answer to occasional traffic backups. Highway 1 is four lanes, but traffic backs up only where there are intersections. Deal with those instead of pouring more concrete to widen the highway footprint, which is adequate most of the time. **More lanes always lure more traffic.**

Caltrans, of course, would make a mess of this, with lane closures during construction, early-morning noise, airborne dust, and loss of businesses, open space, and trees. (Forget about tourism during construction!)

Nobody on City Council got elected publicly favoring the widening. On the contrary. We've expressed our opposition to the widening each election by electing candidates who favor quicker, less disruptive, real solutions to the occasional traffic delays.

Under representative democracy, we elect representatives to make decisions. If everything goes to a public vote, why bother with City Council elections at all? After a decade of hearings and litigation, it's time to end this remnant of another era and focus on better alternatives.

**Bill Collins**