

*This is AM for your CC*

*When you think about the quickest way to drive through Eureka, you only think of a couple routes. You can take Broadway, eventually getting to 4th street, and maybe you will hit every streetlight, and as you slow down making room for the traffic congestion, it's for sure--that you will see the unpleasant sights on your right and left, as criminal drug addicts meander about.*

*Maybe you prefer an alternate route crisscrossing town, on a path with less stoplights. Maybe, like most locals, you like driving on H or I streets and quickly, easily getting to the other side of town. The two one-way streets--H and I-- make it easy; and as an added bonus, you know there are a lot less criminal drug addicts to look at as well.*

*But what if I told you there is a quiet effort to change H and I streets into each being Two way traffic? The thinking is that the streets should be beautified with center medians that can have trees and bushes planted on them, and for added safety, the medians could be a place for a pedestrian to wait as traffic passes by. The proponents of the plan also want to add bike lanes, several more stop signs and additional crosswalks. Those in favor of this idea, well they have exercised a massive amount of wishful thinking, convincing themselves that "sure, 2 way traffic, 2 lanes apiece," that's enough space for drivers. They think that we will just get used to it, because even though it will take forever to cross town, we will literally be able to stop and smell the roses!*

*While all that might sound good, it would make traffic even worse in Eureka. Regardless of our political views, when it comes to the public policy process, you have to add up the benefits of a new idea and see how it stacks up against the downsides of that idea. In this instance, Commuters would lose the one sure and swift way to cross town safely. Imagine the morning and afternoon rush hours! The bumper-to-bumper traffic would be prolonged, and more accidents would likely occur on backroads and intersections that we cannot even begin to predict.*

*And don't forget Eureka's 800 pound gorilla. The criminal drug addicts. I sympathize with everyone that wishes to make Eureka a more beautiful place to live, but until we reduce the number of addicts on our streets, constructing fancy medians that will become nighttime, camping getaways is not a good idea!*

*I share the proponents desire for more safety. I realize that we have schools on and nearby H and I. But it makes more sense to talk with law enforcement about patrolling that section better, if that's your point of view. If enough people in the community are really worked up about it, I'm sure that change can easily happen.*

*Maybe someday Eureka can have more of the modern look that we see in more urban cities, but until we get smart about reclaiming our streets, there is nothing to be gained by making rush hour traffic even worse.*