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**Sent:** 3/1/2022 10:32:11 AM  
**To:** mlewis6956@charter.net  
**Cc:** 'Debra Campbell' <dcampbell@ashevillenc.gov>, JMatthews@ashevillenc.gov, councilgroup <ashevillencouncil@ashevillenc.gov>, 'Dawa Hitch' <dhitch@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: "Incessant" e-mail

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Mike – you raise a good point. We do have data on Charlotte Street, lots of data, and I don't know why the DOT person you talked to wasn't aware of that, maybe because the road diet section of Charlotte Street is a city-maintained road. I agree it would be good to hear the results, from a data standpoint, of the Charlotte Street Road diet. For example, commute times have not dropped but crashes are way down. It would be good if the presentation regarding the Merrimon Road diet, which I thought was pretty thorough generally talking about the effects of road diets, included specific data about Charlotte Street.

Debra – I wonder if the city could do a press release about the data we've collected on the Charlotte Street Road diet, or push that info out in some other way. It's a great "good news" story.

Thanks,  
Esther

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**From:** mlewis6956@charter.net <mlewis6956@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2022 7:33 PM  
**To:** Councilwoman Wisler <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>; Councilwoman Roney <kimroney@avlcouncil.com>; Councilwoman Sandra Kilgore <sandrakilgore@avlcouncil.com>; Councilwoman Smith <shenekasmith@avlcouncil.com>; Councilwoman Turner <sageturner@avlcouncil.com>; Councilwoman Mosley <antanettemosley@avlcouncil.com>; Mayor Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>  
**Subject:** "Incessant" e-mail

I just came from the meeting on the Merrimon Conversion. It was more an open house without the chips and dip.

I am largely in favor of the conversion. But..

Are we getting the cart before, or at least beside, the horse? I asked one of the NCDOT people if the Charlotte St. road diet had met expectations. He said DOT was going to meet with the people who planned the Charlotte St. project. So how are citizens to make an enlightened decision on Merrimon if they don't have information on the only other similar project in Asheville?

My one fear of a three-lane Merrimon is getting caught behind a bus. That would really gum things up. The solution to that would be turnouts at all the bus stops-an expensive and divisive solution. The man from DOT with whom I spoke said turnouts were in the future. I hope not too far.

Merrimon IS a US highway-in name only. How many people drive to Greenville on Weaverville Rd., Merrimon Av., Broadway, Biltmore Av., and Hendersonville Rd. as their route? Most people coming from the north will use Future, Someday, Perhaps, Maybe, When we get around to it I-26. Merrimon is really a city street-a congested one. It should be 25A or Business 25.

While they're at it, why doesn't NCDOT place signs on the southbound side of 26 beginning at the New Stock Rd. exit stating, "Downtown Asheville, take Broadway." Thirty years ago there was another big flap over whether to three-lane or divide and four-lane Broadway. The latter finally prevailed. But Broadway remains possibly the most underutilized four-lane thoroughfare in WNC. Funneling Asheville bound traffic onto Broadway would alleviate *some* of the rush hour congestion on Merrimon.

Mike

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