

Mayor Marjorie Sloan
City of Golden
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CC: Councilor Casey Brown, Councilor Saoirse Charis-Graves, Councilor Jim Dale, Councilor Paul Haseman, Councilor Robert Reed, Councilor Laura Weinberg

RE: Golden Giddy Up STS

Mayor Sloan,

Before I sat down to write this letter I participated in discussion with mountain bikers and neighbors, watched YouTube videos of mountain biking (specifically STS neighborhood implementations), researched the Golden Giddy Up (GGU), through Facebook talked with Giddy Up Members and mountain biking enthusiasts, and examined the maps associated with the Pilot Project of trails proposed to run along the Kinney Run. Through my FB conversations I found most of the cyclists and the GGU quite rude and disrespectful. Had they been more willing to discuss my concerns in a kind and caring manner, I might more open to the implementation of the pilot STS track than I am now. Instead of helping me understand what this is all about, easing my fears, and attempting to open my mind up to this project, my research along these individuals have lead me to a position that stands against the implementation of the proposed STS pilot project here in South Golden along the entire length of the Kinney Run.

I first heard about this pilot project 3-4 weeks ago and was shocked to learn that this project has been under proposal for a year or more with City Council. I am disappointed that there has been little communication from the GGU or the City Council with the neighbors of the Kinney Run who will be most impacted by this pilot project, that there are no published studies on the impact these trails will have on wildlife, the natural landscape, the Lime Kiln, property values, noise levels, safety of pedestrians near the entrances/exits of the dirt trails, increase in traffic and how traffic will be handled, possible increase in crime, and long term costs. These concerns extend the length of the proposed STS pilot project. I live along Segment 5 of the Kinney Run and walk Segments 4 and 5 with my dogs 5 to 7 days a week and I stand against the implementation of the STS pilot project.

Segment 5 is truly a beautiful, as well as historic, area along the projected path. In fact, it is a unique little ecosystem. Deer and Elk regularly come into this area to give birth. There is an abundance of birds, often rare birds, in the area. Coyote, bobcats, raccoon, skunk, and snakes also make their home here. This area offers a quiet retreat for those seeking a quiet space and it a wonderful place to visit with neighbors walking their dogs or just taking a daily walk. I am concerned that mountain bikes racing through the area will have a negative impact on this open space many neighbors have come to love for the peace it offers.

I know volunteers are willing to install the STS, but what happens when they grow tired of the upkeep, move away from the area, or run out of money? I am aware of the economic pluses of this project, but in the long term what will the City's cost be? There are so many unknowns that need to be answered.

I ask you Mayor Sloan and Council members to consider this project very carefully before giving this STS Pilot project blanket approval.

Respectfully,

Diana Packard