



Somis Municipal Advisory Council

c/o County of Ventura
625 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Members of the Council:
Patrick Richards (Chair)
Robert Fulkerson (Vice Chair)
Tyler Cobb
Jack Foss
Patricia Martinez

September 29, 2021

Caitlin Brooks, Project Manager
Ventura County Transportation Commission
751 E. Daily Drive, Suite 420
Camarillo, California 93010

Subject: Opposition to the Addition of SR 34 (Somis Road) and SR 118 (Los Angeles Avenue) as Freight Corridors

Dear Ms. Brooks,

As Chair of the Somis Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), I am writing on behalf of the MAC and Somis community in strong opposition to the creation of freight corridors on SR 34 (Somis Road) and SR 118 (Los Angeles Avenue). On September 9, 2021, the MAC voted 4-0 to send this letter of opposition regarding any potential addition of a freight corridor cutting through our community, and particularly to the widening of Somis Road to accommodate large trucks and increased traffic. Somis is a small and rural community, and proud of its long history in Ventura County, which is the home to three Historical Landmark sites immediately adjacent to Somis Road. The addition of a freight corridor through our town would create conditions that would ruin the rural character of this community and would be greatly opposed by the MAC and Somis residents.

We are strenuously opposed to any widening of Somis Road through the downtown area. This would destroy the local businesses along this road, one of which is a designated Historical Landmark by the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board. Fulkerson Hardware Store, located at 3403 Somis Road, was built in 1925 and spans three generations of family ownership. It rests on the original foundation of Jonathan Fulkerson's hardware store and blacksmith shop from the earliest days of Somis. Any road widening would threaten this beloved and historical site.

In addition, there are significant safety concerns on Somis Road with Somis School a short distance away on North Street. Many students use the crosswalk at North Street and Somis Road, which does not have a traffic light to ensure cars and trucks will stop for pedestrians. Turning Somis Road into a freight corridor would exponentially increase the risk of crossing for elementary students and other pedestrians.

The MAC requests that you take into consideration the serious concerns I have mentioned and urges you to remove SR 118 and Somis Road from consideration as freight corridors. Please note we have a strong history of opposition to adding additional lanes to the 118 highway, which continues to today, and as a result of successful litigation, the County of Ventura has also agreed with this position. Please include this letter as part of the record for the Ventura County Transportation Commission as they consider freight corridors within Ventura County.

Regards,

Pat Richards, Chair
Somis Municipal Advisory Council