

Comments from Columbia City Council Ward 1 Representative Valerie Carroll:

On Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 9:58 AM City of Columbia Ward 1 <ward1@como.gov> wrote:

Hi Tim and De'Carlton,

These are my own comments and information related to Ash Street for your consideration. I have already sent this ahead to Mayor Buffaloe.

I am providing the following information in support of the request to downgrade Ash Street from Major Collector to Neighborhood collector. I've cc'd Dee Dokken here who is a leader in that group. They would like to know if Tuesday's CATSO coordinating meeting will be a public hearing format where community members can speak on the subject. They also wanted to know if the Ash Street agenda item could be moved up to the beginning of the agenda.

As outlined in the attached letter from the neighborhood's original request, The dimensions and built environment on Ash Street are more similar to a Neighborhood Collector than a Major Collector. West Ash has a pavement width of 26-31'. Street standards in our City Code (Ch 29 Sec.A.3) call for 30-34' for a Neighborhood Collector and 32-44' for a Major Collector. Ash is, in fact, smaller than the requirement for a Neighborhood Collector and much smaller than a Major Collector. There are numerous driveways exiting onto the street which is prohibited in the code for a Major Collector. For most properties on Ash front yard setbacks are smaller than required by code, dedicated right of ways are narrow and in some places may not exist at all. Ash is an older street and is already built out. Based on Area Planning Documents, the anticipated future land use for the area remains residential. Most of the houses here were built between the 1920s to 1950s well before the passage of a unified development code. While it may be desirable to have better traffic connectivity in older areas of town, there is not enough room in this area to accommodate the necessary infrastructure to serve a greater volume of traffic.

It's true that Ash currently functions in many ways as both Major Collector and a Neighborhood Collector. The traffic volumes it carries are at the high end of a Neighborhood Collector and at low end of a Major Collector. However, according to MoDOT traffic volume maps (<https://www.modot.org/traffic-volume-maps>) the average annual daily traffic (AADT) counts for Ash are on the same scale (400-2,499 AADT) as Stewart, Rollins, Sexton and Walnut. All of which are designated Neighborhood Collectors or below in the CATSO roadway plan. Broadway, is one block south of Ash street and carries 5,000-9,999 AADT. It is designated as an Arterial.

The residents surrounding Ash Street have been engaging on the topic of traffic calming for long before the current Ash Street Improvement project was introduced. I've attached some correspondences that were shared with council by the neighborhood in 2020 requesting more visible painting schemes for bike lanes, and traffic calming. In December 2020 the neighborhood association turned in petitions for the city's Traffic calming program. They had 83 signatures. That's equivalent to 9% of the First Ward voter turnout in the April 2020 municipal election. Only 10 signatures are required for participation in the traffic calming program. They had 29 signatures from residents on Ash St proper, however they were told that Ash is not eligible for

the traffic calming program because of its Major Collector designation (see attached correspondence with city staff).

Chapter 29 Sec A.1.(b)(1) of the City code does acknowledge the street standards for existing streets should be applied with flexibility due to the physical constraints such as a narrow right-of-way or the proximity of buildings, utilities or mature trees. It would be effective to acknowledge that the characteristics and built environment on Ash St serves the needs of both Neighborhood and Major Collector and to take a hybrid approach between those designations when making recommendations for street standards and infrastructure improvements. However an ineligibility for traffic calming programs given its current designation, indicates that a flexible approach is not present in actual practice.

Thanks,
Valerie

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