

Streetscape proposal- public comment

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To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>

To the Members of the Oak Bluffs Planning Board:

As a long time manager of a downtown Oak Bluffs business, and a resident of Oak Bluffs, I am writing in to express my support of the proposed Streetscape plans for Oak Bluffs, specifically with regard to a change to parallel parking in order to accommodate wider sidewalks.

Additionally, I would like to further this sentiment by saying I would also support parallel parking the entire length of Circuit Ave, allowing for wider sidewalks and improved pedestrian access the full length of our main street.)

This proposal addresses several of the inadequacies present in our downtown area: lack of sufficient sidewalk space for wheelchairs and strollers, inefficient foot traffic patterns due to narrow sidewalks, relieving congestion and crowding on our sidewalks (especially during COVID) and accommodating the thousands of pedestrians unloading from ferries in to Oak Bluffs during our busiest months.

I would like to see these changes implemented and for the planning board to move forward with the proposal to eliminate diagonal parking and widen sidewalks throughout our downtown. Main Street America is dying - we are being afforded the chance to keep ours thriving - this won't be done by preserving parking at the expense of all else - it will be done by preserving and improving the pedestrian experience.

Thank you for your time,

Kaitie Galofaro
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