



102 Roadrunner Drive
Sedona, Arizona 86336
www.SedonaAZ.gov

January 26, 2021

Traffic Matters, Action Committee for Oak Creek Canyon
Marcie Ellis, Chair
Jerry Showalter, Vice Chair
251 Lower Indian Gardens
Sedona, AZ 86336

Committee Members and all Interested Parties,

We are writing to support continued efforts on the part of all Oak Creek Canyon stakeholders to seek a blend of solutions that will relieve the overabundant traffic and its associated problems in Oak Creek Canyon. We know meaningful solutions and fixes can't be accomplished until a valid determination can be provided as to the number of vehicles and persons that can safely and responsibly enjoy recreating in Oak Creek Canyon. Therefore, it is our belief that a Capacity Study for the Canyon is in order, and while the City's work in the Canyon is done, we whole heartedly support that effort.

To date, and with the support of Sedona's Police and Fire Departments and the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sedona has already coordinated many changes and improvements that have positively impacted the Canyon and our residents. Along with our regional partners: Coconino and Yavapai County Supervisors, Coconino County's Sheriff Dept. and Dept. of Public Safety, ADOT, USFS and State Parks, City council members and staff spent two years discussing and gathering input to identify citizen priorities throughout the area. These priorities are now contained in the Transportation Master Plan, collectively known as Sedona in Motion (SIM). All projects are designed to improve safety and traffic flow, provide non-motorized travel options, and support transit, They also focus on reducing environmental and traffic impacts, and preserving Sedona's beauty and livability.

While Oak Creek Canyon is, for the most part, outside the City limits, it is so closely identified with Sedona, and serves so many of our visitors and residents, that we take an active interest in its preservation. Overcrowding at recreation sites, random parking, encroachment on private properties, inadequate law enforcement and sanitation oversights have all compromised the health and safety of residents and



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visitors alike, as well negatively impacting the environment and water quality in Oak Creek.

Once thought of as only a one- or two-year abnormality, the over-visitation now appears to have reached a tipping point. Something must be done. The good news is that ADOT recently approved a Corridor Profile Study for 89A through Oak Creek Canyon starting in spring of 2021. This plan is one the primary ways ADOT pulls projects into their Planning to Programming Process (P2P), which then feeds into the 5-Year Construction Plan. The plan will also look at some capacity elements, so part of the job could already be done. With all these factors in mind, we are comfortable advocating for a capacity study in Oak Creek Canyon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Osburn".

Karen Osburn, Assis. City Manager