

# Talking Points for Letters to Council in Support of Alternative A & B

[Images of the Alternatives & Community Cycles Summary Table](#)

## General Notes to Consider Before Writing

Under options A and B, no travel lanes would be eliminated at the Broadway intersection or east of Folsom.

Criticism of option B may result in selection of options C or D.

Kalmia and Hawthorn have unsignalized crossings of busy streets, making them unsuitable alternatives to Iris for young children, many of the elderly, and those with physical disabilities.

## Primary Opening Elements for All Letters

*Residency:* I am a resident of Boulder,

*Statement of support for both alternatives A & B:* and I am writing to express my support for a road rebalancing of Iris Avenue from 4 to 3 lanes with a center turn lane (proposed options A or B).

## Main Elements

*Safety for all users:* Only options A & B will substantially increase safety for all users, including drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, by slowing traffic speeds, making left turns easier and safer for everyone, and allowing the installation of protected intersections.

*Time:* Only options A & B can be implemented in the next three to five years. By contrast, options C & D would likely take 15 to 20 years to implement because utilities would need to be moved and the right-of-way expanded. Delay of decades would effectively mean the abandonment of Council's commitment to make our arterials safer, the central objective of the Core Arterial Network.

*Expense:* Options C & D would cost 4 or 5 times more than options A or B, making options C & D an irresponsible choice in an era of declining City budgets. Only options A & B make wise use of scarce resources.

*Reject "Alternative Options":* I also encourage you to reject calls for an option that would rely on Kalmia and Hawthorn as an alternative to Iris for cyclists and pedestrians. Kalmia and Hawthorn include several unsignalized crossings that make these routes unsafe for young children, the elderly, or those with a physical disability. Moreover, some cyclists and

pedestrians will use Iris, so safety on Iris still needs to be greatly improved as an essential element of the Core Arterial Network. Only options A & B make Iris safe for everyone, regardless of age or physical ability.

**Encourages Mode Shift:** Only Options A & B do enough to encourage more walking and biking. The 4-lane configurations (options C & D) do not do anything to reduce speeds on Iris, involve the loss of tree canopy, and lack protected intersections. These features of options C & D guarantee that Iris would be a loud and uncomfortable place to walk or bike.

### **Additional Elements**

**Travel time:** Opponents of options A & B almost universally hold the mistaken view that rebalancing the roadway would mean a catastrophic increase in congestion. With the number of lanes unchanged at the bookends of Iris, this outcome is not likely. Arapaho Avenue shows us that a rebalanced roadway can safely and comfortably handle traffic volumes similar to those on Iris with modest delay only during peak periods of travel.

**Shifting public sentiment:** It is important to note that initial opposition to road rebalancing can transform into support following completion of the project. For example, the rebalancing of Electric Avenue in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, was opposed by 95 percent of residents when it was first proposed; after completion, nearly 95 percent of residents support the changes.

**Give Staff Time:** Some will assert that the 2015 road rebalancing on Folsom demonstrated that a substantial increase in congestion can be expected. But the real lesson from Folsom is that City staff should be afforded the time necessary to study and adjust a road rebalancing before it is abandoned.

### **Closing Element for All Letters**

**Be Bold:** We need to take the bold steps now to achieve the transportation mix we want instead of the accommodating car-dominated transportation mix we have today.

**Salutation & Location:** Sincerely, [Name, Address in Boulder (or cross streets where you live) ]