

**Mayor's column for  
The Enterprise  
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I've read with great interest several letters to the editor criticizing me for the new ferry striping that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) installed a few weeks ago. The facts, of course, are much different than some letter-writers have written. You'd think from the letters that I was out there on my hands and knees painting the stripes down SR104 myself!

For the record, I completely support the actions of the State on this project. For years I've heard the concerns of residents who live along SR104 about speeding traffic, inability to get onto the highway from their driveways, or accessing driveways and side streets due to the heavy ferry traffic, particularly on Fridays and weekends. I have encouraged WSDOT to alleviate the problems.

Seeing how well the Mukilteo ferry traffic works (and they've had ferry-lane striping for years), I had hoped that something similar could be done for Edmonds.

So now I've heard the concerns about the changes, from narrowing traffic to one lane, to blocking off one entrance to Paradise Lane, to the new configuration on Pine Street, which, by the way, has one of the highest accident rates in the city. I understand that the changes may cause some confusion, and I see the need for more signage and specific language regarding the use of the striped lane, as well as more signage about allowable/not allowable turns, making it crystal clear what is expected of drivers and ferry riders.

Our traffic engineer is monitoring the changes. After some time has passed and we have had the chance to observe how well it's working, we'll ask WSDOT to make any additional changes we see necessary. However, we'll not offer knee-jerk reactions to change. We have waited too long to make this State highway more functional and safer for the benefit of Edmonds residents, as well as those traveling to the ferry. We'll continue to do so as we look for additional changes that need to be made.

Even if I have to get down on my hands and knees to make the changes myself.