

The bypass, again

To the Editor:

My husband and I have been summertime residents at Clark's Point in Wiscasset for the past six years. Most of the year we live in the Washington, D.C., area, where traffic logjams are a daily fact of life as they are in many other parts of the country. We have followed the bypass discussions, read reports and attended many meetings with great interest.

Now that the bypass issue has been laid to rest, I believe it is important to look at the many incremental ways of alleviating the traffic backups. No one solution can be expected to resolve the problem, but certainly trying three, or four, or five, can help. Those who persist in the "oh, we've tried that before" mentality only serve to prevent any type of resolution at all.

One suggestion that I made to Mr. Audibert (ed. note: DOT Representative Gerry Audibert) was to realign the long lines of people waiting at Red's Eats. Having them helter skelter along the edge of the road on Rt. 1 is dangerous and disconcerting to drivers, especially the big 18-wheelers that cannot stop on a dime. One never knows if a child might dart out into the traffic. Simply having those 50-75 people line up down Water Street would make a significant difference.

Most probably, the shops along Water Street wouldn't mind either. This proposal would cost nothing and there is nothing to lose.

Somehow when Mr. Audibert offered it at the Selectman's meeting on Nov. 29, the idea got tied to buying Red's Eats (which

I never suggested) and so was dismissed. Surely the town can work with Red's to make this small change in where people line up for their food if it means the patrons are safer and traffic is somewhat improved?

I also think the proposal to make Water and Middle streets one way has merit. Again, this would be an incremental approach, not one expected to resolve the whole problem. I personally would love to see Water Street made into a summertime pedestrian mall with tables and umbrellas, but I know that would never fly.

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Wiscasset