

From: [Robin Crotty](#)
To: [Robin Crotty](#)
Subject: FW: Fourth Street Closure Feedback
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:01:22 PM

From: Richard English
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:29 AM
To: Participate <participate@ketchumidaho.org>
Subject: Fourth Street Closure Feedback

In case I can't make it on September 2, here are some thoughts about the Fourth Street Closure...

It appears that while this closure was well intended, decision making apparently didn't fully consider the implications it would have on traffic flow and access to businesses. If a traffic study had been done, I suspect that there would have been more understanding of these issues.

The business impact in terms of customer access can only be reported by those affected. I have no personal information there, but have read accounts and heard anecdotally that a number of businesses feel that their customer flow was diminished by the closure. Given the highly seasonal aspect of the local economy, any action which impedes customer access to local businesses can have a devastating effect.

Traffic patterns in this tiny community are clearly affected by the closure of a key thoroughfare. Examples are access to the alleys that run between Fourth and Third/Sun Valley Road. Each of these alleys carries commercial as well as residential and visitor traffic, and the closure of Fourth Street makes that access more difficult. In the case of the alley between Leadville and East, delivery vehicles and waste removal vehicles must have access. With Fourth closed, all such vehicles must enter and exit the alley on Sun Valley Road, and in the case of larger vehicles which cannot turn around in the alley, they must BACK in or BACK out of the alley, leading to traffic conflicts at the Sun Valley Road intersection. Access to Sturtevant's must also have been impacted for some of these reasons. Closure of Fourth also causes additional traffic on Fifth and Third, with undefined consequences.

If Ketchum had the underground delivery access that the City of Chicago enjoys, some of these issues would not present problems — but we don't.

I suggest that any future street closures, temporary or otherwise, be carefully studied before being implemented. Ketchum may just be too small to accommodate such closures without undesirable consequences outweighing the possible niceties of being able to walk in a street.

Dick

Richard 'Dick' English