



Monday, 9:27 a.m., February, 20, 2023 President's Day
A fleet of electric carts has replaced most of the delivery truck traffic in the heart of Vail Village.

VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Letters to Vail

Bringing a Decades-Long Vision of a Pedestrian Village to Reality

March 20, 2023

The year's-long effort to rid Vail of noisy and street clogging commercial traffic has reached a new plateau with the successful removal of on-street truck deliveries. That has been achieved through an electric cart delivery system paid for by an increase in business license fees, something that the VHA has long advocated for. For both residents and tourists, it means a cleaner, more pleasant and enjoyable Vail.

The key to making the system work is to reward commercial truck drivers by paying them not to deliver via the streets from their trucks to the front door of their customers. Instead, commercial truckers transfer their consignments to the TOV's electric carts and drivers who make the final deliveries from Vail Village's Mountain Plaza underground truck terminal. The proof of success is seen in the difference shown in comparative photographs taken 5 years apart, the day after President's Day, at the same time of the morning (see below).



Gore Creek Drive – 2018, Tuesday, February 20, 9:34 a.m. – Day after President’s Day



Gore Creek Drive – 2023, Tuesday, February 21, 9:34 a.m. - Day after President’s Day

The job of freeing Vail completely from commercial traffic is not, however, complete. There is still the noisy disruption from early morning trash trucks that continues to disturb the tranquility of residents and hotel guests occupying floors above commercial businesses. According to TOV sources, experimentation and negotiations are underway to arrive at a means to use the electric cart system to remove waste in a way that reduces disruptions. The approach being studied would retain the existing trash handling facilities in buildings, as they are, while limiting removal noise. Electric carts would transfer waste to nearby compactors for transport by trash hauling companies to the Eagle County waste processing center.

As advocated by VHA, it has taken over two decades in re-development investment throughout Vail Village and Lionshead to build a series of satellite underground trucking terminals in new buildings that has enabled the system to function. Millions more has been spent on creating a safe walking experience accomplished by an extensive streetscape program that included landscaped areas, decorative lighting and the installation of a snow melting system beneath brick paved streets. Because of this foresight, Vail’s town center has been able to retain its celebrated character and charm.

Perhaps it is now time to seriously consider creating historic districts for both the Vail Town center and Lionshead while the charm of those areas is still largely intact. Already it is being chipped away by large developments that bear little resemblance to historic Vail. The Vail Valley Medical Center and the proposed Evergreen re-development stand out for their non-Vail characteristics, and there will be more. And the Town seems bent on approving a Timber Ridge II redevelopment that will consist of seven big-box apartment buildings that will be lacking in architectural aesthetics. The time to act is now; otherwise, Vail will continue to drift away from its founding vision of a unique, special place where beauty, good taste and design excellence set the pace for the community.

VHA provides clear and concise discussions of matters affecting the Vail community in the belief that an informed citizenry will be an engaged citizenry. Our intent is to promote more citizen involvement and community discussion of issues facing the Town. If this is an issue that concerns you, please make your views known to [town officials](#). By joining with VHA, as a member, paid-subscriber or reader you can add your voice to sustain what is good about our community and to shine a spotlight on important issues.

To receive VHA letters and reports as a Reader, Paid-Subscriber or Member.

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