

Excelsior Traffic Calming Project
Notes from Community Working Group Meeting #3
July 31, 2006 • 6:30PM - 8:00PM

I. Introduction & Welcome

a. Nicholas Kinsey – Office of Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval

Mr. Kinsey is observing and supporting the progress of the traffic calming project. Sandoval is a neighbor in the Excelsior community.

b. Nancy Amaya – DPT Enforcement

Discussed parking enforcement issues.

- Ms. Amaya covers the whole city, including Excelsior. Up to four officers will patrol the neighborhood at any given time to enforce parking. Typically, enforcement aims for enforcement within 35 minutes.
- 553-1200 [press 1 and 44 to bypass the phone tree] for sidewalk violations, double-parking, red zone violations, etc.
- 553-1943, Nancy Amaya's direct number.
- Questions were raised re: sidewalk violations. If a car blocks the sidewalk and neighbors complain, then car will be ticketed and subsequently, any other cars blocking along the same block will also be ticketed. DPT must be consistent.
- Ms. Amaya also noted that an increase in fines has effectively reduced certain violations.
- Re: taking over parking with business vehicles (e.g. limos) or doing auto body work in a residential garage, refer to city attorney's office for code enforcement.

c. Suzanne Gavin – Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)

FUF has planted 40,000 trees in 25 years. They plant by neighborhood and designate a neighborhood organizer to get neighbors involved and set up a Saturday to plant trees.

- Street trees cost \$100 each including cutting out concrete and planting.
- Persia Ave and Mission St are DPW streets, which means FUF cannot plant trees on these streets.
- FUF needs 25 people to sign up before setting up a Saturday for tree-planting.
- Permits: DPW issues free permits for planting trees with up to a 4x4 basin. However, individual requesting permit must pay for tree, planting, concrete haul-out. A \$200 side walk landscaping permit is required for trees with a larger than 4x4 basin.
- FUF wants to coordinate with MTA, PUC (currently updating all sewer systems), and the Excelsior Festival (October).
- Timeline is nine months between hiring neighborhood coordinator and actually planting trees.
- Suzanne Gavin – suzanne@fuf.net

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II. Where we are now.

Philip Louie discussed traffic calming devices proposed in the neighborhood.

- Discussed pros and cons of devices.
 1. Speed bumps: described as “ghettoizing” neighborhood, can be an issue for fire dept and for the disabled, has noise and vibration issues.
 2. Chokers: not used as much in San Francisco, would like to try them out in the neighborhood, may be unfriendly for bicyclists.
 3. Median islands and circles: want trees and landscaping, circles should not just be tested out (will they actually be effective in slowing down traffic?)
 4. Bulb-outs: take out 4 parking spaces... will this be a problem?
- Neighbors need to reach consensus and will vote by ballot on devices.

III. Speed and Volume Data Collected

IV. Draft Traffic Calming Plan Presented

- a. Goals of Traffic Calming Plan
- b. Comments and Changes Recommended by CWG
- c. Prioritize Traffic Calming Device Installation

Other areas/issues noted by CWG:

- Where Craut St and Madrid St meets Silver Ave
Residents concerned about pedestrian safety. Location of bus stop and crosswalk need to be reconsidered. Residents suggested moving crosswalk to Craut St where stop sign currently exists. MTA concerned because crosswalk will then lead into a driveway. MTA will consult DPW. Also raised suggestion of moving bus stop to Craut St.
- More street lighting
- Congestion at Persia Ave and Paris St.
- Lack of curb cuts in neighborhood. MTA can notify DPW.
- Speeding noticed near open, park spaces. Another possible solution is angled parking staggered on a street.
- Worry about comfort of peds for traffic circles. Suggested for Athens St and Italy St. Unhappy with Page St circle problems.
- Donuts are a significant problem in the northern part of neighborhood.
- Neighbors want to see an evaluation done after traffic calming devices are implemented.
- Residents want bus shelters, if feasible.
- Residents like the “gateway treatment” idea.

V. Other studies in progress

- a. Geneva-Mission Project Update

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- VI. Next Steps**
- a. Any other data collection locations**
 - b. If consensus met, revise any changes and clean up plan**
 - c. Hold community meeting or next CWG meeting in late August**

At next community meeting, residents will discuss worst blocks in the neighborhood, donuts issue around France Ave, and decide on overall devices.

Nick Kinsey offered to send out info about meeting to Sandoval's lists.

Proposed next community meeting –

Location:

- Clubhouse? Maybe too small...
- Boys and Girls Club?
- Cleveland school?
- Monroe?

Time: Prefer Saturday morning 10am-12pm

Date: Aug 19? Aug 26?

Present:

- Manito Velasco, Philip Louie, Agnes Chan (MTA Planning)
- Nancy Amaya (DPT Enforcement)
- Nicholas Kinsey (Office of Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval)
- Suzanne Gavin (Friends of the Urban Forest)

CWG Members:

- Ruth Grabowski
- Matt Householder
- Rick Pohl
- Michael Zimmerman
- Cynthia Vasquez
- Wilma Enriquez