

Public Comment

(Consent Agenda Items, County Manager's Report, Closed Session, and matters not listed on the agenda)

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Neil Barman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; Safety; CMO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Ron Snow
Subject: Fwd: Update on Santa Cruz/Alameda "Y" Intersection Safety Trial
Attachments: InfoFlyer - Safety Trial at Y.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello -

I am a resident of the unincorporated part of Menlo Park. I would like to voice my support for correcting this issue discussed by Ron Snow.

In fact, my mother was almost hit by a car crossing this same crosswalk.

Having lived in the area for 16 years, it's become clear that this segment of the road is particularly dangerous to pedestrians. I feel that part of the issue is that the responsibility for this area is split across 2 jurisdictions: Menlo Park City and Unincorporated Menlo Park (County). As a consequence neither side takes full responsibility for the hazards.

We pay an abundance of property taxes, and these really should cover basic safety measures like those outlined by Ron Snow. My friends in other parts of the country that spend far less in taxes often have much better safer pedestrian paths, crosswalks and roadways.

In addition to the death of Amy Bijain crossing at this crosswalk, there have been other deaths nearby such as the 2015 death of Amit Bagchi (<https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2015/12/19/fatal-crash-closes-sand-hill-road>) at Sand Hill and Santa Cruz (only a few hundred yards away). The city of Menlo Park has done a lot to put in sidewalks and crossings to improve the safety on the Menlo Park City portion of Santa Cruz. It's time the county did a better job too.

Best,
Neil

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ron Snow [REDACTED]
Subject: Update on Santa Cruz/Alameda "Y" Intersection Safety Trial
Date: August 12, 2019 at 8:00:50 AM PDT
To: UnivPark [REDACTED]

Santa Cruz/Alameda Intersection — Safety Trial —



Temporary Changes to test elimination of serious dangers on NB Santa Cruz

County has implemented a Safety Trial to test key aspects of improving safety on Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz/Alameda Y intersection. The Trial is being monitored. The key is to achieve the safety enhancements and observe impact on traffic queues, motorist behavior, and general sense of safety.

Key Changes:

- ✓ Left traffic lane is now ONLY for Alameda de las Pulgas
- ✓ Right lane is ONLY for Santa Cruz north
- ✓ Cyclists should consider using only the right lane and may proceed to either Alameda or Santa Cruz
- ✓ All traffic flows at the basic same rate and stops on red -- no red turn on red

Safety Improvements

The Safety Trial was implemented using temporary markings, bollards, and digital signs and will be testing many important safety improvements, including the following:

- Eliminate 5,500+ lane changes per day
- Move traffic lane away from the sidewalk and residential driveways
- Eliminate primary cause of the chronic NB red light running at this intersection
- Provide local residents a reprieve from traffic to safely access their driveways
- Help shorten a dangerous and long crosswalk
- Provide traffic calming to help slow excessive speeding (a 1st initial step in addressing this)
- Eliminate the chaotic traffic flow at this NB intersection, providing cyclists and motorists a calmer flow
- Eliminate tendency of motorists cutting in to the shoulder/park lane in the slip lane
- Traffic lights at this intersection will be 'normal', removing the dangerous speed differential between traffic lanes and allowing traffic to flow at similar speeds
- Remove that short 3rd lane and the 'always green traffic light' that was the source of so many dangerous conditions
- Reduce collision risk to residents, pedestrians, and Campo Bello traffic

Observations — thus far

The Safety Trial, being a test, lacked some key elements, foremost are the lack of needed bike safety enhancements and motorist/cyclist guidance. Cyclists, consider only using the Right Lane. Cyclists are allowed to continue on to Alameda or Santa Cruz. Please drive extra safe!

All traffic stops on red — a definite improvement:

- Traffic, both lanes, now flows at a similar rate — no more huge differential in speed
- Red light is providing the safety traffic break residents wanted - from before the Y clear to residents north to Oak Dell. Residents now express a feeling of safety when exiting their driveways and are very appreciative
- Even flow of traffic has shown safety improvements for cyclists where they can more easily flow to and through the intersection (Bike lanes are still needed)
- With all traffic now stopping, pedestrians in crosswalk feel safer and have reduced risk

Using 2 dedicated lanes — instead of forcing 3rd:

- Residents have expressed having an easier time entering/exiting their driveways
- Traffic is flowing much smoother. The elimination of 5,500+ additional lane changes is a huge improvement
- The NB traffic lanes are now all 9.4' in width as they approach the intersection and that also has contributed to a calmer - saner flow
- A much higher number of vehicles driving at slower speeds (still roudge speeders)
- Cars are no longer cutting over the slip lane shoulder line — closer to the center line and further away from the residents & walking path

The goal, should the safety trail continue to be a success, is to provide a permanent solution that will act as a safety bridge until our Santa Cruz/Alameda corridor has changes to install permanent buffered bike lanes and sidewalks and protections for residents & pedestrians.



For an interactive 'before' - 'proposed' view of the above image: UnivPark.org/safe/safety-trial

More Information at: UnivPark.org
Contact: safety@UnivPark.org

Crosswalk
– Safety –
Stop Limit
Line

Right Lane
Definition -
Shoulder stripe
to Sand Hill

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Don Horsley
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Neil Barman; Michael Callagy; Safety; CMO_BoardFeedback
Cc: Ron Snow
Subject: RE: Update on Santa Cruz/Alameda "Y" Intersection Safety Trial

The County does recognize that this is an extremely busy corridor. I think the last traffic count showed something like 20,000 plus car trips per day. So the County embarked on a process to consider appropriate modifications to the roadways and crossings. The process included working with a traffic consultant and a group of local citizens, the SAFE task force. The Task force and County developed conceptual plans for improvements to the corridor and there has been wide involvement with the broader community to be sure that the final plans meet the needs of the community. The pandemic has slowed down the process but it will be completed in the very near future. It is my understanding that a recommendation will be coming to the Board of Supervisors to approve both the plan and to appropriate funding for the improvements in the corridor.

From: Neil Barman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Don Horsley <dhorsley@smcgov.org>; Michael Callagy <MCallagy@smcgov.org>; Safety [REDACTED]
CMO_BoardFeedback <BoardFeedback@smcgov.org>
Cc: Ron Snow <ronsnow@univpark.org>
Subject: Fwd: Update on Santa Cruz/Alameda "Y" Intersection Safety Trial

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Hello -

I am a resident of the unincorporated part of Menlo Park. I would like to voice my support for correcting this issue discussed by Ron Snow.

In fact, my mother was almost hit by a car crossing this same crosswalk.

Having lived in the area for 16 years, it's become clear that this segment of the road is particularly dangerous to pedestrians. I feel that part of the issue is that the responsibility for this area is split across 2 jurisdictions: Menlo Park City and Unincorporated Menlo Park (County). As a consequence neither side takes full responsibility for the hazards.

We pay an abundance of property taxes, and these really should cover basic safety measures like those outlined by Ron Snow. My friends in other parts of the country that spend far less in taxes often have much better safer pedestrian paths, crosswalks and roadways.

In addition to the death of Amy Bijain crossing at this crosswalk, there have been other deaths nearby such as the 2015 death of Amit Bagchi (<https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2015/12/19/fatal-crash-closes-sand-hill-road>) at Sand Hill and Santa Cruz (only a few hundred yards away). The city of Menlo Park has done a lot to put in sidewalks and crossings to improve the safety on the Menlo Park City portion of Santa Cruz. It's time the county did a better job too.



Sukhmani Purewal

From: Tiger Wilks [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; safety@univpark.org; CMO_BoardFeedback; Jim Porter; Carole Groom; Dave Pine; David Canepa; Warren Slocum
Subject: Please support needed safety for a Palo Alto Way crosswalk

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

I request County Supervisors require the immediate installation of safety improvements at the Palo Alto Way crosswalk, including the recommended Pedestrian activated crosswalk warning light system for the crosswalk . Additionally, County should install the other recommended improvements like advance stop lines to keep stopped traffic well back of crosswalks; and, a Pedestrian Crossing warning bollard. Supervisor's help is needed to finally get these critical safety measures enacted and promptly put in place.

Limor Wilks

Limor

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Ron Snow [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Don Horsley; CMO_BoardFeedback; Carole Groom; Dave Pine; David Canepa; Warren Slocum
Cc: Ron Snow; Jim Porter; safety@univpark.org; Michael Callagy
Subject: An Important Consideration -- Palo Alto Way crosswalk

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Board Supervisors,

Following is an important additional consideration and reason for implementing the recommended safety measures now for the Palo Alto Way crosswalk, instead of waiting. The safety issues are real and we experience the risks daily. Yet County has had these recommendations from safety engineers and traffic engineers for over 10 years. County PW has formally presented these safety improvements to our whole community back on Jan 30th.

So this is not a question **if** these improvements should be put in. Everyone is in agreement on this. The problem is that Public Works is willing to put our safety on hold for years more. County Supervisors can and should correct this. We have a serious safety issue. We have a solution that County and Community agree with. The cost of the improvements are not expensive and PW has said the money (\$16k to \$20k) is available now. Where the disagreement is, is in scheduling. The need is now; hopefully you, our County Supervisors, will take action to prioritize our safety and help PW take immediate action to implement the key improvements.

We have been waiting for 16 years. We brought this up when Rich Gordon was Supervisor back in 2004 and again in 2009. We have continually been trying to work with PW all these years to get even simple hundred dollar improvements. Yet, every time this much needed action gets kicked down the road and our community remains at high risk. We should not have to live with fear and risk. 16 years is long enough.

The request is to get this implemented immediately. It should be in place for our school kids, people that use bus transit, our seniors, our families - everyone. And now, with the Covid19 pandemic when more people are walking the area, it is even more urgent.

Please, no delays. No excuses. No kicking the schedule can down the road. Please provide guidance to have PW install the safety features now. Here are the key improvements to make the crosswalk much safer and motorists aware of its use:

- Paint Advance Stop Lines before Crosswalk
- Pedestrian Activated Traffic Crosswalk Lights
- Pedestrian Warning Bollard in roadway
- Define Right Most Lane - Shoulder Stripe

While the above should be in place immediately, other improvements can be scheduled a bit later and include ADA curb cuts, proper street lighting for the crosswalk, improvements to the bus stop, and a Keep Clear marking for the intersection.

Thank you,
Ron

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Masami Hirata [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; Safety; CMO_BoardFeedback
Cc: ronsnow@univpark.org
Subject: Improvement request: Palo Alto Way @Santa Cruz Ave. crosswalk

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

To whom it may concern,

This email is to show my strong support for the much-needed safety improvement for Palo Alto Way @Santa Cruz Ave. crosswalk in Menlo Park. We would appreciate positive consideration for the proposal outlined in thoughtful detail with very good safety measure ideas in the Open Letter sent to you from Mr. Ron Snow. I would like to join my neighbors to request that this be given the attention it needs once and for all, and hope that you can help make the immediate improvements to avoid more casualties and deaths.

I walk my dog daily to cross the street and have had numerous occasions where a car came speeding through after turning into Santa Cruz Ave. from Sand Hill Road, even when I had the right of way and I waited for a long time at the crosswalk for the street to clear. I have also witnessed many occasions where daily senior and elderly walkers have almost been hit by a car and have assisted a gentleman who fell over because he had to abruptly stop from being hit. I see many more people using the crosswalk now that people are working from home and sheltering.

I support the following safety measures outlined [here](#)

- Make Drivers Aware that Crosswalk is in Use
- Paint Advance Stop Lines before Crosswalk
- Pedestrian Activated Traffic Crosswalk Lights
- Pedestrian Warning Bollard in roadway
- Define Right Most Lane - Shoulder Stripe

If you are not going put in positive safety measures, please explain why and what you are going to do to avoid more casualties and deaths.

Thank you for your attention,
Masami Hirata

--

[REDACTED]

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Glenn Lanum [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Crosswalk Safety for Palo Alto Way

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

As you know, this crosswalk lacks even simple safety measures. It is criminally irresponsible that Public Works has not even put in the Advance Stop lines (aka Stop Limit, Shark Tooth) to provide visibility and buffer at the crosswalk. Currently, as shown in the video, cars are allowed to stop right up to the crosswalk. That is just not acceptable. This one simple improvement costs a few hours work and only a couple of hundred dollars. How is a decision to NOT do this simple improvement — to NOT have immediately done this after Amy Bijain's death — acceptable to you or any of County management?

Please provide the safety stewardship we look to you and your office to provide. We need your active involvement as a safety champion for the community to get this critically important safety issue addressed now. PW needs effective guidance. Please don't let PW push this out again and again (we already have had enough of the never ending delays and excuses - 16 years!).

I often cross at this location and sometimes have a long wait to be sure there is no traffic from both directions but still have to hustle. At 86, my run serves only to entertain oncoming drivers who like to see a geezer move. Fortunately "mature" drivers cut me some slack.

Thank you in advance for moving swiftly (before I get even older) on this,

Glenn Lanum
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Albert B Chu [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; Jim Porter
Cc: safety@univpark.org; CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Crosswalk Safety for Palo Alto Way x Santa Cruz Avenue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Supervisor Horsley, County Manager Callagy, Public Works Manager Porter:

As a resident of the University Park neighborhood, I ask you to take a few minutes [to watch this short video which addresses the need for immediate safety improvements](#) at the Palo Alto Way crosswalk across Santa Cruz Avenue (near Menlo Commons).

Especially during these COVID-19 times, there are more pedestrians and bike riders that are using this intersection, and it is a perfect opportunity for the County to address this long-needed safety issue. By acting now, as we open up in the upcoming months, traffic will increase, but will do so with greater safety and peace of mind for the pedestrians, cyclists and residents of our neighborhood.

I know you all have additional information on studies done on this topic from the "Santa Cruz/Alameda for Everyone (SAFE)" initiative. If you need more details from SAFE, please contact Ron Snow (ronsnow@univpark.org).

Thank you in advance for your support in addressing this important issue for us.

Best,
Albert



Sukhmani Purewal

From: Yo Wackerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; Safety; CMO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Urgent Pedestrian Safety Improvements Needed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to implement the much needed and overdue pedestrian safety improvements at the Palo Alto Ave. & Santa Cruz Ave. crosswalk in West Menlo Park.

Immediately doable safety tasks:

- Advance Stop Lines before Crosswalk
- Pedestrian activated traffic crosswalk lights
- Pedestrian Warning Bollard on crosswalk
- Define the right most lane with a shoulder stripe

Actions that are needed but could wait until the road reconfiguration:

- Correct Night Street Lighting for Crosswalk
- Improve Bus Stop
- Provide ADA curb cuts and bulb out
- Add KEEP CLEAR to intersection

Sincerely,
Yolande Wackerman
[REDACTED]

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Judith Zeitlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 7:43 AM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; safety@univpark.org; CMO_BoardFeedback; Jim Porter
Subject: Safer Crossings at Palo Alto Way

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear County Supervisors:

Please request the immediate installation of the recommended safety improvements at the Palo Alto Way crosswalk, especially the pedestrian-activated warning light system and advance stop lines.

This crosswalk is essential for the safety of our community and the surrounding neighborhoods. It is used by students, seniors, and others to connect with neighbors and to access the bus stop. The website at UnivPark.org/safe/crosswalk lists improvements that have been recommended repeatedly.

Please delay no further. This is my neighborhood and, especially as a senior, it is *my* life on the line.

Thank you.

Judith Zeitlin
[REDACTED]

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Ingrid Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; safety@univpark.org; CMO_BoardFeedback; Jim Porter
Subject: Safe pedestrian crosswalk needed at Palo Alto Way

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear County Supervisors:

Please request the immediate installation of the recommended safety improvements at the Palo Alto Way crosswalk, especially the pedestrian-activated warning light system and advance stop lines.

This crosswalk is essential for the safety of our community and the surrounding neighborhoods. It is used by students, seniors, and others to connect with neighbors and to access the bus stop. The website at UnivPark.org/safe/crosswalk lists improvements that have been recommended repeatedly. Please take action as soon as possible.

Respectfully,
Ingrid Rogers

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Kendall Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; safety@univpark.org; CMO_BoardFeedback; Jim Porter
Subject: a safe crosswalk

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear County Supervisors:

Please install the recommended safety improvements at the Palo Alto Way crosswalk, especially the pedestrian-activated warning light system and advance stop lines.

Sincerely,

Ken Rogers
[REDACTED]

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Kenji Kushida [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Don Horsley; Michael Callagy; safety@univpark.org; CMO_BoardFeedback; Jim Porter
Cc: Cheryl G. Kushida
Subject: Palo Alto Way Crosswalk across Santa Cruz Ave

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Supervisor Don Horsley,

I am writing in support of the letter below sent by our neighbor, Ron Snow, on behalf of the community regarding the Palo Alto Way Crosswalk across Santa Cruz Ave. We have small children, and their safety, along with other neighborhood children, seniors, and adults, should be of primary concern -- especially given the danger of the area and modest budget likely required to ameliorate the situation.

Best regards,
Kenji Kushida, Cheryl Kushida
[REDACTED]

Dear Supervisor Don Horsley,

I urge you to take action on behalf of our community and have County immediately implement the safety improvements at the Palo Alto Way Crosswalk across Santa Cruz Ave, near Menlo Commons. Your election ran on a promise of improving traffic safety and this is a case far overdue for the safety improvements recommended over a decade ago.

Please view this very short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kfw2MDjLx8c> As you know, this crosswalk lacks even simple safety measures. It is criminally irresponsible that Public Works has not even put in the Advance Stop lines (aka Stop Limit, Shark Tooth) to provide visibility and buffer at the crosswalk. Currently, as shown in the video, cars are allowed to stop right up to the crosswalk. That is just not acceptable. This one simple improvement costs a few hours work and only a couple of hundred dollars. How is a decision to NOT do this simple improvement — to NOT have immediately done this after Amy Bijain's death — acceptable to you or any of County management? Our request, and the recommendations of every single safety study and road engineering effort provided to County these last 10+ years, has recommended a pedestrian activated crossing traffic light. Every single study and design! This too is not costly, with PW having given the Task Force a cost estimate in the \$16K range (an amount PW said could be found in the maintenance budget). These improvements were needed years ago. Had safety considerations been in place when the road was engineered almost 20 years ago, we would not have such a safety mess in this corridor today, nor would lives have been lost. It is hard to put to words the frustration and disappointment I have and most in our community has, with 16+ years of Public Works denial and doing virtually nothing for safety at this critical crosswalk. To now have PW remove this from the "low hanging fruit" category and instead do nothing for the next several years should not be acceptable to you or other Supervisors. It is not acceptable to any in our community. The changes we request can and should go in now — the safety measures have absolutely no detractor or impact on the future road configuration. Our community safety is important and has been put on hold too long at this crosswalk. Please view the video link above and our Safety Report Issue #6 that covers the Palo Alto Way crosswalk (see <https://univpark.org/content/safe-issue-6-palo-alto-way-crosswalk>). That latter link lists the several immediate improvements and also improvements that could be put in later. This crosswalk services all local neighborhoods, including Menlo Commons, Oak Hollow households, and the large University

ITEM NO. 11

From: [Janet Davis](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: BOS Agenda Item 11
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 9:24:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Now is not the time to be spending \$350,000 on a public art project when the needs of a so many, **especially in district 4** are so overwhelming, as is illustrated by the many other worthy items listed on the agenda.

ITEM NO. 15

Sukhmani Purewal

From: Katie Goetz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 4:41 PM
To: CMO_BoardFeedback; Warren Slocum; Dave Pine; Don Horsley; David Canepa; Carole Groom
Subject: August 4 -- Item 15

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

I hope to be able to be with you over Zoom tomorrow to make these comments in person, but parenting responsibilities may prevent me from being able to do so.

During this time of Shelter in Place, when school districts are deciding not to reopen in person, or having the state make the decision for them, it is of the utmost importance that school children have safe, stable homes in which to learn. In this time when we are repeatedly told to stay home and not congregate in large groups, people need secure places to call home. Ending the eviction moratorium at the end of this month jeopardizes the youngest among us just as they are returning to school. This year's return to school in the mode of distance learning is stressful under any housing circumstances. Asking children to return to school when they are under threat of losing their housing is unconscionable.

Government has the job of protecting all of its citizens, but especially the most vulnerable among us. There are all sorts of things I want for my children for the 2020-2021 school year that just aren't going to happen this year. But my job and my husband's job are secure as is our housing. My kids are going to be just fine in the long run. Please do everything in your power to make sure that all San Mateo County kids are also going to be just fine in the long run. Keep children and families in their homes.

It is worth noting that I could say the same thing about any other vulnerable group who has seen their income decline because of Covid-19. But today, as we face the return to school in a way that removes the certainty that school once provided, it is children and families that are most tugging at my heart strings. Please don't let families be evicted just as school is starting.

Sincerely,
Katie Goetz
Redwood City