

E-CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS (2-7-05)

Dear Mr. Rosenberg, Mayor Bruck, et al.,

I live at 1550 Oakland Avenue, and I will loudly and vigorously support ANYTHING to "tame" the traffic on Oakland Avenue (OA). The traffic problem is truly horrid. Pity the poor school children and anyone else who happens to come near this awful problem. Cars going WAY too fast speed both up and down OA, there are cars parked everywhere, and as I result, I can't even see to back out of my own driveway, let alone avoid the torpedoes I then encounter in the street. It usually takes me several minutes to back out of my driveway. Also, these speeding cars also cause so much noise that it is nearly impossible to sleep in either of the front bedrooms in my house. I would be happiest of all if somehow traffic could be not only slowed but also severely restricted on Oakland Avenue. However, the proposals by Mr. Wilson are a good start.

I very much like the idea of the raised medians and the other recommendations.

I will try to attend the meeting on Feb. 7. In any case, please count my vote "FOR" the proposals for traffic improvement on Oakland Avenue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandra B. Cook
510-653-3665

Dear City Council:

My wife and I and our two daughters live at 1364 Oakland Avenue. We share the concerns of many others for pedestrian safety on Oakland Avenue and we strongly support the modified pedestrian crosswalks as currently proposed. The proposed signage improvements will better alert drivers to pedestrians and the very slight "S" curve to be formed at each cross walk may, ever so slightly, slow traffic.

However, **the biggest threat, by far, to public safety on Oakland Avenue is excessive speed.** In the past 10 years I have personally witnessed 2 dogs struck by speeding cars (one a hit and run) and several near misses of pedestrians. A guests car, parked right in front of our home, was sideswiped and totaled by a speeding (and I believe inebriated) fellow Piedmonter. Speeds of 40-45 mph are commonplace in front of our home and 50-55 mph is no longer rare. Even the buses routinely exceed 30 mph with impunity.

I would strongly encourage the City to explore methods to reduce speed. Over the past 3 years I notice that our police department (which I generally admire and support) has essentially ceased supervision of Oakland Avenue for speeders. I have personally invited officers to park outside my home or in my driveway to observe the situation, but have always been politely rebuffed.

Suggested solutions for reducing speed on Oakland Avenue:

- Frequent Visual presence of Piedmont PD (Probably the best solution)
- Carefully placed and engineered speed bumps that allow encourage drivers to stay under 30 mph while not interfering with emergency vehicles (These exist)
- Lane markers/stripping that visually (but not actually) narrow the driving lane. (If I read the plans correctly, you are planning on doing this)

- “Your Speed Is ___MPH” machines. (Not very effective, but better than nothing.)
- Speeding ticket cameras at two or three locations linked to a radar gun. (would pay for itself – believe me)
- Civilian patrol of some kind (Is there something that concerned citizens can do?)

Thank you for considering my thoughts,

Chuck Oraftik