

BAY MEADOWS NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

Residents★Businesses★Owners

Dear Mayor Goethals and City Council members,

On behalf of the Bay Meadows Neighborhood Alliance, we write to provide a huge “thank you” to you and to City staff for making Bay Meadows the location of the first San Mateo “slow streets”. We are very eager for the “slow streets” to remain and to become fully effective.

In summary (details below):

1. **There is strong neighborhood support for the “slow streets” and strong resident compliance; however, non-resident vehicles continue to speed through the closed streets, so its not working.**
2. **The current setup is not working because:**
 - a. **the signs are hardly visible**
 - b. **sign placement allows cars to speed right by**
 - c. **there are no detour signs to route vehicles around the closures.**
3. **Just adding more signage and using online forms to notify online driving directions apps (Apple Maps, Google maps etc.) should make the program work.**

Please see the attached photographs and compare San Mateo signage to that used in other cities.

We are happy to continue to collaborate with the City staff to make this program successful. We encourage the City to move quickly on strengthening it and to bring it to other dense neighborhoods as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Bay Meadows Neighborhood Alliance Board

Detailed comments

Bay Meadows Neighborhood is thrilled and has invested in the program’s success. Just prior to the installation of the “slow streets signage, our neighborhood - both HOA and Bay Meadows Neighborhood Alliance - conducted extensive outreach through social media, email, and postings on front doors and vehicles in the area. Our neighborhood has fully welcomed the program, as evidenced by smiling faces and selfies by the signs, hearts on Facebook & NextDoor, relocating parked cars away from affected streets, and residents driving very slowly through the section between the main entrance to one of the communities (Landsdowne/93 homes) and Saratoga Avenue. Some residents want this space so much that they are calling for full closure of the streets.

While the program has promise - it has not come to full fruition. Non-resident vehicles continue to flow through the “no through traffic” streets at speeds that are inconsistent with pedestrian activity. Residents do not feel safe walking in the street or recreating with their children in the street. **We’ve created “vehicle streets” where people are welcome” - instead of meeting the goal of “people streets” where vehicles are welcome.**

Based on community leader observations and neighborhood input, we have the following recommendations to achieve the “slow street” goal and to provide the desperately needed outdoor space for families to go outdoors to walk and bike at “social distance” in our crowded neighborhood:

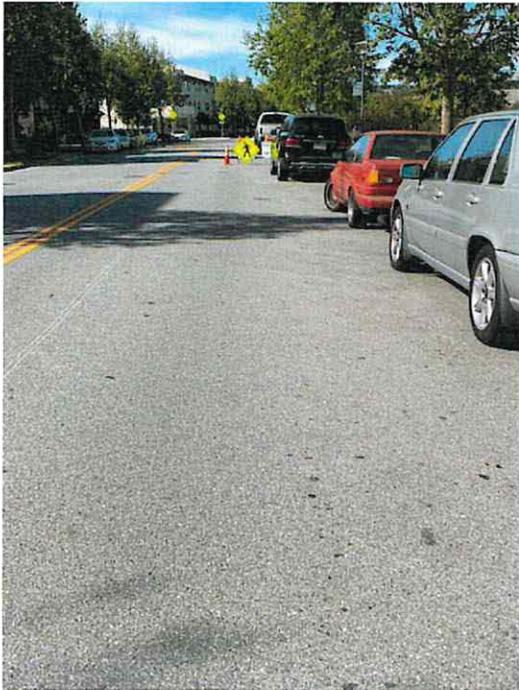
1. At all entrances to “slow streets,” please install signs to effectively close one lane (or otherwise in a manner that requires vehicles to go **very** slowly around it). See the examples from other cities. Right now, signage is not very visible until drivers are upon it (at full speed). It is at the side of the street, sometimes hidden by parked cars. Drivers are rounding corners quickly and driving full speed down the street. Other cities are putting signs right in the middle of the street.
2. Request “Detour” signs at Saratoga and Delaware at E. 28th Ave (both left and right turn movements onto E. 28th), and at the intersections of Derby with Baze, Paddock, and E. Kyne to direct vehicles to open through streets
3. Request that City Staff notify Apple Maps, Google, Waze and other mapping apps (see below)
4. Suggest additional signs be placed in the center of E. 28th (see photographs from other cities)
5. Suggest additional pedestrian signs placed along entirety of Baze Rd to slow vehicles (not part of slow streets program, but very busy with pedestrians).
6. Suggest “road closed” sign at the end of Derby at Baze (where current pedestrian sign sits; we have found that this sign is not meaningful to drivers.)
7. Request right turn only and left turn only to direct drivers coming out of 3 development access driveways away from the closed streets.
8. Consider terminating parking on the closed block of W. Kyne (which is only used by construction workers who could easily park elsewhere).
9. Request additional details posted on or near closure signs, such as taping on it a laminated version of the city’s “slow streets” map, and/or taping on a laminated version of the Bay Meadows neighborhood outreach flyer (see attached). (Signage does not need to be fancy or custom).

Notifying online maps is easy and important. Most people driving through on the “slow streets” are not from the neighborhood. These drivers, such as private delivery vehicles, rely on online mapping systems for directions. If mapping systems are aware of a closure, they re-route vehicles. Neighborhood volunteers notified the four major mapping programs (Google, Waze, Apple, Bing). This is simple - it took about 30 minutes total.

Because all systems prefer government notifications, map vendor response to neighborhood notifications was slow and incomplete. Waze took effect on Monday; Google changed directions on Tuesday, but its base map wasn’t changed until Friday. Neither Apple nor Bing have made changes. (Details of the notification process were previously shared with staff, which we expect are fully aware of them).

Bay Meadows Slow Streets Signage Examples

Note how signs are on side of street (no need to decrease speed), their poor visibility to drivers coming down street. Signage is at "t" intersections with no place to turn onto another street. No prior warning and streets are not convenient for U-turns, so drivers have no real option but to drive through.



Other City Slow Streets Signage Examples (in order - from Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Denver, Oakland)

Note prominent placement in the middle of the street (requires drivers to go slowly around it), often includes repeated signage as one goes down closed street and that the signage is usually located where drivers can turn onto another street.

(More online from NACTO) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CMiH-aGYm53g9rv5o8Fylw2NOyRXeF_h



SLOW STREETS are for them



- Do - Walk/Bike/Run/Play
- Do - Stay 6ft Away
- Do - Wear Face Coverings
- Do - Watch for Vehicles
- Do - TRY to Park Elsewhere



DESIGNATED ZONES
E 28TH AVE
W KYNE ST
E DERBY

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