

The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Volume 23 Number 4

Visit us at: metna.org

August 2023

BROTHERHOOD WAY ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

As reported in the May METNA newsletter, the Brotherhood Way Active Transportation and Open Space Plan, headed by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) and project planner David Long, is working in conjunction with the recently formed Brotherhood/Alemany Safety Improvements Project (known as BASIP), implemented by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and its project manager Casey Hildreth.

David Long and Casey Hildreth attended the May METNA Neighborhood Meeting. Hildreth explained that BASIP is seeking to

improve the safety and efficiency of the complicated intersection of Alemany-Brotherhood-Sagamore-Orizaba. The two agencies are coordinating on funding and compatibility with their projects.

SFMTA's objectives are to "(1) provide fully signalized pedestrian crossings of Alemany Blvd. and Brotherhood Way, and possibly Sagamore St. and Orizaba Ave.; (2) support safety, open space access, and good urban design by reclaiming and repurposing excess public right-of-way; (3) generally maintain existing traffic patterns and capacity while reducing egregious speeding and improving overall traffic compliance".

Public outreach will begin soon. A community group will study the proposals by SFMTA and give valuable input to the BASIP plan. No date has been given yet, to start this process. There will also be the opportunity for community members, at some point, to give input on SFCTA's Brotherhood Way Active Transportation and Open Space Plan.

SFMTA has two other area projects that METNA has and will provide input on: The M-Oceanview Transit and Safety Project, and the new Muni Metro Modernization Study. An explanation of those projects appear, on page 3, in this edition of the METNA News.

NEIGHBORFEST BLOCK PARTY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH

The Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association (METNA) and its Resilient MET Team will hold its fifth neighborhood block party on Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Chester-Palmetto Mini Park (corner of Chester and Palmetto).

Neighborfest is a collaborative effort between the Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN), an initiative of the San Francisco City and County, and is hosted by the Department of Emergency Management, working with neighborhood associations to host city-wide block parties over the past ten years.

Resilient MET, part of METNA, is focused on neighborhood resilience in case of a major disaster and was formed in 2015. The METNA Neighborfest Block Party brings together our Block Champions (leaders) in a social setting.

This year the focus is on pairing residents with block champions to learn about disaster resiliency, how you and your family can participate in disaster preparedness, and to become familiar with the services that will be provided during any neighborhood emergency. Resilient MET is also looking to find three or four additional individuals who are interested in becoming Block Champions.

METNA encourages all families to attend, meet one another, and spend a few hours sharing food and socializing.

Hmart will again be co-sponsoring this event by supplying food and beverages for those attending. METNA also asks that additional food items be prepared by attendees, such as a salad, main dish, or desert of your choice. Please supply a serving fork or spoon with your dish. METNA will supply garbage bins for trash, compost, and recyclables. We also suggest those attending to bring a small table and outdoor chairs to aid in the comfort of you and your neighbors. Also, during the last hour, 1:00-2:00pm, if you play a musical instrument, you may wish to bring it to the event to share in an impromptu jam session, and possible sing-along, if enough people are interested.

No parking signs will be posted on the east side of the 300 block of Chester, in front of the mini park, for the hours of 9:00am to 4:00pm, on Saturday, August 19th.

The street will remain open for residents on the west side of Chester. Please observe the "No Parking" regulations so that everyone attending will have a safe and enjoyable Neighborfest Block Party. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

METNA looks forward to having you and your family attend.

JOIN METNA

METNA MEETING

Tuesday, August 8, 2023
7:00pm at Palmetto Meeting Hall
640 Palmetto Avenue
(between St. Charles and Chester)

Invited Guests

Police Chief William Scott
Acting Captain Maura Pengel
Taraval Station
San Francisco Police Department

Michael Farrah, Legislative Aide
Emma Heiken, Legislative Aide
Office of D7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Alex Tourk, Executive Director
Vanessa Pimental, Field Director
My Own Lock & Key Foundation

ALL NEIGHBORS WELCOME

Face masks are recommended for the METNA meeting but are not required at this time.

SAFETY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) and SF-SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone), working in partnership, offer a wide variety of safety awareness services. Safety on public transportation is a high priority for everyone using public modes of transportation. Below are safety precautions everyone should take whenever out and about in San Francisco.

Before

Find out real time arrivals, if available, for the next bus or metro car at your stop, by calling 311 or checking www.nextbus.com. Some Muni stops have real time signs posting the next arrival, as does BART at each station.

- Carry with you only what you need for the day: cash, a credit card, and personal documents. Leave all other valuables at home.
- Keep your personal ID documents in different places and try to conceal them at all times.
- Avoid going out alone when dark outside or visiting isolated areas without company.

While waiting at a transit stop

- While waiting for a bus, metro car, or BART train, stand near others. Avoid isolated areas.
- Avoid using iPods, cell phones, or other electronic devices.
- Have your cell phone out of sight but handy if you need to use it in an emergency.
- If the immediate area is deserted or in darkness, stand near an occupied building or in a lighted area until transportation arrives.
- Wait on the curb or platform and not in the street.
- Put your Clipper Card (or other pass) in a holder other than a wallet, have your fare ready prior to arriving at the stop to avoid unwanted exposure of cash or personal ID documents.
- Do not chase after a bus or metro car.

While onboard public transportation

- Once on board public transportation, be aware of persons around you.
- If the coach is empty or near empty, sit as far up front and as close to the driver as possible. Do not hesitate to move to another seat if you feel uncomfortable.
- Place your personal belongings, if possible, out of sight of others, or if not able to conceal the item(s) keep them close to you and within your sight.
- Be aware of pick-pocketing. If you are sitting near the door, be aware that suspects like to grab a purse or personal belonging and immediately exit when a door opens.
- Notice persons standing too close or acting erratically. If someone begins to bother you, move to notify the driver immediately or call for assistance.
- Always stay awake and alert. Do not sleep, read, engage in deep cell phone conversations, send text messages, work on your laptop, or listen to music with ear buds. In those situations, individuals are most vulnerable and may become targets.
- Upon arriving at your stop, be aware of those persons who exit with you. If you feel that you are being followed, go to the nearest occupied building or seek assistance from the police.
- Attempt to get off the vehicle in a well-lighted area during nighttime hours. Use well lighted streets to reach your destination. If possible, call ahead to have someone that you know meet you.
- Call **9-1-1** for any emergency or if there is a crime in progress.

Plan ahead and be as safe as possible when taking public transportation.

Program on your cell phone & keep these phone numbers handy:

Emergency: 9-1-1

Emergency, 9-1-1, from cell phone: 415-553-8090

Police, non-emergency: 415-553-0123

BART Police emergency: 510-464-7000

BART non-emergency: 877-679-7000

JOIN METNA

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

METNA NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING @ Palmetto Meeting Hall, 640 Palmetto Avenue at 7:00pm

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

METNA Neighborhood Block Party @Chester-Palmetto Mni Park

Saturday, August 19, 2023, 11:00-2:00 pm

SISTERHOOD GARDENS EVENTS

10:00am – 1:00pm on the following dates

Brotherhood & Arch

Saturday, August 5, 2023

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Saturday, October 14, 2023

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

@Minnie & Lovie Ward Rec. Center

650 Capitol Ave. at Minera St.

Tues. August 1, 2023, 5:00pm-7:00pm

MET COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

@ Golden Gate Church of Christ
Community Room

Corner of Upper Palmetto & Head

Tuesdays, 10:00am – 11:00 Senior Exercise

Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:noon Social Hour
(w/ activities)

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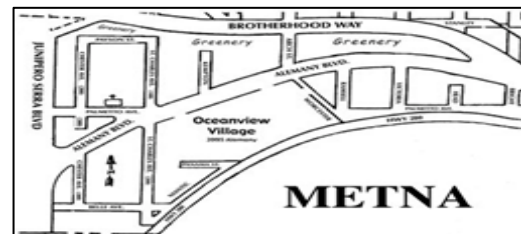
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SFMTA'S M-OCEAN VIEW TRANSIT AND SAFETY PROJECT PROPOSES TO ELIMINATE 76 PARKING SPACES

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), with their Muni Forward program, "M Ocean View Transit and Safety Project," "aims to improve transit reliability, accessibility and safety along the M Ocean View corridor between Junipero Serra Boulevard and Balboa Park BART Station (at Geneva Avenue)" But at what expense? Their proposal aims to eliminate 76 parking spaces along the route on both sides of the M-line's route, along 19th Avenue, Randolph, Broad, and San Jose Ave. The elimination includes six parking spaces in front of I.T. Bookman Senior Center, as well as spaces along the Randolph and Broad businesses, and finally 26 spaces from Mt. Vernon to Geneva (10 on the west side, and 16 on the east side of San Jose Avenue).

The project has merits but losing numerous parking spaces does not necessarily equate to an improvement for neighborhood residents and businesses. More time is needed by those affected to weigh in on the SFMTA's initial proposals.

The community engagement portion of the project is being headed by Brian Haagsman, Public Information Officer at SFMTA. There was a May series of meetings at the OMI Senior Center at 65 Beverly, I.T. Bookman Center at 345 Randolph, and the Oceanview Branch Library at 446 Randolph, from May 1-15. Maps and charts were available at all 3 sites to give the latest information on the project proposals, after earlier initial community input.

The project would provide riders to step on and off of a platform while boarding and disembarking the trains. The project would build more sidewalk and median curb ramps and add additional wheel-chair accessible transit platforms where possible. Muni states that during a six year period (2017-22), there were 10 related incidents where someone was injured getting on or off a Muni train, in the project area.

The latest information is available at SFMTA.com/MOceanView.

HOUSING PROPOSALS TO INCREASE HOUSING DENSITY IN SAN FRANCISCO

Supervisor Myrna Melgar ((District 7) has introduced legislation (File #230026) to create the Family Housing Opportunity SUD, generally following the "Well-Resourced Neighborhoods" boundaries of the 2023-2031 Housing Element. The legislation aims to increase housing density, eliminate certain procedures, waive certain development standards, and subject additional units to the eviction and price controls of the Rent Ordinance.

The proposal requires that projects include more units than currently exist on a property "to ensure additional housing is created." Additionally, the proposal projects to provide at least two units that have at least two bedrooms. The proposed legislation also gives "a new path to merge up to three lots to more easily create multi-family buildings with the RH-1 districts."

The City recently passed legislation (Four-Plex Program) allowing increased density of up to four dwelling units per lot, and up to six dwelling units per lot on corner lots, in all RH zoning districts.

In a competing ordinance, Mayor London Breed (Mayoral Executive Directive 23-01) called on all city agencies to create "clear action plans to implement the 2022 Housing Element," with the goal of "Housing for All." As part of the effort Mayor Breed and District 8 Supervisor Joel Engardio introduced separate legislation (File #230446) to reduce housing constraints and eliminate procedural barriers. The Mayor's Ordinance goes beyond the scope of Supervisor Melgar's Ordinance and includes changes such as standardizing rear yard requirements and setting minimum lot size and lot frontage for the entire city. However, there are significant overlaps between the two ordinances.

To read the entire San Francisco Planning Department document of 49 pages, titled "Executive Summary Planning Code Text & Zoning Map Amendment," go to the Planning Department's website: [www: sfplanning.org/housing](http://www.sfplanning.org/housing).

MUNI METRO MODERNIZATION STUDY

During SFMTA's long-range transit plan, the ConnectSF Transit Strategy, the original plan to study undergrounding of the M-Oceanview metro line along 19th Avenue "was not prioritized" according to SFMTA's Long Range Transit Corridor Planning Manager, Liz Brisson.

However, a recent grant has been secured to now begin a new focus, "The Muni Metro Modernization Core Capacity Planning Study" which will have a dual focus: "(1) identifying a package of improvements...to transform Muni Metro into a faster, more reliable, higher capacity system, and (2) an explicit focus on identifying surface rail improvements between West Portal and SF State, to provide 'subway-like 3 or 4-car trains' in this segment of the network."

This project is separate from the current M-Oceanview Transit and Safety Project.

SF ZOO NEW AFTER HOURS ON FRIDAYS THROUGH AUGUST

The San Francisco Zoo will hold a new "Sunset Fridays" event at the zoo, from 5 to 7pm at the Playfield Lawn, each Friday through August 25th. The new after-hours program will feature live music, ambassador animals, with children friendly activities. The main section of the zoo will not be open to the public during this special two-hour event. However, the Elinor Friend Playground will be open, along with the Dentzel Carousel Merry-Go-Round. Visitors can also walk to the Giraffe Lodge.

The Sunset Fridays event is free to all zoo members, and for children 8-years and younger. General Admission is \$12 per person. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.sfzoo.org, or at the entrance gate. No reservations are required.

The zoo entrance is on the Great Highway on the south side of Sloat Blvd. For more information call, 415-753-7080.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

7 LEAVES CAFÉ MOVING CLOSER TO OPENING

The latest information on 7 Leaves Café at OeanView Village shows that all construction permits are "90%" complete, and construction will begin by the end of August. If all goes well 7 Leaves Cafe will open its doors in November.

METNA MEMBERS PAINT OUT GRAFFITI

METNA officers Marc Christensen, Sue Harless, Glen Hatakeyama, and Clair Sanchez, along with METNA members Janet Bran, Kim Mayor, and Romeo Perez spent several hours on May 21st painting out graffiti, using Public Works graffiti supplies. The graffiti removal covered the Alemany Pink Bridge and alley walkway, plus the fences along the east side of Junipero Serra Blvd., from Alemany Blvd. to Brotherhood Way, using gallons of paint in a variety of colors to match existing surfaces.

Grffiti removal continues to be a priority for METNA to combat the prolific tagging that has increased over the past few years. If anyone sees individuals or groups actively defacing our neighborhood on public or private property, call 9-1-1, immediately. Report the location and give a description of the individual(s).

A LOOK BACK AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD 60+ YEARS AGO

Alemany Blvd & the neighborhood, as remembered
by Glenn Rogers

My house at 3425 Alemany Blvd. originally was built where City College of San Francisco is today and was moved to its present location in 1948. Permits indicate this house was built in 1927. The value of the home when purchased was \$9,000. Safe to say it is worth more than that now.

The neighborhood was much different then. Everywhere were yellow and white margaritas in wild areas on the south and north side of Alemany Blvd. Highway 280 was not present however, a railroad track was, and on occasion a freight train would pass behind the house, crushing the stones the children placed on the railroad track for fun. There was a steep slope on the hill where the railroad track was present. Unfortunately, on the slope the vegetation was often blackberries which made it treacherous to ride down the slope on cardboard sleighs. Once there was a car hood dumped on the top of the hill. We turned the hood over on its front side, making a sleigh of sorts and had one momentous ride down the slope. The hood was too heavy for us to take back up the hill for another ride.

Brotherhood Way was Stanley Drive then, but more importantly the Alemany "Pink Bridge" was not yet built. Nuisance water was present and appeared to be the last remnants of the stream that historically flowed down what is now Brotherhood Way. While the Alemany Bridge was being built (in the early 1950's), traffic often remained at a standstill, as commuters would drive great distances to circumvent Highway One traffic. Most importantly, when the Westlake development was built (also, in the early 1950's), the best way for many to reach downtown was on Alemany Blvd. During those days, traffic was packed and the hidden problem with all this traffic was the lead present in the leaded gasoline.

Today, where we have the entrance to Highway 280-North (Alemany Blvd. at San Jose Avenue) was a Safeway Supermarket. I remember countless visits to the market and on the return home picking up the margaritas for a lovely bouquet.

Behind my house was Palmetto Avenue, which was a dirt road in those days. Children on bicycles would ride up and down this dirt road for exercise and for fun. Palmetto Avenue has been removed and altered countless times over the years. Palmetto Avenue is the street where the church is present (600 block), where METNA conducts its meetings. It would seem that when the San Francisco Golf Club was built, one of the casualties was Palmetto Avenue (west of Junipero Serra/Hwy 1).

When Highway 280 was being planned, my neighbors to the east of me complained that the City had come to their home, and with the power of eminent domain, purchased their home. For a number of months, I thought my house would be purchased similarly. Fortunately, the same neighbors went down to the Planning Department and found out my house at 3425 Alemany would be spared. Not so for the old house that was present just behind ours, which we shared a backyard with. When this house was removed, our backyard doubled in size!

When I was a boy, there was a gas station at Alemany Blvd. and Sagamore St., where the triangular house/apartment is present today. When traffic patterns changed, with the construction of Highway 280, this gas station was no longer viable. This triangular property remained vacant for many years, and then a church was built on the site, that burned to the ground in the early 2000's. Recently a creative house is on the site, using the tip of the triangle with a porthole to see the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt.

Numerous "green houses" were present where OceanView Village is today. I have a feeling that they had something to do with all the margaritas (daisies) present in the past. In those days there was so much undeveloped land present in the MET. Today, the only thing undeveloped is the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt.

NEW LOCKING SYSTEM ON BLUE MAIL COLLECTION BOXES

The United States Postal Service (USPS) announced in mid-May that it will be placing a new locking system on its traditional blue street mail collection boxes to reduce mail theft. Some areas of the country will get new high security collection boxes, with an additional new electronic locking system on some.

USPS currently uses a universal key to access collection boxes, but they have become ineffective due to robberies from letter carriers. No timeline has been given for the new locking mechanisms and where they will be installed.

In the meantime, it is recommended that persons placing mail in a blue box should do so only within a few hours of a scheduled pickup. Most blue boxes have a timeline for mail pickup. You may also give outgoing mail to your postal carrier, or if important, visit a nearby post office for secure mailing.

METNA REMINDER

BE A RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBOR—MAINTAIN YOUR SIDEWALK

Property owners and residents are reminded that each person is responsible to maintain the sidewalk in front of their home in a safe and clean manner.

MUNICIPAL POLICE CODE 33 - LITTERING

MPC Code 33 states: "Throwing litter or debris onto streets/sidewalks is unlawful. Sweeping out any litter or debris onto streets, sidewalks, or public places without removing/disposing is prohibited."

MUNICIPAL POLICE CODE 34/PUBLIC WORK CODE 174—WEED ABATEMENT

MPC Code 34/Public Works Code 174 states: "Litter/debris, grease, grime, stains and weeds should not accumulate or remain upon the sidewalk." Public Works states: "Public Works is responsible for streets, from curb to curb. Property owners (residents) are responsible from building to curb (sidewalks)."

PLEASE BE A RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBOR!

Please keep your area clean at all times. Pick up litter and dispose of it properly. Do not allow the accumulation of weeds, grease, or oil on a sidewalk, as it presents a possible tripping hazard. Pedestrian safety is of primary importance. Please check and remove any weeds, and/or other items in front of your property.

Pet owners also have a responsibility to pick up after their pet on both public and private property, especially on sidewalks. Please carry an appropriate container to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste in a trash container.

Together, we can maintain a clean and safe environment.

JOIN METNA