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To: [Figueroa Cole, Yvette](#)
Cc: [Transportation Commission](#); [Traffic](#)
Subject: Whitney Way blind pocket safety issue
Date: Saturday, March 5, 2022 11:08:23 AM

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The most serious current safety issue on Whitney Way is the blind pocket that the two northbound lanes of traffic have to pass through as they proceed downhill past the Hammersley Rd intersection half way down the hill. My wife and I have lived one house away from that intersection for more than 20 years. We saw multiple accidents at the intersection before the city redesigned the intersection to make it safe. My wife and a next door neighbor were deeply involved in urging the city to deal with the hazardous conditions when Hammersley Road traffic was still allowed to cross Whitney Way. Since the intersection redesign we have enjoyed the much lower traffic on our block which has meant we can now walk, bike and drive here, in the block of Hammersley Rd between Whitney Way and Gilbert Rd, without safety concerns.

The blind pocket remains a concern whenever we want to turn north onto Whitney Way from the east side of the intersection, in a car or on a bike, and when we want to walk or bike across Whitney Way. The currently proposed changes to the intersection would result in conditions **less safe** for those pedestrian, bike and car movements because they fail to properly recognize the **blind pocket** problem. Here are two problems that I see with the proposed intersections changes:

First, elimination of the left turn lane for eastbound Hammersley Rd traffic that needs to head north would force this traffic to turn right, go up the hill, make a U turn at the top of the hill, and come down **through the blind pocket**, adding to the blind pocket problem. In addition, there are times in the winter when slippery roads would make the situation even worse. We have seen cars spinning their wheels, unable to make it up the hill. Other southbound cars have been able to make it up the hill by increasing their speed at the bottom of the hill, but cars turning right from Hammersley Rd on the west side would not be able to do this. More cars stuck on a slippery hill would increase the risk of accidents.

Second, the proposed narrowing of Hammersley Rd where it connects to the east side of Whitney Way would shift turning cars and bikes further into the blind pocket, increasing the risk that they would be struck by cars coming down the hill because they were not seen in time or because of slippery conditions on the hill. The crossing for bikes and pedestrians should be far enough north that it is out of the blind pocket.

I have no opinion about elimination of the left turn lane for northbound Whitney Way traffic. (I saw a southbound police car once make the mistake of turning into that lane, continuing uphill in the wrong direction.) But I strongly recommend that this intersection otherwise be retained as it currently exists for the safety reasons I have explained.

Icy sidewalks along our side of the Whitney Way hill are also a safety concern for our Winter Musicale events if our roughly 30 participants, some of whom are elderly, can no longer park in front of our house. Since there is no parking on the Whitney Way hill the nearest parking other than on Hammersley Rd would be on the cross streets a block north or south. We would hate to see someone injured in a fall while trying to walk uphill or downhill to our house for

this annual winter event.

I will forward to you my earlier email to the Transportation Commission addressing safety concerns at this intersection.

Robert Park
[REDACTED] Hammersley Rd