

Nhat Phan

From: William P. Bacon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:39 PM
To: TrafficEng
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 4/3/2024 BPAC Agenda Item 2b - Support for Frietas Parkway @ Montecillo Slip Lane Closure Pilot

Dear Department of Public Works Staff,

My name is William Bacon and I am a San Rafael resident and homeowner in Terra Linda. I am writing to **express my strong support for the City of San Rafael's current pilot project that has closed the dangerous slip lane at the intersection of Manuel T. Frietas Parkway and Montecillo Road in Terra Linda.**

I travel through this intersection almost every day on foot with my 10 month old daughter in a stroller and I feel much safer at this intersection now that the slip lane is closed than I did prior to its closure last fall. I encourage the City of San Rafael to make this closure permanent and to implement similar slip lane closures at all of the intersections along Fretias Parkway.

Freitas Parkway, and frankly most streets in Terra Linda, remain dangerous for people on foot and bicycle due to the roads being engineered to support high speed car travel. The lack of City of San Rafael investment in improving our neighborhood's roads over the last 60+ years since Terra Linda was developed has resulted in a public right of way environment that is not reflective of our community's needs and stated values in 2024.

I would strongly support the City of San Rafael establishing and formalizing a traffic calming program to make our streets safer for both cars and people not in cars. Curb bulb-outs, chicanes (mid block curb extensions), speed bumps, reduced corner radii, speed tables, and continental crosswalks, are just a few of the proven interventions that can make streets safer.

Our [City's street pavement condition](#) is also on the decline with our current "Fair" Pavement Condition Index score of 63 declining by two points in the last year. At our current pace, our City might see its streets fall into the "At Risk" category (scores under 60) in the next few years. This also places the City of San Rafael #79 out of 110 jurisdictions in the Bay Area. Our roads are not something San Rafael should be proud of, and compared to many of our peer jurisdictions around the region our City has for years failed to adequately maintain our public streets or all types of users.

I understand that the City of San Rafael's position is that it lacks adequate resources (both staff and monetary) to deliver needed safety and maintenance improvements across the city (not just at the most high priority locations). If this remains the case, **I would encourage staff and our elected leaders to prioritize making our streets safer for the next generation and consider asking voters to support new dedicated funding to deliver street safety and maintenance projects.** I recognize there are many needs facing the City, but our roads are perhaps the City's most important shared resource and we need to do more to prioritize their care and modernization or we will foot future generations with crumbling, unsafe infrastructure that will be even more expensive to fix than it is today.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all the residents of San Rafael.

Best,

William Bacon

[Redacted signature]

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[Redacted contact information]

Nhat Phan

From: Lauren Withey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 2:22 PM
To: TrafficEng
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 4/3/2024 BPAC - Support for Montecillo-Freitas Slip Lane Closure
Attachments: Marin IJ_11-2023_San Anselmo Pocket Park v2.pdf

Dear Department of Public Works Staff,

I write as a Terra Linda homeowner to thank you for your closure of the slip lane at Montecillo and Freitas. I feel much safer going through there now, and have heard similar responses from neighbors in the area. I walk or run through the Freitas-Montecillo intersection most days at a variety of hours, and have never seen a backup of cars going west on Freitas there. A neighbor donated a picnic table to make the space more inviting, and I regularly see neighbors using it. We have had community "block party"-like gatherings in the space as well.

My hope is that the city will make the closure permanent, and at minimum add a crosswalk across Montecillo at Freitas on the north side of the intersection. I have heard from older neighbors at the Meadows apartment and condo complex located at the corner of this intersection that they still find this intersection frustrating because of that lack of a crosswalk, and that they continue to walk significantly out of their way to cross the street safely to get to Scotty's supermarket. Adding a crosswalk and curb cuts here would address this issue.

As mentioned at the time of the closure, neighbors would also love to see the slip lane turned into a pocket park. In the interim, San Anselmo has provided a useful example of how this might work in practice, as covered in the Marin IJ story attached.

Thank you again for taking action to make our city a bit safer and more welcoming for all of us.

Sincerely,
Lauren Withey

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Lauren S. Withey
[REDACTED]

Marin Independent Journal

San Anselmo plans forum on pocket park project



A section of Jordan Avenue between Hilldale Drive and Forbes Avenue in San Anselmo on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022. The town designated it for transformation into a tiny park. (Sherry LaVars/Marin Independent Journal)

By [Giuseppe Ricapito](mailto:gricapito@marinij.com) | gricapito@marinij.com

PUBLISHED: November 30, 2023 at 5:53 p.m. | UPDATED: November 30, 2023 at 6:06 p.m.

San Anselmo is planning a community meeting this weekend to guide the design of a play area at Hilldale Pocket Park.

The meeting, which will include town staff and the Richmond design and fabrication company Scientific Art Studio, is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday at the park.

Town Manager David Donery said the development of the park is an example of how the town and its residents can collaborate on community assets.

"The Hilldale Pocket Park project started as an idea to better utilize for community use some vacant public space in a neighborhood in San Anselmo," Donery said. "As with any town project, including parks and playgrounds, special attention will be paid to making the spaces as accessible and inclusive as possible for all residents."

The project has been under development since August 2022 following a campaign to develop underused sections of the town. The town collected responses from 165 residents in a survey, and 77% of respondents said they wanted a park there.

A pocket park is a small outdoor area for public use, typically in the fashion of a plaza or courtyard. The San Anselmo site was originally an abandoned section of Jordan Avenue, a one-way road that runs behind United Markets between Hilldale Drive and Forbes Avenue.

The road was blocked off in 1977 because of concerns about speeding. Since then, it has been used for neighborhood parking, but it was transformed as part of a town effort to develop more parks.

The first phase of the project included the installation of approximately 2,000 square feet of bark and picnic tables. An asphalt space of about 18 feet by 60 feet was torn out and landscaped with tanbark, plants and seating.

The play structure is the next phase of the project. The construction is estimated to cost \$30,000.

Scientific Art Studio plans to bring the public's ideas to fruition, said Ron Holthuysen, the chief executive officer.

"Now there is a desire to make the playgrounds more natural and use more natural materials," he said. "Hopefully it will become a very collaborative project. What we want to achieve on Saturday is just feel out where everybody stands and their desires and dreams for this public space."

He said the play area would be constructed with safety, durability and maintenance in mind. The company has constructed public recreation spaces at the Bay Area Discovery Museum in the Marin Headlands and at the San Francisco Zoo.

At the meeting, the public will be able to meet the Scientific Art Studio design team, handle potential materials for the construction and review conceptual ideas for the play area. Holthuysen said the design ideas will be replicated using pencil sketches and returned to town staff for review.

"I hope that in the end it will be a very pleasant place to be for everybody: for children, the elderly, people of all ages, even a dog or two," he said.