

From: [Jennifer Navarro-Marroquin](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Hearing - Pedestrian Safety and Ensuring Safe Routes to Schools Public Comment
Date: Friday, January 14, 2022 10:26:55 AM

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To clarify this submission is regarding the following agenda item <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5219880&GUID=DDA74C07-165E-4E0A-AB2E-1680CCC8A020> on 1/14/22 meeting.

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Jennifer Navarro-Marroquin
Co-Founder & Program Lead
www.communitywellsf.com



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On Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 9:10 AM Jennifer Navarro-Marroquin <jennifer@communitywellsf.com> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Jennifer Navarro-Marroquin. I am the Co-Founder of Community Well in the Excelsior District.

I am emailing in support of continued funding for Pedestrian Safety and Ensuring Safe Route to Schools.

As a community health stakeholder I see that safe transportation is a great solution that provides economic equity in transportation, and at the same time helps our most vulnerable populations live an active lifestyle. In addition, for youth and the current issue that we are facing around childhood obesity, biking is a fun activity that brings them social and personal enjoyment. I saw this first hand during a recent event called "Pedalea Fuerte" which was held at Monroe Elementary School. This event was in partnership with Safe Routes To School Program, Excelsior Bike Club, Mission Y, & Excelsior Collaborative. 50 + BIPOC families participated in this event and I saw first hand the huge impact that this bike education & learn to ride event had on first time learners & long time riders.

The Safe Routes to School program helps schools and families feel safe and confident accessing sustainable modes, and that work takes time. The program deserves strong support and ongoing funding from the city.

Best,

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Jennifer Navarro-Marroquin
Co-Founder & Program Lead
www.communitywellsf.com



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From: [Karen Wiener](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Pedestrian Safety and Ensuring Safe Routes to Schools
Date: Friday, January 14, 2022 1:33:25 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello, Committee, and thank you for your time today.

My name is Karen Wiener- I own an electric bicycle shop called The New Wheel in Bernal Heights, I am a biking mother of a toddler, and I volunteer to teach a bicycling with children for SFBC and Safe Routes to School. In my work at the bike shop, we have been selling electric bikes since 2010, most of them for transport. But, in 2015, there was a quiet revolution that started: family ebikes. It has changed my business completely, and it is changing the way San Franciscans of all ages experience San Francisco.

The perspective that I am hoping to share with you today is that this dramatic increase in children and families biking in our city is one of the brightest and most optimistic things that I can think of: today, it is normal to see families, but also children on their own two wheels, riding our streets. But we are only at the beginning. I was born in Copenhagen, and have spent a great deal of time there- it's fun and convenient to bicycle in Copenhagen, it's also well supported by infrastructure and by the culture.

What I see while teaching Biking with Children, is that families have a deep need on for transportation solutions and a deep desire for auto-independence, especially when they are in transitions – new schools, new kids, new places. But, there is a distance between wanting to do something like bicycling with your kids, and being able to do it- it is not fun, safe, and convenient in San Francisco- yet. What I also see is that down the road, when knowledge, skills, and confidence have established, riders come in with their growing families for service, their family bicycles have thousands of miles on them- once you make it over the barrier to entry, it sticks.

San Francisco's Safe Routes to School is central to the project of weaving sustainability and joy into the culture of our city; it is also an efficient tool to help San Franciscans move away from auto-dependence at key points in their lives. We are in a global climate crisis and full and consistent funding of this program is a smart and important investment to make for our collective future.

Thank you,

Karen



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From: [Vinita Goyal](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Zack Deutsch-Gross](#)
Subject: Supervisor Stafani's hearing around safe transit routes to school
Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022 6:51:00 PM
Attachments: [Support Letter_SFTR_01.12.2022.pdf](#)

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Dear Erica,

Please see the letter of support from the San Francisco Transit Riders for Supervisor Stafani's hearing around safe transit routes to school at the Youth, Young Adult and Families Committee on Friday.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Vinita

Vinita Goyal
Executive Director
Pronouns: she, her
San Francisco Transit Riders

I am in the office Tuesdays through Fridays



January 12, 2022

Office of Supervisor Catherine Stefani
City and County of San Francisco

Dear Supervisor Stefani:

San Francisco Transit Riders strongly supports strengthening the Safe Routes to School program efforts in San Francisco. The tragic death of the teacher from Sherman Elementary that happened at Franklin/Union street while he was walking to work is a grave reminder about the state of affairs of street management in the city that has appalling consequences for pedestrians including office workers such as educators walking to schools and students more so.

Traffic related crashes leading to fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists are higher in the Bay area than in many other parts of the country, 50 percent more than the national average. Solutions that have been developed to address issues of morning traffic congestion, physical safety and access have been often piecemeal in nature and have had limited success.

In that regard, Safe Routes to School, has been a comprehensive approach to encourage active travel modes to school that are in sync with traffic law enforcement and safety education measures and with a tremendous overall potential to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and improve public safety. Grant funding is however limited and current programs are over-subscribed.

San Francisco Transit Riders represent 500 members in San Francisco. Established in 2010, our organization is dedicated to raising the rider's voice to improve access to public transit in San Francisco and to reduce the city's reliance on fossil fuels.

Committing more resources to fund both local and regional Safe Routes to School grant programs is now more urgent than ever and will provide direct long-term benefits to our region's ambitious goals for reducing green house gas emissions and traffic congestion, and increasing safety and affordability in our transportation systems.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Transit Riders
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Vinita Goyal
Interim Executive Director,
San Francisco Transit Riders

From: [Jill Thompson](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Friday, January 14 school safety hearing
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:42:57 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Ronen, Supervisor Safai, and Supervisor Melgar,

I live in the Sunset district and have two children at Jefferson Elementary on 18th Ave. and Irving.

We have ridden our bikes or walked our kids to school every day since our older daughter began kindergarten, she's now in 4th grade. Our bike ride has become so much safer and more comfortable since Kirkham was made a slow street. Before, when biking on and then having to turn off of Kirkham (at 18th Ave) there was a lot of traffic and it was often challenging to make the turn. The reduced traffic from the slow street has made it much easier and safer!

Please make safety for pedestrians and cyclists around schools a priority, it is essential that kids and families have safe ways to get to school.

Thank you,
Jill Thompson

From: [Lara DeCaro](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment in Support of File No 21131 [Urging SFMTA to Prioritize and Expedite Vision Zero Improvements Around Playgrounds, School Zones, and Senior Zones]
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:19:00 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Committee Clerk Major and Supervisors Melgar, Stefani, Mar, Chan, and Walton:

I am writing in strong support of File No 21131 [Urging SFMTA to Prioritize and Expedite Vision Zero Improvements Around Playgrounds, School Zones, and Senior Zones]. We MUST make the safety of our children in and around schools a top priority and I thank each of you who has co-sponsored this and other action to that effect.

I have previously and repeatedly advocated for a safe corridor along Franklin Street--from Broadway to Lombard--where the Sherman Elementary school community, residents, pedestrians, vehicles, neighboring small business owners and their patrons, and all visitors are safe. But the rest of the City and County must also be addressed. By its terms, this Resolution is one step toward urging SFMTA to protect our children by expediting quick-builds, reducing speeds to 20MPH in all 35 initial locations eligible for speed limit reductions through AB 43, implementing engineering solutions around school zones, playgrounds, and senior zones, while advancing programs like Safe Routes To Schools (SRTS), Crossing Guard Programs, and Muni Routes Serving City Schools.

I am a resident of D3, my children attend schools in D2, and I am an owner of a business located in D6. We regularly prefer to walk but, despite taking every move to be as careful as possible, we repeatedly experience near misses by vehicles speeding along SF streets. Adding insult to injury, these drivers seem to feel entitled to speed down the hill and around corners and usually look at the pedestrian as if, somehow, they should not be there. That is in part because the traffic light pattern has created a culture, an expectation, that drivers can and should be able to move so quickly along that corridor without "impediment." We must fix that misconception.

Residents have been requesting measures in support of traffic calming in and around this area for many years now. It is imperative the Board advance policies, pass action, and provide funding to prevent another tragic loss of life like that which occurred on November 10, 2021, when pedestrian and our beloved Sherman Elementary educator Andrew Zieman, aged only 30 years, was killed in front of Sherman during a preventable traffic accident. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Lara L. DeCaro