

April 8, 2009

Dear Mission Canyon Association and Other Interested Related Parties:

We would like to give input on a possible proposal to limit or exclude parking along Foothill Road. We have been homeowners on Foothill Road since November 2004, so we have both an interest and vested stake in any outcome on this issue. We refer to this as "front" parking vs. the parking in our established driveway.

Below are several points we want to make on our desire to continue to have parking available along Foothill Road:

1. As you know, parking is difficult on Foothill Road. If the parking is eliminated or reduced (with a possible shoulder-only arrangement), it will make it much more difficult to get in and out of our driveway without the available parking in front. Drivers often exceed the speed limit and it can be risky just to pull out of one's driveway.
2. Guest parking, which is already at a premium, will be eliminated with few options for anywhere else to park. The option is side streets not close by but this, too, poses a risk as those roads are narrower than Foothill thereby causing problems of a different safety nature.
3. If a shoulder-only situation is created, that will open up the real possibility that drivers on Foothill will use the shoulder as a "passing" lane when someone is turning right or left. We know this is a problem along Foothill as we travel it daily to go to work and too often drivers use any space available to go around turning vehicles. This is less an issue when vehicles are allowed to park presently.
4. We are deeply concerned that this could have an impact on our property values. When buying the house, we were concerned about ample, limited parking and since Foothill is already a very busy road, this elimination of parking will impact future property values if we were to try to sell the house. As a result, the County could lose tax revenues on reduced property values (an issue apart from any economic issues currently going on with our recession).
5. Whenever we have work done on the house, it has been an ongoing issue where contractors and service companies can park now. Eliminating this option, will also impact their ability to work on our house. We have experienced quite a few times when parking has been a big problem even in its current status.
6. We realize that one of the major concerns from residents in the area is the extreme fire hazard as witnessed by the recent Tea Fire. However, we do not think this is as valid a concern as eliminating or restricting parking on Foothill. The fear is that fire trucks and personnel cannot navigate with traffic at the time of a fire because other vehicles could not pull over for rescue efforts. However, this does not seem to be the case as other vehicles can now pull over onto the areas where people park now. Plus, if side streets are used more as the result of reduced parking on Foothill, you have traded one safety issue for another since the side streets would be less accessible to emergency personnel.
7. On a side note, we also believe it is time to investigate adding a traffic light at the Mission Canyon and Foothill Road intersection where stop signs presently exist to alleviate traffic flow. Plus, it seems time to investigate reducing the speed limit along Foothill Road as we witness excess speeding constantly.

We realize this is a very important issue for the County but we want to point out that the residents along Foothill will be greatly impacted negatively by eliminating or restricting parking in our neighborhood along with our belief that you are trading one set of problems with another. Thank you for considering our objections.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ulm
2947 Foothill Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105



Cliff Potts
805-682-9955

Attachment 5 email 2.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: j antenore@cox. net [mail to: j antenore@cox. net]

Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2009 7: 36 AM

To: Isaly, Erika

Subject: Re: Upcomi ng Mi ssi on Canyon Pl anni ng Advi sory Commi ttee Workshop
Information

Dear Erika, My wife and I have owned a home in Mission Canyon Heights for 5 years this month. Our son has lived in the house the entire time. We are retiring this year with the intention of moving to Santa Barbara from Irvine. Unfortunately, we only superficially follow the proceedings of the Committee and therefore have not had much to say. Please know that we are VERY involved in our present community here in Irvine, so we are good citizens when it comes to contributing to the community. I have some concerns about the parking arrangements that might evolve from the process you are working through. Unfortunately, we cannot attend any of the public meetings, so we have not been able to be more proactive. In any case, when we move there we will need to be able to park one of our two cars just off of Cheltenham, on Selwyn Circle. In addition, whenever we have company (we do visit on a regular basis on Weekends and holidays and friends do come by), we need to have parking space for them. Beyond responding to the survey (which I am not totally confident we did) we are not sure how to make our voices heard except to put ourselves in your hands in the hopes that you will help us be represented in the proceedings somehow. We regret our lack of involvement thus far, and will appreciate any consideration you are able to extend to us.

Thank you,
Jim and Fran Antenore
2900 Selwyn Circle

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Attachment 5 email.txt

From: Fran Galt [frangalt@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 8:35 AM
To: Dyste, Rosie
Subject: traffic circulation

Please share these comments with MCPAC and Bill Robertson- traffic engineer.

Since there seems to be a problem getting a third stop light at the split at Mission Canyon Rd and Tunnel Rd, another option the neighbors discussed was using a CAUTION sign where the oversized vehicle sign now stands. Something should be done because traffic coming up Mission Canyon Rd and crossing to Tunnel Rd actually crosses the path of traffic coming in the other direction ; (X) going towards the mountains and coming down to Foothill Rd. They often speed up the hill at that point instead of slowing down to see if there is oncoming traffic. A CAUTION sign might be a good alternative to a STOP and could be attached to the already in place large (oversize vehicle) sign or replace it.

Another problem is ivy growing on a nearby curve in the road. It is thick and lumpy and impossible to walk on. It puts pedestrians in danger at that point. This is the only place on this long stretch of Mission Canyon Rd that is encroached by vegetation.

Thank you
Fran Galt