

Dear City Council,

We are a group of Ward 4 residents who live in the neighborhood sandwiched between Packard and S. Industrial, with Harpst St to the north and Marlborough Drive to the south. For years we have lived with large gaps in pedestrian infrastructure, deteriorating pavement, and aggressive cut through traffic. Past attempts to address these concerns, such as speed bumps on individual streets, and neighborhood slow streets during the pandemic, have been minor fixes at best, and sometimes they've created new problems. We are writing now in the hopes that the new transportation plan will offer the opportunity to take a comprehensive approach to improving safety in our long-neglected neighborhood.

The problems with our neighborhood streets fall into a few categories:

- **Sidewalk gaps** throughout the neighborhood, but especially on Page, where there are no sidewalks at all. This neighborhood has had an increase in families who have children, but it is not safe for these children to walk or ride bikes. Many parents push strollers in the road because there are no sidewalks. There is a school bus stop on Page at Kensington and some families drive the few short blocks to the bus because they don't feel safe walking. This is also a popular route for people biking and walking from neighborhoods farther south.
- **Inconsistent stop signs** at intersections with Page, especially at Marlborough and Kensington. Some intersections are 4 way stops, some are only 2 way stops, and it is inconsistent when Page has a stop sign and when it doesn't. It is confusing for people who don't realize that some intersections are not 4 way stops. Some of us who live near those intersections have witnessed numerous crashes and countless near misses due to drivers expecting cross traffic to stop when it doesn't.
- **Cut-through traffic** throughout the neighborhood. Only Rosewood and Jewett go all the way through between Packard and S. Industrial, and both of those streets had speed bumps installed early in the city's neighborhood traffic calming program. However, none of the other streets have speed bumps, so cut through drivers speed down them and then cut over on Page or Tremmel. Coupled with the lack of sidewalks, it's incredibly dangerous. More has to be done to reduce both the speed and the volume of vehicles driving through this neighborhood.
- **Pavement condition** throughout the neighborhood. Our streets are in awful shape. Page has not been upgraded since before The George was built. All of the construction vehicle traffic took a serious toll, and since then the road condition has steadily declined. We have children who've crashed their bikes due to potholes; in some areas even walking is hazardous. It's just patches on patches.
- **Speed of traffic on Packard and the lack of safe crossings** means that for people who live in our neighborhood, even something as simple as trying to catch the bus downtown, meet a friend at Fraser's, or walk our children to their zoned neighborhood school can feel like taking our lives in our hands. Drivers don't stop at the marked crosswalks, and at many intersections there are no crosswalks at all. More has to be done to slow speeds on Packard and make it safe for people to cross.

We are writing this letter because we need solutions that are more than just petitioning for speed bumps one street at a time. We would be happy to meet with Council Members, city staff, or others to help you understand the scope of the problems we are dealing with, and to assist with community engagement in the neighborhood. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Kathleen

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