

From: James Clarke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 1:47 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Zachary Dahl <zdahl@cityofsanmateo.org>; Somer Smith <ssmith@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Comment regarding 2040 San Mateo Plan

Hello -

I wanted to provide a comment on the San Mateo 2040 city plan, particularly around noise. My wife and I live along B street, along the section without traffic lights between 9th and 5th streets. Because of the larger street size here and the easier access to the freeway, we experience a lot of noise due to loud cars and Harley Davidson motorcycles racing up and down the street, often late at night.

I've actually been in contact with local law enforcement on the issue, as late night parties at the Yuppie Bar / Cantina and the service staff at Espetus getting off work have recently become more problematic. I've also been sharing video footage that I've collected of a lot of bad behavior from repeat offenders who find it fun to race down what we now call the "San Mateo Speedway."

My intention in all of this isn't to directly attack certain individuals or businesses, but more in a hope to effect some change in the way this section of San Mateo is designed. Given that there is currently a lot of pedestrian traffic through here (with more to come once a new project is built where Kelly Moore paints currently is), placing a few painted crosswalks is not going to stop this kind of behavior through here. Noise will simply increase while safety will decrease.

We need to instead focus on various traffic calming measures to prevent the desire to speed and rev loud engines along B street in the first place. Occasionally sending officers out to ticket cars or to patrol sidewalks is not a sustainable solution unfortunately. Instead we should take simple measures like reducing street width sizes to specifically reduce the "open-ness" of the road that currently encourages this kind of behavior today.

My hope would be to see permanent fixtures that slow and/or divert traffic included as part of the 2040 general plan for San Mateo. This could include tried-and-true city planning designs like raised intersections that not only slow cars but also provide better accessibility access, putting people first instead of optimizing for the speed and size of cars that are only getting faster and larger.

I believe with some relatively simple implementations of these designs applied as soon as is financially feasible (timed with repaving or other construction projects) will drastically increase the quality of life for those of us who live here in the wonderful city of San Mateo.

Thank you.
-James Clarke

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