



Point/ Counterpoint – Bike Lanes on Fell and Oak

VISION ZERO

Over the past several years, the NOPNA board has sought neighborhood input on the possibility of adding protected bike lanes adjacent to the panhandle on Fell and Oak streets. These bike lanes would use the space currently occupied by the fourth traffic lane on these streets. We have heard from many neighbors with an interest in this project and NOPNA, along with other members of the public, requested that the SFMTA perform a preliminary analysis of the feasibility of the project (study available on the NOPNA site: nopna.org/sfmta-study).

As a result of the study, NOPNA thought we would share with you the pros and cons of several points addressed in the SFMTA's analysis, as viewed by two of our board members.

We hope that this point/counterpoint presentation is helpful and invite you to share your thoughts with us

by emailing us at board@nopna.org or at one of our general neighborhood meetings (at Oasis cafe on the third Thursdays of odd-numbered months) – as this is still an active topic of conversation for the board, and a place where we want neighborhood input. For additional plans and traffic safety information, please go to www.nopna.org.

(continued on page 3)

FROM THE BOARD

At the beginning of 2017, I was honored to begin my presidency of the eclectic, creative, vibrant, historic, and wonderful neighborhood I refer to as The Western Addition's North of Panhandle. I have lived in the neighborhood since 2010, and have been a NOPNA board member since 2013. As we all live and breathe in this beautiful neighborhood and city of ours, we are still perplexed by the changes that continue to take place in Washington, D.C. However, in the face of ongoing changes in the nation's politics, we see a spark of an opportunity to create something anew, a chance to show the rest of the nation of how the West can cultivate its own future.

We are at an important time, a time of change and metamorphosis.

It is a time and an opportunity for all those that hope for change, peace, and the world around us to allow creativity to blossom. Of course, this journey will be met with turbulence. For all the change that we hope to create, it all starts right here, local and in solidarity.

At NOPNA, we are organizing events to connect with our neighbors, like the neighborhood block party; shepherding through on-going projects, such as the Panhandle Park improvements that are finally coming to fruition; and seeking input and creativity from the community on future plans.

If you would like to join in the effort, please reach out to us at board@nopna.org, or come to our next general meeting to learn more about what we are doing and ways you can create in the community you love. We want to be a vehicle to assist and bring forth your creativity. Be a part of what's next....



Charles Dupigny is the President of the NOPNA board.

NOPNANews

The NOPNA News is published by the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association for the residents, businesses, and friends of our neighborhood, which is bounded by Masonic Avenue and Turk, Divisadero and Fell Streets.

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NOPNA's mission: The purpose of this association shall be to establish neighborhood unity, maintain multi-ethnic and multi-cultural diversity, foster a sense of neighborhood pride, promote a safe and clean community, and improve the quality of life for all residents of the neighborhood.

Contact NOPNA by email:
board@nopna.org
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Point/Counterpoint: Bike Lanes

(continued)

	Pro	Con
Pedestrian Safety	A similar transformation in Prospect Park, Brooklyn resulted in a 63% decrease in crashes resulting in injuries, according to data on the NYC DOT website.* Traffic calming, e.g. removing 4th traffic lane, bulb-outs, etc., have proven to improve safety for seniors and disabled individuals (3x more likely to be injured than other groups).	Since 2011, Fell street has recorded fewer pedestrian (and cyclist) collisions than neighboring streets such as Fulton (excluding the recently upgraded Masonic intersection).** The possibility of increasing congestion on Oak, in particular, could lead traffic to divert through neighborhood streets, increasing the opportunities for collisions on those streets.
Parking (MTA study estimates the removal of 75 of 280 spaces)	The feasibility study indicates that parking spaces would be removed for engineering improvements, including daylighting pedestrian islands at crossings and accommodating left-turn lanes onto Masonic. Since adding RPP Zone Q, parking has been more available at all times.	Parking is a critical issue for many neighbors. Past and current projects, such as 5 Fulton Rapid Project, Masonic Corridor improvements and on-street dedicated car-share are examples of the SFMTA removing availability of on-street parking.
Bike/Pedestrian Conflict	Engineering solutions are available for the protected bike lane/pedestrian intersections. Opportunities for conflicts between the various modes of travel on the multi-use path would reduce by diverting faster-moving cyclists into the protected bike lane.	The addition of two bike lanes to the existing multi-use pathway would increase the number of bicycle intersections for pedestrians to cross on their way into or out of the panhandle. Bikes will continue to use multi-use path as they already do.
Congestion	According to the SFMTA Feasibility Analysis, a travel lane reduction from 4 to 3 lanes would have minor consequences on traffic delay and operations on Fell, since there are 3 lanes at each end of the Panhandle.	Substantial backup is estimated by MTA for traffic turning left onto Masonic off Oak. Fell Street could become congested during peak hours due to a single double-parked or slow-turning vehicle.
Vulnerable Residents	Elderly, disabled, and families will be more at ease on the multi-use path with reduced use by fast-moving cyclists. Three foot safety buffers between parking and the new bike lane will allow for safely exiting vehicles and travel to a crosswalk.	Pedestrians would have to wait for gaps in cyclists to safely cross the protected bike lane. This could be challenging for slow or disabled pedestrians. According to the MTA report, this would present particular challenges to visually impaired pedestrians.
Cyclist Safety	Protected bike lanes offer a safe alternative to congested multi-use pathways.	The left-turn off Oak onto Masonic poses a challenge to safely cross the bike lane with traffic queued to turn left. This could become dangerous, especially during peak morning commute times when the SFMTA estimates 800 vehicles turn left there each hour. A similar configuration would be needed at the lesser-used turn from Fell onto Masonic.

* NYC DOT <https://goo.gl/4idAvB> ** SFGOV Maps <https://goo.gl/wNPBeO>

Jason Cauthen and Tim Hickey are members of the NOPNA board, are regular cyclists, and enjoy spirited discussions about infrastructure.

Update: 650 Divisadero



PHOTO: SF Planning Department.

On January 26, the SF Planning Department's Planning Commission held a public hearing on the development at 650 Divisadero. The public hearing was to hear from the community – a requirement under the Conditional Use Authorization process for developments greater than 10,000 sq. ft. in size. The developer is requesting an exception from the bulk restrictions for the portion of the building above 40 feet in height. NOPNA attended the hearing, as did other neighborhood groups such as

ASNA and Affordable Divis. Due to pending legislation proposed last year by Supervisor London Breed, the planning department decisions were deferred to a later meeting scheduled for April 6.

The plans for 650 Divisadero Street development continue to evolve, but as of now, these are the plans: The building is now planned for 66 units, up from 60 units, as well as two ground floor retail spaces. The breakdown of the units is planned to be

15 three-bedroom units, 23 two-bedrooms, 16 one-bedrooms, and 12 studio units. The developer has committed to 13.5% on-site affordable units, which equates to 9 units. The planned building is six stories tall.

As the development progress, NOPNA maintains its commitment to affordability by advocating for the fraction of on-site affordable units to be a minimum of 20% (~13 units, with similar bedroom/size distribution). If you'd like to send a letter, voice your opinion, or simply learn more about the 650 Divisadero Development, feel free to contact SF Planning Dept. Staff, Christopher May (christopher.may@sfgov.org PH: 415-575-9087) and please cc NOPNA (Board@nopna.org). More information on developments and other neighborhood news can be found on our website at NOPNA.org.

Charles Dupigny is president of the NOPNA board.

We are proud to support the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association.

Michael Leeder

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Art and Neighbors on Divisadero

After a long drought, this winter brought the welcome return of the Divisadero Art Walk! On February 16th, local businesses from Page to McAllister kept their doors open late to welcome neighbors and visitors in to see the work of local artists, taste craft beers, and take advantage of special deals.

With more than fifteen participating businesses, pop-ups galore, art everywhere, and delicious bites from local eateries, the bustling and friendly crowd had plenty to be happy about. By all accounts, this event provided a great reason to get out and rub elbows with merchants, residents, artists, and other neighbors that you might not otherwise meet.

The event was such a success that Divisadero businesses are planning to do another one soon – so, stay tuned for another Art Walk tentatively planned for this summer, or send a note to divisaderoartwalk@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

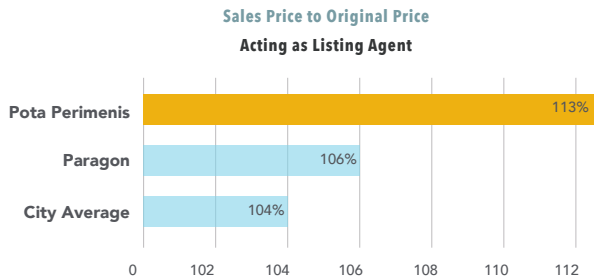


Jessie Flo McDonald is a freelance event manager/private chef (subtlepeach.com) who has lived in the neighborhood for over five years.

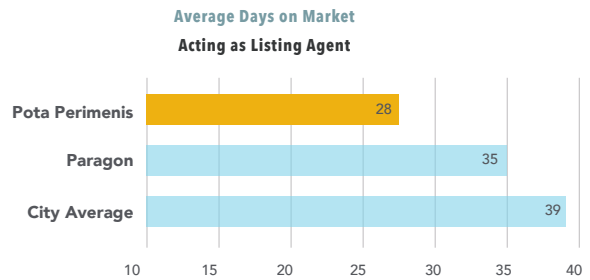
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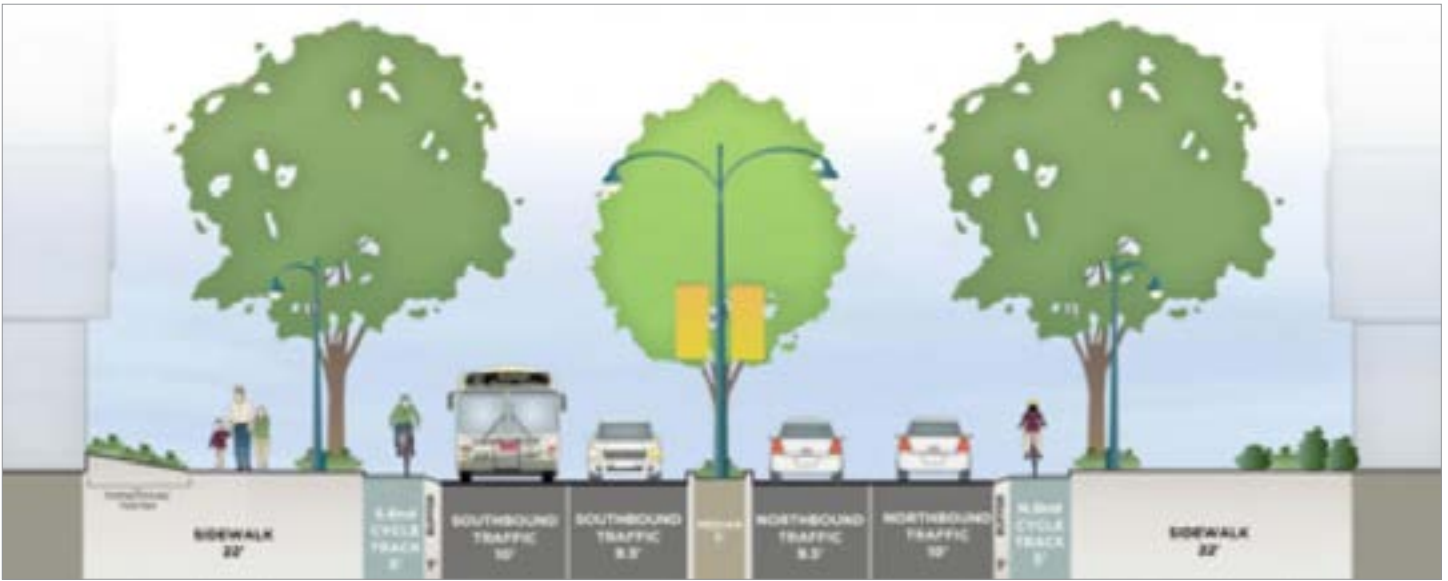


IMAGE: Rendering of streetscape improvements. **CREDIT:** SF Department of Public Works.

NOPA residents, employees, and commuters have likely noticed the construction that recently began on Masonic Avenue between Geary Boulevard and Fell Street. The project will drastically change the streetscape of Masonic. Some of the planned improvements include the addition of bike lanes, a landscaped median, wider sidewalks, new trees along the sidewalks and medians, and new sidewalk and bus stop lighting. A small park is also being constructed at the corner of Masonic and Geary that will include a pedestrian-only plaza and new public art.

Construction on Masonic is expected to last until early 2018 (barring any delays due to field conditions or equipment malfunctions). In addition to “No Parking” barricades, other parking signs will be posted along the avenue with updated parking restrictions. These restrictions will

vary by block but are expected to continue throughout the construction phase. The SF Department of Public Works has also kept local residents updated through the distribution of a “Notice of Upcoming Construction” as well as regular emails from the project management team, which include information on the scope of the project, expected work hours, and impacts on traffic.

Local residents are already noticing the effects of construction through an increase in congestion and noise during work hours and a decrease in the availability of parking spaces. Their concern over parking will continue after completion, as the project replaces existing parking spots with a bike lane. This decrease will have an impact on residents on either side of Masonic, in areas where parking is already sparse. Local business owners have expressed concern that

less parking will negatively impact their street-front business due to decreased ease of access, the hope is that increased foot and bike traffic offsets this loss.

Widened sidewalks, improved lighting, and newly installed landscaping will bring a new look and feel to one of the neighborhood’s busiest streets. The addition of bike lanes will provide a safer riding experience, and transit riders will gladly welcome improvements to existing bus stops. Though the construction is currently disruptive, these improvements are designed to create a more beautiful, easier-to-use future for Masonic Avenue.

Julian Mackie is a new resident of the NOPA neighborhood. Julian is focusing on neighborhoods improvement projects.

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Creative Aging

A group of senior residents in the NOPA and Haight-Ashbury neighborhoods have organized to present activities for seniors in our area. The new group is called “Haight-Ashbury Seniors” and its activities are located at the Park Branch Library, 1883 Page Street, and at the Hamilton Church gym.

So far, three activities have been scheduled on a regular basis:

Monthly Meeting: Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. An evening meeting with speakers and/or discussions of topics relevant to needs as seniors.

Crafts and Games: Second and fourth Thursdays at 2:30 pm. The library provides board games such as Scrabble. One senior is looking for fellow bridge players; others bring sewing or knitting projects. The group talks as they work. Anyone seeking to improve his or her needlework skills is sure to find another senior to help.

Yoga: Mondays at 11:00 am at Hamilton Church gym. Because the gym is locked, attendees need to be on time or arrange to be admitted.

For more information on the Haight Ashbury Seniors, please email haightashburyseniors@gmail.com or call Louise Dunlop at 415-346-3195.



PHOTO: Cosi Pavalko (right), founder of Haight Ashbury Seniors poses with Joanna McClure, a local poet and active participant in the group.

Louise Dunlop is an active member of the community and long-time NOPA resident.

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NOPNA Business Directory

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If 2017 is the year you decide to KonMari your trucker hat collection and put something classy on your head for a change, take a look at Hampui Medicine Hats. Handmade with care by a professional milliner in a micro-store nestled in the back of the Perish Trust on Divisadero, these hats promise to serve as a “tool for your transformation, for your healing of your world.” Willie Roberts of Hampui will even incorporate meaningful personal items (for example, your grandmother’s button, your father’s tie, your daughter’s blanket, or your favorite stone) into the hat to keep you safe.



STORES TURNING A CORNER

Out of Saran Wrap, need a pack of gum, or realize you’re short on beverages 15 minutes before the guests arrive (or after your guests have emptied your reserves)? Everyone knows the value of the hyper-local corner store. A couple of our favorites are under new management, so check them out to check out their new wares and welcome the new owners and employees to the neighborhood.

- On Fulton and Lyon, Nimers was bought by Christine and Bobby. Their experience is in the hospitality business, which is evident from the greeting you get as soon as you walk in the door. They report they have been warmly welcomed by the neighborhood and are continually updating their selection to match neighborhood needs. They have especially focused on stocking quality wines at a variety of price points that you are unlikely to find at a larger supermarket. They’re considering renaming the store and welcoming suggestions from neighbors.



IMAGE: New Owners Christine and Bobby of Nimers market.

- Nadim Agra is retiring after nearly 30 years running McBaker Grocery and Liquor on the corner of Baker and McAllister. The new owners also own the AA Market on Fulton and Broderick.

THE MILL

Four years after it opened in 2013, the Mill has decisively proved that there are plenty of people happy to pay \$4 for toast made from delicious, locally-baked bread. More recently, they’ve also expanded pizza nights to every night except for Tuesday and started serving beer and wine. On Tuesdays, they are even hosting classes on bread-making, so you can enjoy delicious fresh baked bread in your own home.

Neighborhood History: Native Daughters of the Golden West



PHOTO: Charles Dupigny

On Baker near McAllister sits a distinctive and stately building – this Julia Morgan-design has no equal in our neighborhood and could be mistaken for an embassy. Above the door is the seal of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, an organization that has been engaged in a variety of civic and charitable activities dating back to 1886 and has been headquartered in this neighborhood since 1928.

We sat down with Sherry Farley and Marilyn Rodrigues, the current and past presidents of the Native Daughters of the Golden West to learn more about the history and present of the organization.

What kind of activities do the Native Daughters of the Golden West focus on?

We try to preserve California history in any way that we can, through California Admission Day, education and scholarships, lighthouse preservation, environmental issues, and even a grove of redwood trees up

on Redwood Highway. This year we are focusing on the El Camino Real bells which we mark on Highway 1. We also have maintained the pioneer roster for the State of California since it began in the early 1900's.

How did the Native Daughters of the Golden West form?

Our organization is 131 years old, we began in Jackson, in Amador County up in gold country. California had Admission Day celebrations when we were admitted to the union. One lady had gone to one of the admission events and felt they needed to have a women's organization that does what the Native Sons do.

You have a long history civic activity. What do you think about the recent women's marches?

Good for them, people have the right to express their opinion and they did it peacefully. We marched for the right to vote, we've marched a lot in our years (lol).

The building is truly stunning, what can you tell me about it?

The building is a Julia Morgan designed building. She was the first woman architect in the State of California. She completed over 700 projects, including the Asilomar in Monterey, Hearst Castle in San Simeon, and the Berkeley City Women's Club.

What's your perspective on the NOPA neighborhood?

Well, we have been here since the beginning, since 1928. I think it's a

good neighborhood for the most part. I love the neighborhood, I feel fairly safe here walking across the street at night to go grab something to eat. It's difficult to run an organizing when you have a meeting with people from all over the state, so parking is a huge issue for us.

Are you open to the public? Do you do tours?

Yes! We have tours and welcome visitors. People come to learn about the history of our state, the pioneer roster, or their own California ancestry. Some visitors are interested in the architecture of Julia Morgan, others are just curious – people often mistake us for an embassy.

What would you say are the benefits of being part of this organization?

We are a sisterhood; we take care of each other; there's a lot of friendship along with our charity.

If you are interested learning more or becoming a member, please contact:

THE NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST
555 Baker St. SF, CA | 415-921-2664
home@NDGW.comcastbiz.net
www.NDGW.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Third Sunday: 1pm – 3pm
M – F: By appointment

Charles Dupigny is excited to have finally seen the inside of "one of his favorite buildings in San Francisco."

Safety in the Neighborhood

NOPNA is an all-volunteer organization committed to doing what we can to keep the neighborhood safe. We work with our local SFPD Police Captains at Park Station (Captain John Sanford) and Northern Station (Captain John Jaimerena), our District 5 Supervisor, London Breed to improve safety and quality of life in our area.

In February, we helped organize a community meeting with Captain John Sanford in response to a few crimes in the first part of 2017. In the course of the meeting, the Captain committed to devoting resources to particular neighborhood hotspots or other areas where neighbors voiced a concern. Since that meeting, the Captain has added foot beat patrol for the NOPA area, is working closely with local merchants, and has introduced Coffee With A Cop, an event where neighbors gathered at Central Cafe for an open dialogue with police.



PHOTO: Neighbors meet with police to discuss recent crime trends. CREDIT: Leela Gill.

In addition, NOPNA is kicking off an effort to engage neighbors in crime prevention. If you are interested in organizing your block for a neighborhood watch, our safety team leaders can help you get started. Contact Leela Gill and Charles Dupigny at safety@nopna.org.

Always remember, if you see a crime in progress, you should call 9-1-1. If you don't call, then the criminals will continue to take action on your block so it is up to you to report it. For

non-emergencies call the SFPD non-emergency number 415-533-0123.

To report graffiti, trash, or other quality of life issues, call 3-1-1 or download the 311 app or visit www.sf311.org.

It's a great service – use it!

Leela Gill is a 20+ year resident, who enjoys the neighborhood with her two boys and husband.

Calendar of Events

Summer Block Party
Sunday, May 7

Bay to Breakers
Sunday, May 21

Divisadero Farmers Market
Grove@Divisadero
Sundays, 10 am – 2 pm

SFPD Park Station Community Meetings
Park Station Community Room
Tuesdays, 6 pm
May 9, June 13, July 11

SFPD Northern Station Community Meeting

Northern Station Community Room
Thursdays, 6 pm
May 11, June 8, July 13

NOPNA General Meetings
Oasis Cafe
Thursdays, 7:00 pm
May 18, July 20

Panhandle Park Community Work Day
Meet near the playground
Saturdays, 9 am – 11 am
May 13, June 10, July 8

BLOCK PARTY SUNDAY MAY 7th 11AM - 3PM

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Hello NOPA Neighbors, it is with much excitement that Declan and I share that we've made the strategic move to join the Compass team and support the launch of its San Francisco office.

Although Compass is new to our San Francisco market, they have already transformed the real estate process for clients in major cities around the country. As a technology-based real estate platform, Compass is building smarter, more sophisticated experiences for San Francisco's buyers and sellers with best-in-class technologists from Google, Apple, and Facebook creating the company's proprietary tools for instantly accessing market data and precisely targeting the right buyers. For us, that means we can now better serve our clients more efficiently and effectively in NOPA, and beyond!

Change is exciting and it's our belief that Compass is building the future of real estate, and we feel more confident than ever in our ability to provide you with exceptional service and help you achieve your goals.

As always, please reach out to us with any real estate inquiries. We're always very grateful for the opportunity to assist with determining your property's value, or discussing any plans on the horizon.

Warm regards-
Mollie & Declan



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