
FRIENDS

OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • (310) 358-7117

JANUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

The City of Santa Monica, with an area of about eight square miles, has about 85,000 residents and a daytime population of about 300,000. This makes it one of the most densely populated cities in the region. The City is in the process of updating its General Plan to guide growth and development for the next 20 years.

Friends of Sunset Park (FOSP) is an all-volunteer organization founded in 1989 to represent the needs of the residents in the Sunset Park area of Santa Monica. To help FOSP better represent the community during the update process, we are doing a survey, the results of which will be shared with the City.

The survey should only be completed by residents living in Sunset Park. Sunset Park is bounded by Lincoln Blvd. on the west, Pico Blvd. on the north, the east city limits, and the south city limits.

If you wish to be put on a mailing list to receive results of the survey, please provide the following:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

If you don't have time to complete the whole questionnaire, we would be grateful if you could answer the questions that you feel most strongly about.

Please return the survey to us by mail at FOSP, P.O. Box 5823, Santa Monica, CA 90409.

Responses received by January 25th will be summarized and given to the Planning Commission on February 2nd.

The City will hold a General Plan Update "Community Workshop" on Saturday, January 22nd, 10 AM – 12 NOON, at the John Adams Middle School Cafeteria (on the west side of 17th Street between Ocean Park Blvd. and Pearl Street.)

All are welcome.

1. What do you like or dislike about living in Sunset Park?
2. Santa Monica Airport is the busiest single runway airport in the nation, and jet traffic has increased by 60% over the past five years. Some residents feel that this has impacted their quality of life. Do you live near the flight path (south of Ocean Park Blvd.)? Yes _____ No _____
3. To what extent are you concerned about airport-related environmental issues? On a scale of 1 to 5, please indicate your level of concern next to each item below: (1=no concern; 5=high level of concern)
 - a. Fumes _____
 - b. Noise _____
 - c. Soot _____
4. The City of Santa Monica recently submitted to the FAA some proposed safety enhancements for S.M. Airport. These included runway safety areas to protect the residents at each end of the runway (currently there are none) and elimination of safety-inappropriate larger aircraft which are not compliant with S.M. Airport's design standards. If the FAA refuses to approve these safety enhancements or causes unwarranted delays in responding to these requests,

AIRPORT

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what steps do you think the City of Santa Monica should take to insure that these much needed safety enhancements are implemented?

- a. _____ legal action
- b. _____ political action (meeting with, and pressure by the City on, our federal representatives)
- c. _____ media action
- d. _____ scientific research on health risks
- e. _____ all of the above
- f. _____ other. Please explain:

5. The 1984 Agreement between the FAA and the City of Santa Monica expires in 2015. What do you think the future of the airport (227 acres) should be?

- a. _____ park/open space
- b. _____ housing
- c. _____ schools
- d. _____ commercial
- e. _____ mixed use
- f. _____ maintain airport
- g. _____ other. Please explain:

TRAFFIC

6. Do you live on a street with speed humps?
Yes ___ No ___
7. Do you support speed humps, chokers, and islands on residential streets as a means of slowing traffic in residential neighborhoods? Yes ___ No ___
8. Do you support median strips, chokers, and “smart” crosswalks on major arterial streets such as Ocean Park Blvd., Pico Blvd., Wilshire Blvd.? Yes ___ No ___
9. What is your experience with traffic in Sunset Park?
 - a. _____ flows well
 - b. _____ congested but tolerable
 - c. _____ very congested—something needs to be done
 - d. _____ extremely congested—something must be done NOW
10. What is your experience with traffic in downtown Santa Monica?
 - a. _____ flows well
 - b. _____ congested but tolerable
 - c. _____ very congested—something needs to be done
 - d. _____ extremely congested—something must be done NOW
11. Do you have any suggested solutions for dealing with traffic on residential streets, on major streets in Sunset Park such as Pico and Ocean Park Blvd., or in downtown Santa Monica?

12. Would you support a city-funded Traffic Plan focused on reducing cut-through traffic in Sunset Park?
Yes ___ No ___

13. Some residents have been frustrated by the City’s approval of large development projects that have led to increased traffic congestion. If the City remains unresponsive, would you favor a ballot initiative that would require voter approval of all large development projects over a certain size?
Yes ___ No ___

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

14. Do you live within 4 blocks of the main campus of Santa Monica College? Yes ___ No ___
15. 75% of SMC’s students come from outside Santa Monica, many of them from areas near L.A. City College and West L.A. College. The state legislature encourages/mandates continual increases in enrollment each year at all community colleges, even though SMC already has more than 30,000 students. Would you support advocating at the state level for an enrollment cap at SMC?
Yes ___ No ___
16. The new SMC Bundy Campus is located on west side of Bundy/Centinela, south of airport property on the south side of Airport Ave. Would you favor allowing students who drive to school access to Airport Ave, which could bring up to 1200 additional daily car trips to Airport and 23rd, a D/F intersection which currently has 24,000 cars per day? Yes ___ No ___

BUSINESS AND PARKING

17. Are you satisfied with the retail services in our neighborhood? Yes ___ No ___. If not, what kind of additional stores would you like to see?
18. Would you support changes in the retail sections of Ocean Park Blvd., including the area near Bob’s Market?
 - a. _____ improved street lighting
 - b. _____ street beautification
 - c. _____ improved signage for parking lots behind stores
 - d. _____ other. Please explain:
19. Small businesses often serve local residents. Some local businesses have no parking lots for their employees or customers, and some residential streets have permit parking only.
 - a. Do you live within a half block of Pico Blvd. or Ocean Park Blvd.? Yes ___ No ___
 - b. Would you be willing to allow parking on residential streets for employees and/or customers, on a limited basis? Yes ___ No ___

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20. Fairview Library needs more parking for patrons and for community meetings in the newly refurbished Community Room. Do you have any suggestions for solving this problem?
25. As the old industrial core is gradually re-developed, would you prefer (check one or more)
- keep things the same
 - more office buildings
 - more housing
 - other. Please explain:

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

21. Construction of the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project (the ExpoLine) has been approved from downtown Los Angeles to Venice/Washington in Culver City. In Santa Monica, the Exposition right-of-way runs alongside Bergamot Station and would end near downtown Santa Monica.
- Would you support the extension of the ExpoLine to Santa Monica? Yes No
 - Would you support building higher density multi-family housing near the ExpoLine, as has been done in other cities, so that more residents could live within walking distance of the stations? Yes No
22. Most of the Big Blue Bus lines run east and west on streets such as Wilshire, Santa Monica Blvd., Pico, and Ocean Park Blvd. Would you support adding small, quiet, alternative fuel buses (perhaps similar to the Santa Monica Tide Shuttle, or the DASH buses in L.A.) on some of our north-south streets? Yes No
23. Would you support a family-oriented trolley, similar to that at the Grove, which would run along the Promenade and possibly connect with the Pier? Yes No
26. Regarding building height, the range downtown is generally 3 to 6 stories, on Ocean Avenue, 3 stories, and in industrial areas, 2 to 3 stories. Would you prefer:
- | | Downtown | Ocean Avenue | Old Industrial Core* |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| higher limits: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| lower limits: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| maintain current limits: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- * The old Industrial Core is the area from Lincoln to Centinela, Santa Monica Blvd. to the freeway.
27. The owner of Santa Monica Place has proposed a redevelopment of the site including underground parking; re-building the retail stores along an extension of the Promenade; and building 21-story towers with 350 condo units, a mid-rise apartment building, a mid-rise office building, and a park on top of much of the development. Do you support this proposal? Yes No . If not, what would you do with the site?

LAND USE

The prior General Plan Update encouraged the development of the tourist trade in Santa Monica, destination retail in downtown, and the development of the special office district (the Water Garden, the Arboretum, and the MGM building). Land use decisions in our city have a direct impact on traffic. A lot of the traffic that passes through Sunset Park appears to come from businesses in other parts of the city, Santa Monica College, or outside the city. More development will bring additional income for the city, but it will also bring additional traffic through Sunset Park.

24. Within the old industrial core (Lincoln to Centinela, Santa Monica Blvd. to the freeway), would you prefer:
- downzone to reduce density and traffic
 - keep densities the same
 - increase density
 - other. Please explain:
28. Which of the following would you support (check one or more of the following):
- maintain the current densities in all areas of Santa Monica
 - build more housing (which will also increase the population)
 - attract more businesses and jobs (which will also increase traffic)
 - keep residential areas the same, but allow modest growth downtown
 - other. Please explain:

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29. Which of the following would you support in downtown Santa Monica:
- a. _____ continue to grow the tourist industry
 - b. _____ more restaurants
 - c. _____ more performing arts venues, e.g., live theater, music, dance
 - d. _____ more resident-serving retail, e.g., Target, Trader Joe's, etc.
 - e. _____ more housing
 - f. _____ other. Please explain:
30. Which of the following would you support citywide:
- a. _____ more open space/parks
 - b. _____ more focus on "sustainability" (conserving natural resources)
 - c. _____ more bike paths
 - d. _____ more parking structures
 - e. _____ more historic preservation
 - f. _____ other. Please explain:
31. Are you affected by the homeless people in our city?
Yes ___ No ___. If so, how?
32. Crime/safety:
- a. Do you feel safe in your home? Yes ___ No ___.
 - b. Outside during daylight hours? Yes ___ No ___.
 - c. Outside at night? Yes ___ No ___.
- If not, what concerns do you have?
33. Are you seeing more graffiti around the city?
Yes ___ No ___. If so, where?
34. The city's current tree replacement program seems to favor street trees with small canopies and non-invasive root systems. Assuming that species can be found with root systems that are not invasive, would you favor replacement trees with larger canopies?
Yes ___ No ___ No opinion ___
35. Please summarize in broad terms your vision of what Santa Monica could and should be like in the future, i.e., what kind of city would you like to live in? (Attach an additional page if necessary.)

GENERAL

Thank you for taking time to fill out the FOSP questionnaire!

Please return it by January 25th to FOSP, P.O. Box 5823, Santa Monica, CA 90409.

- ___ I want to participate in advocacy efforts on these issues:
___ I don't have time to volunteer, but enclosed is my 2005 membership to support FOSP activities.
___ I do not wish to become a member of FOSP at this time.

If you have any questions, please email friendsofsp@yahoo.com or phone 310-358-7117.

JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today's date _____

I will help with:

- ___ Airport
- ___ Annual Meeting
- ___ Crime/Safety/Graffiti
- ___ Environmental Concerns
- ___ Fairview Library
- ___ Historic Preservation
- ___ Planning and Development
- ___ Public Schools
- ___ Santa Monica College
- ___ Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety

Membership Dues:

- ___ \$30 Regular Household Dues
- ___ \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor
- ___ \$10 Minimum Household Dues
- ___ Additional Donation

(Please check):

___ New ___ Renewal

*Please make check payable to
"Friends of Sunset Park"
and forward to:*

Box 5823,
Santa Monica, CA 90409-5823.

Stay informed through www.friendsofsunsetpark.org