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May 9, 2011

Dear Garfield Elementary School Walking Audit Participants:

Thank you for your participation in the Garfield Elementary School walking audit on January 6, 2011. The San Francisco Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coalition and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) are pleased to work together with the Garfield School community. This coalition assists us to better understanding the safety concerns for students walking or biking to and from Garfield School and assists us in the consideration of improvements that may increase the number of students walking and biking to school.

The notes recorded by the SFMTA at the walking audit were ranked by the participants from the Garfield SRTS team. The notes are attached for your reference. This ranking helps SFMTA staff concentrate efforts in addressing the areas of greatest concern at the school.

The SFMTA developed the following recommendations to address the safety concerns ranked by the Garfield SRTS team. While some concerns could be relatively easy to resolve, other concerns will require additional time and funding to study and potentially implement the recommended improvements.

Below are the top four ranked concerns at Garfield with SFMTA recommendations:

Garfield Elementary School - Safe Routes to School Walking Audit			
#	Concern	Location	Recommendations
1	Cars traveling at high speeds entering and exiting the intersection	Grant Ave and Filbert St	Referred to SFPD for enforcement.
2	Parents and students crossing mid-block across Filbert Street to school	Varennes St and Filbert St	School is advised to inform parents that, when crossing midblock, pedestrians must yield to cars.
		Varennes St and Filbert St	Evaluate painting red the curb return to width of alley. SFMTA Transportation Engineering will follow up with this request within 6 months. For additional information, please contact Darcie Lim at 701-4545.
3	Faded crosswalks	Filbert St and Kearny St	Pending funding, these will be repainted in school year 2011-12.
4	Curb ramps do not meet current standards	Filbert St and Kearny St	In order for DPW to prioritize curb ramp locations there must be a specific need established by a person with a mobility disability. Contact Kevin Jensen (415) 557-4685 at DPW for more information.

The SFMTA recognizes your concern of speeding vehicles at Grant Ave and Filbert Streets. SFMTA staff will work with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to develop a program for enforcement. Additionally, the SFPD is copied on this letter.


Regarding Varennes and Filbert Streets, the SFMTA will explore funding for an education campaign at the school regarding midblock crossings.

Garfield Elementary is fortunate to have an active school community. The SFMTA encourages the SRTS team at Garfield to engage in the programmatic opportunities supported through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Coalition including "Walking School Bus", "Walk to School Day" and "Bike to School Day" to promote walking and biking to school.

Once again, thank you for participating in the Safe Routes to School walking audit at Garfield Elementary School. The SFMTA hopes that it was an enriching experience for all participants who share the common goal of increasing the number of students walking to school by increasing safety around Garfield Elementary School.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Banks of my staff at 415.701.5331, or via e-mail at jeffrey.banks@sfmta.com.

Sincerely,

 OLIVER GASON
For BBS

Bridget Smith
Manager, Livable Streets

bbs:mg:og:jb

cc: Captain Kevin Cashman, Central Station, SFPD
Captain Al Casciato, Traffic Company, SFPD
Kevin Jensen, SF Dept. of Public Works
Ana Validzic, SF Dept. of Public Health