



January 26, 2023

Christina Chadwick, Director
City of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Hi Christina-

Since we met with you and Philip Trom and Claudia Brizuela from Sustainability and Mobility on 12/7/22 via Zoom, the Project Review Committee of the Bankers Hill Community Group has been giving more thought to, and considering options for, the preferred use of Balboa Drive in the West Mesa of Balboa Park. We are now in strong support of the concept plan prepared by Brer Marsh entitled Balboa Drive Bike/Activity Path (attached). Brer was kind enough to also share the concept at the recent BHCG Round Table Forum where it was extremely well received as well.

We see Balboa Drive as an opportunity to enhance actual park uses, while providing for safe circulation for vehicles, bikes and pedestrians and also meeting the parking needs of the West Mesa. More specifically, we like the following features very much:

1. Activity Track – A two-way dedicated lane along the east side of Balboa Drive from Upas to Juniper with a one-way loop south of Juniper. The track will not only enhance the park experience for visitors but will also serve as a lane for emergency vehicles, free and clear of interference from cars.
2. Bikeway Connectors – Potential side street connections along Upas, Quince, Laurel and Juniper to Sixth Avenue and the Uptown Bikeways system.
3. New Parking – Potential new parking along Quince and Juniper Streets within the West Mesa.
4. Pick-up/Drop-off Zones on Laurel – Would decrease the need for parking and accommodate those visitors who wish to walk across the Cabrillo Bridge to the Old Globe Theatre and beyond.
5. Roundabout at Sefton Plaza – Would enable the park tram to once again connect the West Mesa with the rest of Balboa Park, encouraging more car-free users and therefore reducing parking demand.

Our overriding objective in this is to help Balboa Park reach its full potential as a world class park, by focusing the ultimate solution and design on true park functions. We accept that parking along Balboa Drive is needed for users of the West Mesa, but we do not want to see it become a parking lot trying to make up for spaces lost far away in other parts of the park, especially when Balboa Drive can become a friendlier place for cyclists and pedestrians through the implementation of the relatively low-cost concept that Brer has prepared.

We are excited about the plan and the opportunities it provides. Please share our support at the February 2nd BPC meeting and please do everything you can to implement this plan.

Thank you very much,

John Percy

John Percy, Chair BHCG Project Review Committee

CC: DRC
Philip Trom
Claudia Brizuela
Councilmember Stephen Whitburn
Steven Hill, Mayor's Office



Brer's concept for
Balboa Drive.pdf