

# Freeport Boulevard Transportation Safety Committee Charter

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## **Purpose**

The Freeport Boulevard Transportation Safety Committee (“Committee”) serves as the community-led organization seeking to improve the safety of Freeport Boulevard from Sutterville Road at Sacramento City College south to 35th Avenue and surrounding area. Through regular public meetings, information gathering and advocacy, and collaboration with City of Sacramento officials and elected representatives, the Committee seeks to make substantial and sustainable improvements to this vital mixed use corridor.

The Committee seeks to partner with the City, schools, developers, neighborhood associations, other advocacy groups, local businesses, and neighbors to identify practical solutions to ensure the safety of all traveling this corridor. Specifically, the Committee seeks immediate incremental and ad hoc enhancements to key crosswalks, intersections, sidewalks and bike lanes to improve automobile, pedestrian and bicycle safety. In the longer-term, the committee seeks to establish a roadmap and advocate for a future comprehensive “complete streets” vision of this section of Freeport Boulevard to ensure the safety of people of all ages and abilities traveling by foot, bicycle, public transportation and automobile.

## **Goals**

Immediate and long-term efforts will seek to accomplish the following goals:

1. Reduce vehicle speeds to improve safety for all users of Freeport Boulevard.
2. Increase safety and mobility for people of all ages and abilities by improving the accessibility of sidewalks and adding protective bike lanes and enhanced crosswalks along Freeport Boulevard.
3. Improve the attractiveness and usability of the Freeport Boulevard streetscape for residents and shoppers travelling via all modes of transportation.
4. Strive to ensure that the safety of neighboring residential streets will not be significantly impacted by changes along Freeport Boulevard.

## **Background**

The Committee was originally formed as a Freeport safety working group through the coordination of the offices of Sacramento City Councilmembers Steve Hanson and Jay Schenirer. The catalyst for this first meeting in April 2018 was a tragic hit-and-run accident that critically injured a six year old being walked home from Sutterville Elementary School by his grandmother in early 2018. The grandmother died. The two were crossing Freeport Boulevard at Oregon Drive

when the driver failed to see them in the intersection. A marked crosswalk had recently been removed at that intersection and, in the aftermath, the City of Sacramento responded that the removal was necessary due to the heavy traffic patterns and speed along that street.

The Oregon Drive crossing was the second crosswalk in this section of Freeport Boulevard to be removed. The crosswalk from Potrero Way to Virginia Way was removed in September, 2015 after several neighbors urged the city to make enhancements to encourage its use. The January 2018 incident was not the first such fatality on Freeport Boulevard or adjacent streets and many neighbors have grown concerned with worsening traffic and numerous injuries coupled with fewer marked crosswalks and crosswalks without complete or modern infrastructure.

### **Committee Membership**

Membership on the committee is open to the public. It is anticipated that neighborhood residents, business owners, and local traffic safety advocates will constitute the majority of Committee members.

### **Committee Responsibilities**

Responsibilities may include:

- Collaborate with, recommend, and advocate before Sacramento City officials and elected members for the advancement of Committee goals.
- Identify laws, policies, and plans pertaining to the traffic infrastructure and development of the corridor.
- Early, frequent and effective engagement with all new development projects along the corridor.
- Identify existing and potential financing mechanisms and, where possible, advocate for the leverage of such resources to improve corridor infrastructure.
- Serve as ambassadors to the other neighborhood groups, explaining the purpose of the Committee and seeking input to inform Committee decisions and areas of focus.
- Regular and focused engagement with neighbors and businesses adjacent to central Freeport Boulevard in order to discern issues and opportunities that may foster a safer central Freeport Boulevard.
- Collection and review of reports, surveys, and other related data in order to better inform deliberations and recommendations on central Freeport Boulevard safety.
- Recommend and develop central Freeport Boulevard safety initiatives.
- Evaluate the progress and success of Committee initiatives, inviting presentations and soliciting information to make that determination.

In developing projects and recommendations, it is expected that the Committee be mindful of these particular challenges:

- Diverse viewpoints and behaviors among neighbors and businesses on and nearby central Freeport Boulevard
- Four elementary schools (Leonardo Da Vinci, Hollywood Park, Saint Robert, and Sutterville) and a major community college (Sacramento City College) that result in surge traffic to and from those schools during the school year.

- The expected addition of roughly 10,000 homes in the Delta Shores development in the southern end of Freeport Boulevard, dramatically increasing traffic into the central city.
- The effects of actions & street modifications on the surrounding street network and adjacent neighborhoods in order to avoid “moving traffic” and creating new problems on residential streets and adjacent segments of the Freeport corridor.

## **Committee**

Individuals participating on the Committee should exhibit:

- Strong commitment to vigorously and collaboratively working to enhance central Freeport Boulevard safety
- A willingness to approach issues in an unbiased manner, carefully considering all perspectives when evaluating Committee issues
- Community leadership on traffic safety issues

## **Officers**

### ***Committee Chair***

The Committee chairperson shall be appointed from among the committee members present at the time of election. The Committee chair and all formal positions serve at the pleasure of the Committee and may be removed or step down at any time.

The Committee chair is responsible for preparing the agenda, and leading and facilitating the Committee meetings. The committee chair will be principally responsible for fostering communication and coordination between the Committee and the City and other partnership organizations, and for communicating Committee decisions to affected individuals and organizations.

### ***Vice Chair***

The vice chair will closely support the Committee chair and members in achievement of agreed-upon goals. The vice chair will serve as the chair when he or she is unavailable to act as chair, until the chair returns or another is appointed.

### ***Business Operations Manager***

This individual will arrange meeting rooms and related logistics in advance of the group meetings. He or she will schedule meetings for the Committee, as requested by the chair or vice chair

### ***Secretary***

The secretary will record minutes and be the authority on all questions pertaining to actions taken by the Committee.

### ***Police Liaison***

This individual will reach out to and coordinate with the police department, seeking to improve Freeport safety through education and enforcement.

***Hollywood Park School Liaison***

This individual will reach out to and coordinate with Hollywood Park School, seeking to improve Freeport safety through education and enforcement.

***Leonardo Da Vinci School Liaison***

This individual will reach out to and coordinate with Leonardo Da Vinci School, seeking to improve Freeport safety through education and enforcement.

***Sutterville School Liaison***

This individual will reach out to and coordinate with Sutterville School, seeking to improve Freeport safety through education and enforcement.

***Saint Robert School Liaison***

This individual will reach out to and coordinate with Saint Robert School, seeking to improve Freeport safety through education and enforcement.

**Governance and Decision Making**

The Committee will use a consensus-based decision making process and vote only when determined necessary by the chair. A decision that needs to be made, and cannot be achieved as a consensus decision, will be made through voting and will require a 50% plus 1 vote to pass, with minority points of view recorded in the minutes.

**Resources**

It is the intent of the Committee that a wide range of perspectives be represented on the Committee and when the Committee is deliberating issues. Active participation and perspective sharing is specifically sought from:

- Council District 4\*
- Council District 5\*
- Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
- Walk Sacramento
- Sacramento Transit Riders Union
- Sacramento Unified School District.
- Sacramento Police Department
- City of Sacramento Traffic Engineering Department
- Neighborhood associations associated with neighborhoods adjacent to Freeport Blvd between Sutterville Road at Sacramento City College south to 35th Avenue
- Professionally-trained traffic and safety engineers from within the affected communities

\*It is expected and anticipated that the relevant City Council members or their representative will attend and participate at the Committee meetings at least every six months.

**Frequency of Meetings**

Meetings will be dependent on issues before the committee, and it is expected the committee will meet monthly. Meetings will be called by the chair and it is expected that the chair will report activities and focus at least quarterly to the offices of the District 5 and District 4 council members.