

Roosevelt School Traffic Survey Results, Spring 2006 - prepared by Olympia's Northeast Neighborhood Association

NENA's Roosevelt School Traffic survey was available on our Web site ([www.neneighborhood.org](http://www.neneighborhood.org)) and in the school office for just over a month. Verbatim comments from the 35 completed surveys we received are provided here. Common themes related to school design are discussed in our letter to Mr. Lahmann and Mr. Lehman.

Respondent	Describe the problem you've witnessed or experienced.	What are your suggestions to fix the problem?
#1 online	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Too many people are driving to school, thus teaching their children that lazy habits are preferable to a little exercise.</li> <li>2. People seem to feel that if they need extra parking space, the sidewalk, bike lane or shoulder of the road is there for their convenience</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are asking for and getting more sidewalks. Let's use them and teach our children, by deed as well as word, to take an active role in improving the world situation as well as that of our neighborhood.</li> <li>2. Get the police to start looking for and ticketing people who park on the sidewalks or shoulders designated for pedestrians. They cruise the neighborhood and hide on side streets waiting for speeders and go right by dozens of sidewalk parking idiots every day.</li> </ol>
#2 online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mostly I have noticed Lincoln parents who are dropping off their children in the morning, blocking the entrance to the parking lot to let their kids out, or stopping in the middle of San Francisco St to let their kids out, parking in the fire lanes. My son is on patrol and when I drop him off early on those mornings he gets very upset because he has been taught that parking in those places is against the rules, yet he sees these parents doing this consistently and I feel this really is not giving him the right message. I have witnessed about 5 or 6 incidents where children have come close to being hit because these parents have not followed safe rules when dropping their children off.</li> <li>▪ I also think the hedges at the exit of the parking lot are a huge hazard. It is very difficult to see people walking over the hedges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ My suggestion for the drop-off problem is to require all Lincoln parents to park in the parking lot and escort their children safely to the bus. This time is early and there are not any staff or adults to supervise, I think it is the parent's responsibility to make sure their child gets safely to the bus. I think there should be some kind of paper sent home about the rules for dropping off children and parents should be responsible for signing it before their child is to be let on the Lincoln bus and if they do not follow the safety rules then bus privileges should be suspended. I feel very strongly about this, I think these parents are causing major problems when it comes to traffic and the safety of others.</li> <li>▪ I think the hedges should be cut down!</li> </ul>
#3 online	Speeding	Speed bumps or other traffic calming devices prior to the three S.F. St./Bethel "T" stop signs
#4 online	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Speeding over posted limit</li> <li>2. Failure to come to complete stop at stop signs</li> <li>3. Children walking behind cars pulling/backing out from bakery</li> </ol>	<p>Policing</p> <p>Encouraging students to use other side of street from bakery</p>

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#5 online	Cars backing up out of bakery into street. See sudden stops and near misses.	Back in parking only into bakery
#6 online	Four-way stop, people do not signal, or know how to use four-way stop.	<i>[no suggestions offered]</i>
#7 online	The parking lot is poorly designed relative to the Bethel-SF street intersection.	It should be redesigned to meet Bethel at a 4-way intersection that could be signalized if the average daily traffic at peak flow meets the threshold.
#8 online	It feels that there are limited safe places for kids to get dropped off - just the one or two open spots along the front curb entrance, if it is not already backed up. Most of the front entrance area is designated 'no stopping' and parking anywhere else means that children must cross the parking lot in front of cars or cross the neighboring streets. I am often tempted to drop off on San Francisco but that would require crossing the street; often cars do not stop completely at the intersection when crossing guards are not there so I generally will not allow my child to cross.	Create a parent drop off only loop, busses only loop and a separate parking area. This would entail adding exits, infrastructure such as curbs/barriers.
#9 online	My daughter and I walk this area and the only problem we encounter is speeding traffic along Puget, San Fran, and Bethel.	I'd hope that with the new sidewalks would promote slower traffic. Enforcement and lobbying your neighbors are other means to make the roads safer for multiple uses
#10 online	Too many cars in the intersection of Bethel and San Francisco before and after school. Parents leave their cars running on the street and in the parking lot in the abandoned gas station and run their kids over to the school. There are many idling cars that are causing more pollution and congestion.	If there must be a designated drop off area it should be on the far side of school, behind the baseball fields. Encourage kids to walk to school and make the parents feel safe.
#11 online	Distracted drivers and extreme congestion, especially in the area where the school busses park.	Find an alternate location (on the side of the school probably) to park the school busses. Use the vacated pull-out as a location for parents to drop off children.

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#12 online	<p>I have not experienced problems, as I am not around that area early in the morning as school is starting or near 5 o'clock.</p> <p>I am sure there are problems and it would be good to make it safe for bicyclists and pedestrians at those hours in particular. At this time my child is 3 and not attending, but she will in a few years and we are just 3 blocks away, so our hope is to be able to walk to school and back or bike.</p> <p>I have noticed that cars drive too fast on the off streets and are a danger to kids and older people.</p>	<p>I'm sure you have some ideas, I hope to be there at the Roosevelt school for the workshops on Saturdays and learn more.</p>
#13 online	<p>It's great when the crossing guards are on duty. Everyone then pays good attention. Otherwise there are those who turn without fully stopping, and probably without fully looking.</p> <p>Parking at San Francisco St. Bakery adds another dimension of difficulty requiring backing into traffic.</p>	<p>I definitely don't want to see the bakery move, but there might be some better parking arrangement, like using the school lot on weekends? Another option might be to eliminate pull-in parking (particularly on San Fran. St), limit to parallel parking, encourage more walking, encourage parking across street at convenience store where much of lot is unused. Consider adding parking lines in that lot to area along Bethel.</p>
#14 online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The traffic stops all 3 ways at San Fran and Bethel. I often assume the traffic on Bethel is going to turn right while I plan to turn left. But, the car goes straight across into the school. I don't think I am the only one who has had to slam on my brakes.</li> <li>▪ When the children are coming or leaving the school, I now turn on Puget and go around this area if I am coming toward it on San Fran, or I turn on Pioneer and go around it if I'm on Bethel. (I live on 20th and drive Miller, Bethel, San Fran. every day.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Close the entry to the school at Bethel. Have parents come and go from Garrison.</li> <li>▪ Have a flashing light on San Fran between Puget and Bethel that flashes only when children are arriving and leaving school. Also have one on Bethel at about Pioneer. Put these far enough down so people can choose to avoid the school during these times.</li> </ul>

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#15 online	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The school crossing and 20 MPH sign approaching the school on Bethel is easy to miss.</li> <li>2. The popularity of the bakery and cars backing out of the bakery parking is a hazard.</li> <li>3. Though I've not seen a problem (I'm not a parent there), I would think a bus loading stop to the east side would be better.</li> <li>4. The parking lot entrance on San Francisco adds to traffic congestion.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add a flasher to the Bethel Street school crossing sign.</li> <li>2. Could parking for the bakery be moved to the NE corner where the vacant bldg is?</li> <li>3. Move the bus loading/unloading to the east side of the property.</li> <li>4. Close the San Francisco entrance to the parking lot....or move it farther east.</li> </ol>
#16 online	<p>Motorists southbound on Bethel treating the STOP sign as if it were a YIELD sign. This is particularly a problem when kids are in the crosswalk to the bakery from the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Issue rocket-propelled grenade launchers to kids to use on cars that run the stop sign, like kids in Afghanistan and Palestine get for toys.</li> <li>▪ OR install a pedestrian controlled traffic signal at that intersection. Cars tend to slow down more for red lights than they do for stop signs.</li> <li>▪ OR put a motorcycle cop near that intersection for a few weeks.</li> </ul>
#17 online	<p>I see a lot of cars running the stop in front of the bakery and also cars lining up to pick up kids but not parking. They drive slowly in hopes that their child will see them so that they do not have to get out of the car. This causes others to not be able to back out of their parking spots, which I believe is a safety hazard. Thank you!</p>	<p>Creating an area for pick up of students. Maybe on the west side of the school where there is a few parking spots on the street. Or change where the buses park to that area and allow parents to pick up where buses are now. Stop sign needs to be monitored better by police. They could make a haul!!</p>

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#18 online	I try to avoid the Bethel and San Francisco intersection during the school hours. You just never know what drivers are going to do there. A good fifty percent of the drivers do not stop at the stop sign on San Francisco. Children are running in all directions and parents who pick up their children are always in a hurry. With the growth in this area the problem is only going to get worse. It is just a matter of time before someone is hurt at that intersection.	It seems to me that the buses use to let off the students on Garrison. I do believe that is why the curb cut is there. I do not know why this was stopped except that the children had to cross the parking lot. Let's try and find a way to separate the buses and private cars. It would be nice if more students could walk and bike to school. When my children were at Roosevelt the bike rack was full every day. Now I see only a very few. Do parents not feel safe letting their children walk or bike to school?
#19 online	I have noticed speeders around Roosevelt & I have also seen many cars running the stop sign on the corner of San Fran & Bethel. I have also noticed that drivers often ignore the Roosevelt patrol & will drive through the intersection even when the patrol is holding out the red flag & a child is in the cross walk.	Post a police officer one day a week (at random) @ the intersection. Within a month or two, I think people will be more careful.
#20 online	Two issues with this area of the neighborhood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First, when busses in the loading zone create visual obstructions for pedestrians on the sidewalk between the busses and the school. Cars driving east on SF often don't see pedestrians attempting to cross SF from Roosevelt to the bakery.</li> <li>▪ Secondly, the traffic flow through the Bethel/SF intersection is very heavy in the morning and evening with commuters who very often are distracted and roll the stop signs while pedestrians approaching the school or the bakery are present.</li> </ul>	Traffic lights might be a good solution for heavy traffic times. These might transition to blinking yellow and red lights during the day or late evening when both pedestrian and automotive traffic is reduced.
#21 online	Buses, pedestrians, and cars are all jammed into one place making it particularly dangerous for children exiting cars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage people to put their children on the bus or use alternative transportation to get to school.</li> <li>▪ Re-route buses to the east side of the building freeing up space for better car drop off.</li> <li>▪ Stagger school start time.</li> </ul>

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#22 online	<p>Yes – I've seen traffic backed up into the intersection - sometimes causing gridlock - at the same time kids are trying to cross the street at the entrance to the school - it's very confusing as a driver to be aware of what's going on - kids, parents, cars, all converging from many different directions - and there don't seem to be any adult crossing guards - all 5th graders who seem overwhelmed sometimes part of the problem seems to be where staff park - they park near the entrance so cars can't pull into the slots near the entrance to drop off kids - so they have to pull in a good ways and then walk their kids through traffic to the building - and having the small buses parked inside the lot causes additional back-ups - the buses are along the curb and then cars stopped next to the buses to drop off kids and next to those cars there are the parking spaces that are full - a recipe for gridlock...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Move the bus drop-off area into the parking lot or onto Garrison.</li> <li>▪ Have staff park further away from the building</li> <li>▪ Maybe have the entrance and exit be on Garrison - and close off the entrance off SF street</li> <li>▪ Have some more adult help for the crossing guards</li> </ul>
#23 online	<p>I find the traffic to be hectic and unsafe during school drop-off and pick-up times. I have seen several "close calls" in which a pedestrian is crossing a street and an aggressive, distracted driver has to stop abruptly. I would not feel comfortable letting my child walk to school by himself because it feels too risky.</p>	<p>I feel there needs to be a line set up in which parents can safely drop off their kids without getting out of their cars such as Madison and other elementary schools provide. This is an orderly, safe solution to the chaos of searching for a place, any place to pull over so you can get your kids into the school safely.</p>
#24 online	<p>Sometimes there is congestion. I like the city's plan for improvements at the intersection as part of the city sidewalk plan.</p>	<p>Please do not go overboard on this one! For example, ticketing long time residents for first offense small roll through stop sign is NOT destined to get the Assoc. the broadest support. I understand the police do reference "the community's wishes" while writing the ticket. Again, this does not make me clamor to be active in the Assoc. I've lived in the neighborhood 15 years- we got the drug dealers out and supported Roosevelt when it was not a popular school - neighbors bussing out to Lincoln, etc. My kids were crossing guards at Roosevelt. It's congested, but the idea that it is such a huge danger does not resonate with me. Also, please, no mandala! I have never seen one that looked good, and will only find myself apologizing for it. And trust me, my lefty, hippie cred is excellent!</p>

Respondent	Describe the problem you've witnessed or experienced.	What are your suggestions to fix the problem?
#25 online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It's crazy that cars, buses, and students walking to school must all cross over the same driveway.</li> <li>▪ The crossing guards are working toward a noble goal, but I think the situation is way beyond their capabilities. Very seldom do I see an adult helping the 5<sup>th</sup> graders negotiate this complex traffic situation. Too often, drivers and pedestrians are confused by the crossing guards' signals, and I can see drivers getting very frustrated and pushy when they finally get the chance to cross the intersection -- pushy to the point where I've almost been hit in the driveway by a parent who is frustrated and anxious to beat the tardy bell.</li> <li>▪ How can a bus loading/unloading zone also be considered a fire lane? Several cars habitually stop behind the little buses to let their kids out &amp; the traffic patrol person lets this happen. How the heck is a kid supposed to confront a parent who is intent on doing the wrong thing &amp; thinks nothing of inconveniencing parents stacked up into the intersection behind them?</li> <li>▪ The current bus area on SF might present a health hazard if buses are allowed to idle so close to the Head Start playground and the kindergarten classrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We need a designated curbside student drop-off area!</li> <li>▪ The crossing guards need more training, more authority and consistent, on-the-street supervision so they can effectively do their very important job. Honestly, not to get them in trouble or anything, but the student crossing guards are often talking about friends, clothes, or other personal topics instead of watching and anticipating traffic.</li> <li>▪ Get the little buses out of the driveway! Move them to the bus zone on San Fran, and move the big buses to Garrison.</li> </ul>

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#26 handwritten	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Traffic backups in the Roosevelt parking lot (extending into the intersection of San Francisco and Bethel) due to cars stopping (i.e., no drop off lane) to let off students makes the parking lot unsafe for walkers, impossible to park, car backups extending out into the road adds to confusion for both walkers and cars.</li> <li>2. Lack of sidewalks. We do not allow our son to walk due to safety issues. "Pseudo-sidewalk" of asphalt on east side of Quince used for parking by residents.</li> </ol>	<p>Need a drop off lane in the school parking lot! Can the fire lane be used if drivers remain in cars? Alternatively, how about using the south side of parking lot? Could create a walking path along fence that kids could use to walk to building, with adjacent lane for cars to drop off (w/absolutely no parking). Get the drop off cars away from the entrance!</p> <p>Need sidewalks <i>throughout</i> neighborhood, not just the fancy new ones planned for San Francisco, which already has sidewalks near the school.</p>
#27 handwritten	Too much competition out front of the school. Buses, cars, kids, trucks, police cars, bakery trucks, bicycles!	<i>[no suggestions offered]</i>
#28 handwritten	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drivers are going too fast, and failing to stop at the crosswalks. This happens even when crossing guards and children are present.</li> <li>2. Too many cars.</li> <li>3. Sidewalks along SF and arteries are not sufficient.</li> </ol>	<p>Better marked sidewalks and create more sidewalks. More police presence and aggressive ticketing. Also, I think Mr. Fergeson needs help; another adult is needed to assist crossing guards.</p>
#29 handwritten	When Lincoln parents drop off or pick up and don't obey signs – they stop in the middle of the intersection to drop off and pick up their kids.	<p>Park, then drop off!</p> <p>Do not change the current Roosevelt bus location!</p>
#30 handwritten	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vehicles parked in the driving lanes behind the three parking spots (including two handicapped spots) near the Dumpsters everyday after school.</li> <li>2. For morning drop offs, there needs to be a designated drop off area for vehicles, preferably away from the pedestrian routes.</li> <li>3. Drivers need to yield much more often to pedestrian traffic. Need to encourage more pedestrians and discourage drivers.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All vehicles need to be parked in designated parking spots. Signs, school newsletter, and enforcement by school staff?</li> <li>2. Maybe eliminate the three parking spots by the Dumpster and redesign for curbside drop off (but not pickup – would be too congested at 3:17)</li> <li>3. Encourage park and riders. Park in school lot and take bus downtown! Maybe old gas station could be turned into a park and ride?</li> </ol>
#31 handwritten	Too much disregard for speed limits on Bethel, Miller, Ethridge	Enforce speed limits, especially during before-school and after-school peak pedestrian and bicycle use. AND install circle medians as well as more cross walks and sidewalks.

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#32 handwritten	There seems to be safety issues at the crosswalk on San Francisco/Bethel and much congestion. There is no safe designated pull-up at curb side for dropping off and picking up children in the morning and after school.	Possibly change where the buses drop off and pick up and designate that area on San Fran for pull-up/curb-side drop off and pick up. Also designate more spaces <u>further</u> away from the school office for staff parking and more <u>near</u> the office for visitors and volunteers to avoid congestion.
#33 handwritten	Most problems occur at the main entrance area where some parents insist on letting children out car or SUV etc. <u>prior</u> to locating a parking stall. This entrance is dangerous also, being a <i>[indecipherable]</i> for children on foot, buses and vehicles. Primary concern is mornings.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transit bays (drop-off only, pickup only) zones on Garrison, Leavenworth, and Tullis. Currently little to no vehicles choose this option.</li> <li>2. Walk your child to school from a more remote spot—it only takes a couple of minutes, is enjoyable, and saves a lot of frustration and energy for more positive action during the day!</li> </ol>
#34 handwritten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People stop to drop off kids when and where there is designated through traffic.</li> <li>▪ Not sure safety patrol kids can contend with four-way stop and aggressive drivers.</li> <li>▪ No place for curbside drop off.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rearrange bus drop off somehow.</li> <li>▪ Consistently ticket aggressive drivers.</li> <li>▪ More parking spaces for parents near the school.</li> </ul>
#35 online	Have noticed vehicles not completely stopping at the stop signs, even when people with children are trying to cross. This is also a chronic issue at San Francisco and Puget.	I like the ideas you are pursuing currently, such as a design in the center of the intersection. I would like to see signage/flags that indicate reduced speeds, etc. because of the school and high pedestrian traffic. Many of us regularly walk/bike in our neighborhoods. In the Shoreline area in Seattle, there is a permanent indicator that shows a vehicle's speed. I think this would be useful along Bethel as the school area is approached.