



Tacoma City Council
Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street, 12th Floor
Tacoma, WA 98402

October 11, 2016

Dear Tacoma City Councilmembers,

We would like to request your support in improving traffic safety conditions for children who attend both Bryant Montessori School and Jason Lee Middle School. Many students at these schools walk or bike along Sprague Avenue to access their school campus. As parents, teachers and administrators we would like to work with the City of Tacoma to make this area a safer route for walking and biking to school. Both campuses are currently experiencing record enrollment and the number of families with school age children in these neighborhoods is expected to grow. Traffic congestion and accidents in these neighborhoods will be reduced when more students can safely bike and walk to school.

Parents, teachers and administrators are proposing a list of recommendations that would help improve safety near the Bryant and Jason Lee campuses. We encourage the City of Tacoma to consider these recommendations and work with us to develop strategies that will keep our children safe. The following is our list of recommendations:

- Re-stripe Sprague Ave. to add a bike lane between 6th Ave. and S. 12th St. There is currently no buffer between the narrow sidewalk and traffic. This can be done by either removing the center turn lane or reducing the number of total traffic lanes, similar to the re-striping of S. 12th St.
- Enforce the school zones surrounding Jason Lee and Bryant with speed patrols to encourage drivers to slow down.
- Extend the designated school zones along Sprague Ave to close the 1-block gap between Jason Lee and Bryant.
- Make the school zone signs consistent. There are currently three types of school zone signs in this area: "20mph when flashing," "20mph from 7:30-3:30" and "20mph from 7:30-4:00."
- Improve the pedestrian crossing at S. 9th St. and Sprague with fresh paint to make it highly visible and an increase in the crosswalk signal timing. Making this intersection a "no turn on red" will also help to increase safety for both students and community members.
- Add highly visible crosswalks at S 7th St, S 8th St and S 10th St across Sprague Ave. These crosswalks will also benefit many neighborhood residents who use these intersections to cross Sprague as well.
- Adjust the garbage pickup arrangements for homes along Sprague between S 9th Ave and S 10th St. On Fridays, the sidewalk is blocked with garbage bins awaiting pick up so there is very little space for students to walk and bike along this high traffic route. Move garbage cans to the alley or consider widening the sidewalk to improve safety for residents and pedestrians.
- Repaint the "no parking" and "no stopping" zones along the curbs near Bryant and Jason Lee. Bryant does not have a parking lot and many cars are parked too close to the intersections reducing visibility at the crosswalks. Clearly identifying pick up and drop off zones for students would improve traffic safety. We would be happy to assist in this effort with support from city officials.

- Repaint the crosswalks within the Bryant and Jason Lee school zones to increase awareness of pedestrians in these areas. Many crosswalks in the school zone have significantly faded and are in need of fresh paint.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to make student routes to school in the Bryant and Jason Lee neighborhoods as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown
Bryant PTO President

Mark Ulvila
Jason Lee Middle School PTA President

Adam Kulaas
Bryant Montessori Principal

Christine Brandt
Jason Lee Middle School Principal

Cc:

Carla Santorno, Tacoma Public Schools, Superintendent
Karen Vialle, Tacoma Public Schools, Board President
Catherine Ushka, Tacoma Public Schools, Board Vice President
Debbie Winskill, Tacoma Public Schools, Board Member
Scott Heinze, Tacoma Public Schools, Board Member
Andrea Cobb, Tacoma Public Schools, Board Member