

**April 2024 News**

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**Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 PM – Zoom**  
**CSFN General Assembly Meeting Program: Transportation**  
 Bob Feinbaum on Muni Trains (with Reso)  
 Up-zoning brings parking nightmares for residents.



Figure V-4a: Existing Sloat Blvd = Parallel and Diagonal Parking + 3 Driving Lanes + Diagonal Parking + 3 Driving Lanes



Figure V-4b: Proposed Sloat Blvd = Bike Lane + Pedestrian Walk + Diagonal Parking Pockets + 2 Driving Lanes + Planted Median + 2 Driving Lanes

**Ask the candidates what they plan to do about SFMTA, the Coastal Commission, Rec and Park. SFMTA is broke. The public is angry.**

Why is SFMTA spending time and money on plans to re-align streets right while they are bankrupt? How much has been spent on this project so far? How much is in the budget for the next two years?

Fill the holes and stop planning quick-build projects like this one on Sloat. SFMTA time and money needs to go to MUNI for the people who need it. Leave the rest of us alone!

## From the Desk of the President: **CAN CITY HALL MANAGE THE NONPROFITS?**



Last month I wrote about what a horrible job certain nonprofits were doing, mentioning mismanagement including the death of one of their clients. More bad news has surfaced about Providence Foundation; now add Baker Places and HomeRise to the list! The former contracts with the city, has treatment beds and serves about 2,000 clients a year; the latter operates over 1500 units at 19 properties across the city.

HomeRise's high vacancies not only reduced its revenue but hurt its mission to provide unhoused people with permanent supportive housing. Supervisor Stefani stated that " Such blatant mismanagement undermines the commendable efforts of countless other providers " (SF Chronicle, April 4). She recently authored nonprofit accountability legislation; let's hope it results in better oversight and greater financial stability!

**April 16 is Lobby Day in Sacramento.** I'll be leading one team of concerned citizens to meet with Assembly and State Senate members about issues such as up-zoning, density and housing production, the same issues that should inform the candidate forum for the mayor's race we are planning to hold soon! Stay tuned for further updates!



### **TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR CSFN GA ON ZOOM APRIL 16, 2004**

1. Call to order, approval of agenda
2. Spotlight: Renee Lazear, Report on the D-4 Up-zoning
3. Program: SFMTA, Rob Feinbaum, Save Muni
4. Officers Reports
5. Committee Reports
6. Approval of Draft Minutes for March 19 General Assembly
7. Unfinished Business: Update on CSFN elections
8. New Business: Resolutions - Speak Resolution
9. For the Good of the Order:
10. Adjournment

**Last month we looked at bills the our state representatives to usurp the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission to take control the development along our California Coastline.**

It started with SF. And then mushroomed on to the Entire Coasts. That effort is ongoing. Our city leaders and members of the public are trying to stop passage of the bills in Sacramento. Write your state representatives and let them know how you feel about the anti-Coastal Commission bills. There are four of them so far that we know of.

**Send a message to Senator Wiener.  
Sign the petition. Stop SB 951.**

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-on-sb-951-keep-california-coastline-open-and-accessible-2>



# Seismic Protections One Year Later - Any Progress?

By David Osgood, Rincon Point Neighbors



One year ago, we had our round table discussion with three distinguished (PhD) seismic experts, and we outlined the more apparent risks facing those who live and work in San Francisco high-rises. Has the city made any progress in reducing these known risks? Unfortunately it doesn't appear that any progress has been made.

A year ago we heard that there would be legislation introduced by a supervisor to address the most vulnerable category of buildings (unreinforced concrete) and that comprehensive hearings would be called by another supervisor. Neither happened. The number of buildings in the [city's database](#) that have been reinforced remains the same: a pathetic eight (out of 180). And they count one building that was supposedly reinforced in 1938!

It remains to be seen if buildings converting from office to residential use will be seriously retrofitted as the law requires, or will they just get relatively minor patches. This work needs to be done when the buildings are unoccupied. You know it will not be done once they fill with people. Lives are at stake.

Here is a reminder of the vulnerabilities. The city appears to have done a reasonably good job in getting smaller

buildings with so-called soft stories reinforced, mostly out in the neighborhoods. The next category on the city's list is the buildings with unreinforced concrete walls (which often means older auditoriums, theaters, etc.). Others include the specific 39 high rises known to have steel frames with weaker welds instead of bolts (according to a study by the US Geological Survey and listed in [The New York Times](#)). Then there are the 25 high-rises that still have relatively shallow "mat" foundations floating on fill (which is what the Millennium Tower had before it was retrofitted with deep pilings).

Dates matter. The historic former Southern Pacific building at One Market built in 1916 is listed as having been retrofitted in 1999. But its two adjoining high-rises (shown above), built in the 1970s, are considered to have numerous vulnerabilities (built on fill, foundations that do not reach bedrock, and weak welds).

We have been told (what we heard last year) that the supervisors' hearings will take place sometime this year after the budget and summer recess. First things first?

## Mayoral Candidates Forums coming soon - Top 5 out of 47 +

Breed - [londonformayor.com](http://londonformayor.com)

Farrell - [markfarrell.com](http://markfarrell.com)

Lurie - [daniellurie.com](http://daniellurie.com)

Safaí - [ahshaformayor.com](http://ahshaformayor.com)

Peskin - [aaron2024.com](http://aaron2024.com)



### Fill the empty units first and convince HCD to include those in their RHNA numbers.

Most of the Mayoral candidates appear to agree on one thing. The Downtown zoning for office space has to change. The fastest way to accomplish this is to fill the buildings with housing. As it turns out, there are a lot of empty units there already. They should be filled with residents. Why is everyone avoiding those properties?

President Peskin addressed the empty units issue at the March GA meeting. Realtors are coming to him complaining about empty vacancies and a lack of demand for their units, while YIMBYs claim San Francisco is in the throws of an historic housing crisis. Similar complaints are being heard in other neighborhoods.

What is going on? Are the rents too high? Do people prefer living in single family houses or closer to nature or want parking or bigger apartments? Are the spaces too small or impersonal? Did the planners get it wrong?

The lack of insurance makes it hard to finance new buildings and the high interest rates, materials and labor do not attract many investors.

No one disputes that there are a lot of empty and entitled unbuilt housing units in SF. How can we convince HCD to count the empty units and the inbuilt entitlements toward the RHNA numbers?

## CSFN Pushes SFPD To Act on Motorcycle Sideshows

On March 8, 2017, a driver named Alex was pulled from his taxi in the middle of 101 near Cesar Chavez during rush hour by a violent motorcycle gang (right). All traffic came to a stop. He was in the hospital for a week. A Chronicle reporter had seen the gang doing stunts in the middle of Sixth and Mission streets a few minutes earlier.



These motorcycle gangs, often on quads and dirt bikes riding dangerously through the city, running red lights, having near misses with bicyclists in protected lines and riding on sidewalks at high speed—sometimes for hours at a time—have been a weekly problem ever since. Often there are conflicts and confrontations with drivers and pedestrians. The city’s approach of ignoring the problem and hoping it will go away has obviously not worked.



Just 13 days after the 101 crime, on March 21, 2017, the newly hired police chief, Bill Scott, was asked about the problem at the monthly CSFN meeting. He said it would probably take a multi- agency effort to address the problem and made no promises. He didn’t look at the photographic evidence on display in the meeting. One of his lieutenants seemed to dismiss the issue with a kids-will-be- kids comment.

It is permissible (and important) for people viewing this behavior to call 911—it is officially considered that serious. You don’t have to call the non-emergency number. Yet, dispatchers and police seem disinterested. One CSFN member who calls weekly (to at least get the situation logged so officials can’t deny it is happening) has never had a call back from the police. Offers to stay on the line to keep officers apprised of a gang’s movements are never accepted. Calls alerting the PD that a group is headed into the city on the Bay Bridge in advance are also dismissed because the bridge is not a city street. Call back when they are in the city, is the response. So much for staying ahead of the problem.

Residents familiar with the situation have made several suggestions on how to capture a group of these motorcyclists without chasing them. (We won’t divulge those methods here in advance.) Doing this one time might be all it takes to discourage future behavior.

It has been observed that 20 to 25 SF police cars can sometimes be seen racing across the lower deck of the Bay Bridge at night chasing someone. If half that number of prepared officers could be dedicated to boxing in a motorcycle gang one weekend afternoon, they might get results. Anyway, it seems rather pathetic that residents have to be the ones thinking of solutions.



After seven years of inaction, the problem was raised with police Commissioner Benedicto at the February 20, 2024 CSFN meeting. He then asked the chief about solutions during the Police Commission meeting the next evening. The Chief said they are trying to “figure it out.” The commissioner asked for a full report at a future commission meeting “this spring.” During a follow up conversation with the commissioner on March 15, he promised to set up a meeting with the department. We have not received any contact about such a meeting as of this writing (4/8).

Resolution for CSFN April 2024 meeting

WHEREAS, The five Muni Metro lines were intended to serve as the backbone of an integrated transit network to go anywhere in San Francisco, and;

WHEREAS, Muni Metro riders expect and value a direct ride without a transfer to downtown, and;

WHEREAS, In response to rider protests the SFMTA reversed its decision to confine the J line to the surface but the Agency still regards the “experiment” as a success, and;

WHEREAS, The SFMTA has plans to interline the K and the L lines which would force riders to transfer at West Portal, and;

WHEREAS, The SFMTA wants to run fewer and longer trains in the Subway, and;

WHEREAS, The SFMTA faces looming budget shortfalls which could serve as a pretext, despite its inconvenience to riders, to eliminate downtown service for the J, K and L lines, and;

WHEREAS, The SFMTA could achieve its goal of fewer, longer trains in the Subway by coupling trains at or near West Portal and Market/Duboce, and;

WHEREAS, Ridership on Muni Metro lines is down from pre-pandemic levels due to the slowdown in office work downtown, which would make a pilot project to couple trains more feasible at this time

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: CSFN Opposes eliminating service to downtown on the J, K and L lines, and forcing riders on any Muni Metro line to transfer to reach downtown destinations, and;

BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: CSFN Supports pilot projects to create fewer, longer trains in the Subway by coupling trains on the K and M lines at or near the West Portal station, and coupling trains on the J and N lines at or near Market and Duboce.



## **DRAFT MINUTES FOR CSFN GA MARCH 19, 2024**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Head.
2. Spotlight was skipped.
3. The program featured Supervisor Mandelman updating A Place for All and Mark Nagel presenting for Rescue SF, both answering questions also.
4. Officers Reports: President Head spoke of the March 5 elections, the upcoming CSFN elections in May, and the general election in November. Vice president Rogers attended SF Tomorrow and Save Muni meetings and one about Head Street. Treasurer Scott said we contributed \$500 each to Livable California and California Catalysts. Corresponding Secretary Fontes had no report; Legislative Liaison Boken spoke of calling out State Senator Weiner and the SF Planning Department for comments made at the meeting of the California Coastal Commission.

### **CSFN Board Candidates For MAY 21, 2024, Election (as of April 4, 2024):**

More Nominations May Be Made at the CSFN GA on April 16, 2024 after which nominations will close.

**PRESIDENT** - Glenn Rogers, current Vice President, formerly Corresponding Secretary, President of Parkmerced Action Coalition, Landscape Artist D-7

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** - Charles Head, current President, formerly Recording Secretary, Past President of Sunset Heights Association of Responsible People, Retired History Teacher D-7

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** - Lee Ann Priffitti, Past President of Diamond Heights Improvement Club, City and County of SF employee, SF Labor Council and DCC D-08

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** - Mari Eliza, Interim Recording Secretary, Member at Large, Artist D-9

**RECORDING SECRETARY** - Deborah Murphy, current Member at Large, Board Member of Mid-sunset Neighbors Association, Online Bridge Instructor D-4

**TREASURER** - Greg Scott, current Treasurer, Pacific Heights Residents Association, Certified Public Accountant D-2

#### **MEMBERS AT LARGE (3)**

Mary Harris - Current Member, President of Ocean, Merced, Ingleside Neighbors in Action, D-11 President

David Osgood - Current Member, President of Rincon Point Neighborhood Association, Retired D-6

Vacant (to be determined)

**CSFN Meetings:** The public is always invited to our General Assemblies on the third Tuesday of each month, and to attend committee meetings and town halls. In addition to the members of our organizations we have many Friends of CSFN that contribute! We are transparent and cast a wide net to attract all those interested in improving San Francisco and all of its neighborhoods.

Send articles and other materials you want to share to: [csfninfo@gmail.com](mailto:csfninfo@gmail.com)

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