

On January 7, the Grand Lake Neighbors hosted a community meeting at which City Transportation Services Department (TSD) engineers and a landscape design consultant presented information about the plans to improve the above intersections. The plan, known as the Lakeshore Complete Streets project (funded by a "Complete Streets" grant from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Agency) will improve pedestrian safety, primarily by reducing crossing distances, while also better balancing the needs of all modes of transportation – vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and transit.

The focus of the meeting was for the community to review and provide feedback on landscape design alternatives developed by Joanna Fong of Sasaki Associates. She presented three alternative designs entitled a) Flow Garden; b) Colors of Oakland; and c) Moving Lines. See design alternatives [here](#).

The audience of roughly 30 residents provided thoughtful and constructive comments on each of the alternatives. There seemed to be a slight overall preference for alternative #3, Moving Lines, because it offered the most flexibility to use the space, but also accommodated some seating that was separated from the pedestrian flow. There was also interest in mixing or adding elements from the other alternatives including installation of a vertical column that would identify the neighborhood or perhaps the use of public art, “uplighting” certain features in the plaza, and using planting areas that would deter jaywalking.

There was considerable interest in extending the scope of the landscape design area beyond the pedestrian plaza to include the east side of Lakeshore and parts of Lake Park Avenues. Our office will continue to have conversations with staff and Grand Lake Traffic Calming Committee members, who originally proposed improvements for these intersections, on this topic.

The landscape designer will be taking all the community comments heard at the recent meeting into account as she designs a preferred alternative which will be presented at a future community meeting. If you were unable to attend the recent meeting, but would like to submit comments related to the landscape design proposals, please email to Joanne Karchmer.

Community members also raised other traffic issues, some of which were beyond the scope of this project. The Grand Lake Neighbors will work with the Grand Lake Traffic Calming Committee to potentially arrange another meeting on additional traffic concerns some time in the future. Mohamed Alaoui, TSD project manager for this project, also indicated that a separate project is being undertaken by Alameda County to install “intelligent” signaling to improve traffic flow at the Lake Park and MacArthur intersections at Lakeshore as well as at Grand/Lake Park and Grand/MacArthur in advance of this project.