

Serra Mesa Planning Group

A Recognized San Diego City Planning Group - Serving the Citizens of Serra Mesa

Post Office Box 23315 San Diego, CA 92193
smpg@serramesa.org

May 21, 2026

Shana Hazan
Vice President, San Diego Unified School District
Trustee, District B
4100 Normal Street, Room 2231
San Diego, CA 92103

RE: Traffic Safety Issues at Taft Middle School

Dear Ms. Hazan:

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) passed a motion on May 21, 2026, to request that the safety issues regarding drop off and pick up at Taft Middle School be addressed. SMPG would like a meeting with you and the Taft Middle School Principal to discuss these issues and develop a plan to resolve them. Other stakeholders that may have valuable input include City Councilmember Raul Campillo's office, the school police, the Taft Middle School Parent Teacher Organization, SDPD, and the City of San Diego Traffic Engineering Department.

There are safety issues at Taft Middle School when parents drop off and pick up their students at dismissal time that have continued to go unaddressed for several years. The issues, especially apparent and intense during pick up time (see attached photos), include:

- Vehicles double parking and blocking the bicycle lane of Gramercy Drive
- Illegal U-turns
- Parking in the middle turn lane
- Students crossing in unsafe areas on Gramercy, a hilly street with crosswalks only at the intersections on Ruffin and on Mobley

The reconfiguration and reduction of Mission Village Drive and Gramercy Drive to two lanes has resulted in traffic buildup during peak traffic times – backup on Ruffin Road to Success Avenue. In addition to the three planned Mission Village Drive developments there is the potential for development of the properties across from Taft Middle School - the 7-acre lot and the adjacent Guild Mortgage building lot. All this development as well as the future development at the Mission Valley SDSU site could further impact traffic along Gramercy Drive and Mission Village Drive, exacerbating the traffic safety issues at dismissal time.

At the SMPG June 2024 meeting a presentation was made regarding the Jones Joint Use Park project. The proposed plan adds a parking lot at the north end of that site for use by staff during school time and by park visitors during non-school time. The existing parking lot facing Greyling Drive would be reconfigured for drop off and pick up. This is an example of a proactive plan to improve drop off and pick up of students that could be similarly implemented at Taft Middle.

The safety of everyone (students, pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles) should be paramount. There is value to resolving the safety issue: avoid future accidents, demonstrate collaboration among major stakeholders, and provide good public relations for everyone involved.

The SMPG looks forward to a timely response regarding our request to meet to discuss these traffic safety issues.

Sincerely,

Chris Rosemond
Chair, Serra Mesa Planning Group

cc: City Councilmember Raul Campillo
Hortensia Garcia-Rubio, Taft Middle School Principal
Joe Konieczka, Serra Mesa Community Council President



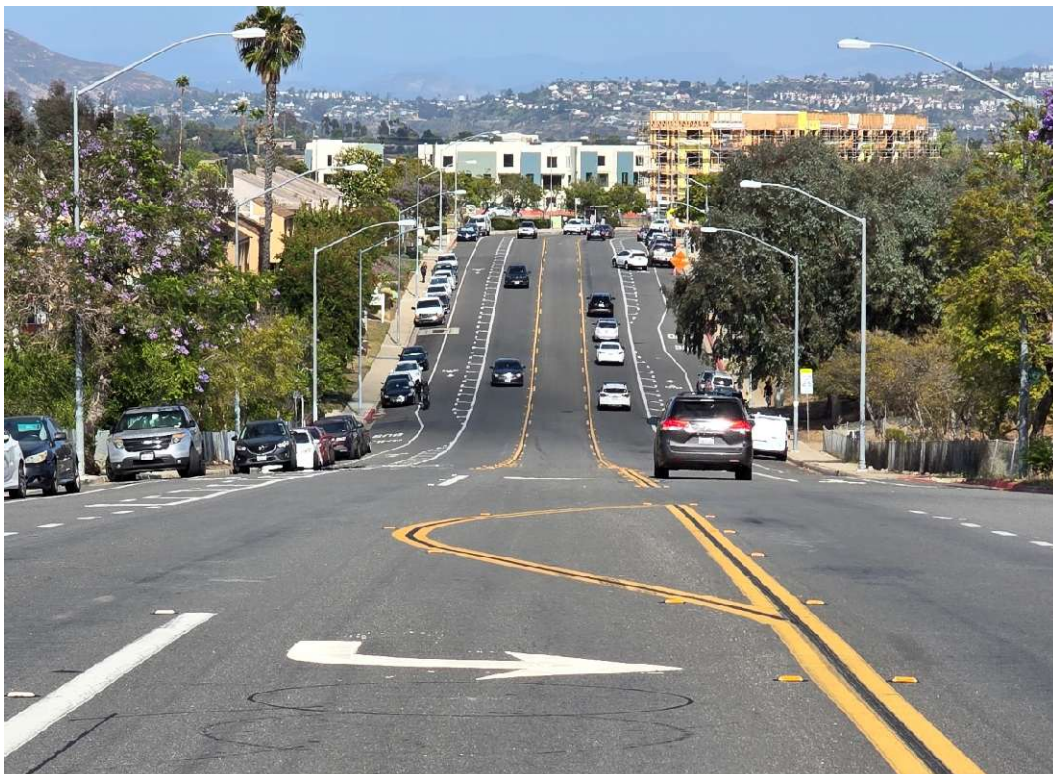
- Vehicles double parking and blocking the bicycle lane of Gramercy Drive



- Illegal U-turns



- Parking in the middle turn lane



- Gramercy Drive, a hilly street with crosswalks only at the intersections on Ruffin and on Mobley