

From: [Jon Wiley](#)
To: [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Lieber, Sally](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: 881 Castro/Franklin - more housing, more density please!
Date: Sunday, December 5, 2021 4:10:39 PM

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Dear City Councilmembers,

Our city and state face the combined and interrelated crises of a massive lack of housing and climate catastrophe. Decades of holding back dense housing developments have led to massive inequity, poverty, sprawl, air pollution, etc. This is all extensively documented.

I note that there is a development proposal for the area near Castro and Franklin that seems to indicate the possibility of a seven story housing development (apartments? condos? not sure). This is GREAT.

- 1) Much taller buildings are fantastic. More people which creates a bigger market for more/better restaurants and retail, all of which is more inviting to people who currently don't visit downtown. And what better way to become an inviting city for people than to *build houses they can afford to live in?*
- 2) Greater density near transit means so much awesomeness: less pollution from car commutes, less embodied carbon per home compared to the sprawling 1-2 story homes that only made sense in a bygone era before Mountain View attracted massive employment growth. Walkable, bikeable; what better way to have an inviting space for us all to live in than taking every step we can to address the climate emergency with proven approaches?
- 3) I hear there may be some concerns about losing a park in the area. How great is it that Old Mountain View already has *half a dozen parks* within a 15 minute walk of this location? So many parks.
- 4) Finally, I just want to make a shoutout to active modes of transit like biking (including e-bikes) and walking. Ditch those parking minimums, make protected routes for active transit, and watch how much more inviting our city becomes! Build back better! The evidence that this works is present all over the world, in cities great and small.

You have the opportunity to lead in the face of these important issues. It's not just about this one development, but across the city.

Thank you!
Jon Wiley
Old Mountain View

From: [Lada Adamic](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Agenda item 2.6 Castro between El Camino and Yosemite: bike and ped considerations
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:59:10 PM

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Dear City Council,

I wanted to voice concern about the developer plans for these 2 blocks.

I think the development will degrade the comfort and safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, especially students going to and from Graham Middle School.

1. The proposed development would eliminate Fairmont, creating a longer block -- something that best pedestrian and city livability design principles says should be avoided. There are already two small blocks there -- they should be kept, at least for bike/ped access. Fairmont is used by kids to get off of Castro, which doesn't have bike facilities, and into the quieter streets of the OMV neighborhood.
2. The height of the building at 7 stories coming right up against the sidewalk is not to human scale. We can experience this for the new San Antonio development near El Camino. Does it look inviting for pedestrians to walk? No way. Given Castro is now becoming even more of a pedestrian destination, let's keep it attractive for people on foot -- there is a reason why people like Disneyland -- 2-4 stories is the magic height, and this has been followed for other recent developments, e.g. diagonally across El Camino, or at Castro & Church. Additional height should only be put in the interior of the block and away from the sidewalk.
3. The plan shows pull-in/back-out street parking on the side fronting Castro, which is incompatible with adding bike lanes (which should be a priority given that this is a feeder area for safe routes to school)
4. The developer video shows a lot of people hanging out in what looks like a desolate flat open park partly surrounded by the tall buildings. This also does not work, and the designers should know better -- people are attracted to smaller, more well-defined park spaces that are surrounded by buildings of more modest height.

In short, although the prospect of a lot of housing at once is appealing, a development that is more to scale of a bike/ped environment would be preferable.

Thanks for considering this feedback.

Sincerely,

Lada Adamic

