

FootNotes

A Regional Coalition Promoting Walkable Communities

'Feet First' gets underway

In March, WalkSanDiego kicked off "Feet First," a collaboration with The Uptown Partnership, Inc. Uptown Partnership is a Hillcrest-based improvement association funded by parking meters.

In exchange for a \$5,000 donation, WSD is conducting pedestrian design training, neighborhood walks (see story page 2), a community health forum, and updating Uptown Partnership's pedestrian improvements plan.

The two organizations will also collaborate on a campaign to encourage residents to walk to local shops, simultaneously improving their health and supporting neighborhood merchants.



Participants in the "Feet First" stakeholders meeting debate which streets and intersections most need pedestrian enhancements.

WSD welcomes new Board members

As WalkSanDiego continues to grow, it has expanded its Board of Directors from 8 to 15 to better serve its membership.

The Board welcomed two new directors in March, Maryanne Vancio and Kathleen Ferrier. As executive director of the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association, Maryanne is pursuing pedestrian improvements. She also has extensive experience in trails planning and advocacy. Kathleen is a planner with Rick Engineering, helping to plan pedestrian-oriented streets for new walkable developments.

The WalkSanDiego Board of Directors meets the second Monday of each month. If you're interested in serving on the Board, please contact Jamie Strelow at 619-594-0588 or by e-mail at mail@walksandiego.org.



Walkers sign-in at the April 13th "Feet First" walking tour in Hillcrest. Featuring "The Vibrant Urban Village" theme, 35 participants explored this unique community of SanDiego.



Training scores big with traffic engineers

In January, WalkSanDiego teamed with SANDAG to offer a traffic calming training by international expert, Dan Burden.

The training attracted about 180 participants including a large number of traffic engineers. The largest contingent came from Caltrans, which is

undergoing internal reform to consider all modes, not just vehicles, in future roadway designs.

Overheard hallway conversations suggested Dan won many converts to the idea that designing the public realm for all modes actually reduces congestion, while providing a magnet for people.

Or as Dan put it, "cars are happiest when the planning considers more than just cars."

WalkSanDiego will offer a half-day traffic calming training in North County this summer.



Membership, website grow

Although we've never undertaken a membership campaign, our membership continues to inch upward due to public speaking engagements, our website, and word of mouth. We currently have 70 members.

The number of monthly hits for our website at www.walksandiego.org has also grown from 195 to 1595 in just seven months.

We recently launched a brief monthly e-mail update linked to the News and Updates page. Please share this newsletter or the website address with your friends and neighbors and point out the membership registration form.

City to make street manual more friendly

One of WalkSanDiego's most important projects is assisting the City of San Diego to revise its Street Design Manual to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

The city's planning staff is breaking new ground by working with other city departments to narrow road standards, require a planting strip between the sidewalk and the street, better accommodate transit, and provide traffic calming and pedestrian lighting standards.

The format will make the subject far less mysterious to non-professionals. It includes less technical descriptions, generous illustrations, and logical cross-references.

Public support for the changes will be needed later this year during City Council consideration.

See San Diego best on foot

The "Feet First" Walking Tours, assisted by Walkabout International, are designed to highlight fascinating local features waiting to be discovered on foot.

Along the way, we discuss the pedestrian environment - what works well and what needs improvement. And we ask your opinions. So come explore with us and help create more pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods!

All walks are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Remember to bring comfy shoes, hats, and change for the meter.

Upcoming Walks

Saturday, May 11, 2002

Mission Hills

**Historic Neighborhood,
Wonderful Trees**

*Meet in parking lot
at Goldfinch & Fort Stockton*

Saturday, June 8, 2002

**Park West/Bankers Hill
Historic Churches & Foot
Bridges**

*Meet at 6th & Laurel
(entrance to Balboa Park)*

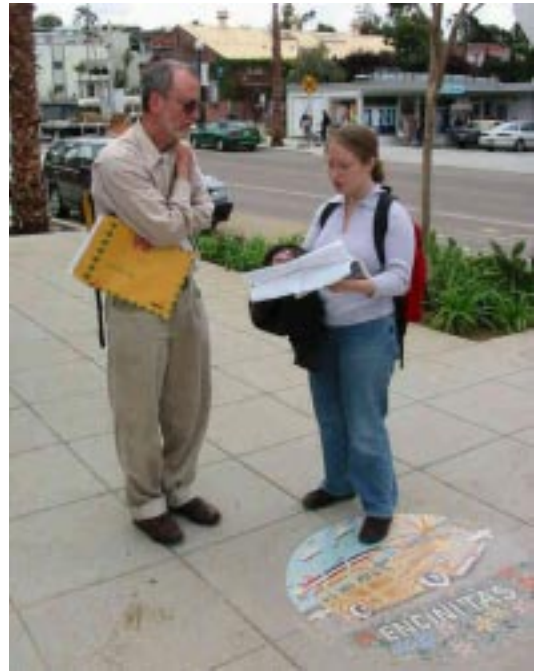
For more information, call Jeffery Tom, Uptown Partnership, (619) 298-2541, or Andy Hamilton, WalkSanDiego, (858) 650-4671.



Encinitas — Revitalization 101

The City of Encinitas in North County has nearly completed reconstruction of five blocks of its main street, Coast Highway 101.

Last year, the \$5.2 million project received a \$320,050 Walkable Communities demonstration grant from the San Diego Association of Governments. The project sought to reestablish the historic downtown by widening sidewalks and adding traffic calming elements including landscaped medians, pedestrian



WalkSanDiego volunteers admire the new streetscape.



New curbs and a corner bulb-out narrow the roadway.

lighting, diagonal parking, narrower lanes, colored crosswalks, and corner bulb-outs.

The pedestrian environment will be greatly enhanced with landscaping, street furniture, trash receptacles, and public art. Already, the look and feel of the street and sidewalk is far more inviting. Several businesses have taken advantage by installing sidewalk cafes or displays.

We urge you to check it out and let us know what you think.



Above, chairs playfully occupy a corner bulb-out awaiting flowers while, at left, sidewalk tree wells anticipate the addition of palm trees.

Become a Member

Membership in **WalkSanDiego**:

- Entitles you to free membership in the San Diego Coalition for Transportation Choices, our partner organization.
- Allows you free admission to walks, talks, and training events.
- Strengthens the pedestrian voice of the region.
- Gives you a "seat at the table" of agencies allocating the region's transportation funds.
- Provides you the know-how to make changes in your community.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Walking interests _____

- Individual - \$25 Family - \$40
- Benefactor - \$50+
- Student, senior or treading lightly - \$10
- Groups 25+ employees or members of a business or organization - \$250

Send to:



P.O. Box 122491
San Diego, CA 92112-2491

Phone: (619) 557-4565

Fax: (619) 744-5965

mail@walksandiego.org

www.walksandiego.org



America Walks Board selects Hamilton

In April, WalkSanDiego Vice-Chair Andy Hamilton was invited to join the Board of Directors of America Walks. Andy will join the Board as secretary and plans to work on fund-raising and establishing technical training for member organizations and others.



*Andy Hamilton
& his walking buddy
Charlie*

America Walks is a national association of pedestrian advocacy organizations, currently numbering 37 groups from the U.S. and Canada.

WalkSanDiego's closer affiliation with America Walks will provide greater access to transportation reform strategies nationwide.

Congratulations, Andy!

Study links walking to people's perception

A new study from New South Wales, Australia, confirms common sense - people who perceive their neighborhood as attractive, with convenient walking facilities, are more likely to walk for recreation. Those with a walking partner, including the four-legged variety, are also more likely to walk.

Survey data indicate the results are consistent across the population, including men and women, and those with poor or good physical or mental health. The study was published in the journal Preventive Medicine (vol. 33, pg. 434).

WalkSanDiego Board of Directors

Jamie Strelow, Chair
Andy Hamilton, Vice-Chair
Peggy Gentry, Secretary
Charles Rynerson, Treasurer
Dave Schumacher
Nancy Hughes
Maryanne Vancio
Kathleen Ferrier