

Wednesday Magazine
April 20, 2005
By Bridget Heos

Intersection goals do not intersect

City wants traffic through intersection more quickly; the community more slowly

Mark Forsythe, president of Wornall Homestead Homes Association, said he and other community members were not happy with the changes city consultants proposed for the Meyer Boulevard-Wornall Road intersection at a community meeting March 31.

They proposed moving traffic through the intersection more quickly by adding a second left turn lane on Meyer Boulevard.

"It's just indicative of the 'the car rules' attitude," Forsythe said.

He said community members at the meeting wanted traffic to move through Brookside more slowly and wanted Meyer Boulevard narrowed, not widened.

Forsythe said they did not want Brookside to become more of a commuter route. They want it to be more pedestrian-friendly.

At a recent Walkable Community Workshop, Mark Fenton, walking advocate with the National Center for Bicycling & Walking, said speed was the major issue pre-World War II developments such as Brookside had to contend with. Built when people relied on their feet for transportation, they have commercial and residential properties and sidewalks in the neighborhood, which encourage people to walk, he said.

Forsythe said people perceived traffic to be increasing and speeding up in Brookside.

Mohsin Zaidi, transportation services manager for the Public Works Department, said the goal would be to allow traffic to move more smoothly and quickly through the intersection.

"Brookside, Meyer and Wornall are all major streets," he said. "Their purpose is to carry through traffic. If it's rerouted, people will take the side streets."

He said a study on the ease of walking was done at the intersection, which probably would result in a new crosswalk signal when the traffic light was changed.

The study did not encompass the wider Brookside area, he said.

Forsythe said community members called for a second meeting, but Zaidi said that would not happen. After paying consultants, community meetings cost approximately \$5,000, he said.

Zaidi said the city was considering making changes at the intersection of 63rd Street and Wornall Road.