

Appendix H SOS Petition and Survey

In February, 1994 Safe Open Streets began circulating a petition throughout the Willows neighborhood. The petition was circulated door to door, eventually covering almost every street in the Menlo Park jurisdiction at least once. To reach people not at home when we canvassed, we also solicited signatures by setting up checkpoints at street obstacles. About 1100 Willows residents signed the petition. On June 28, we presented the signatures to the City Council.

The petition reads:

To the Menlo Park City Council:

We fully support enforcement of all traffic laws in the Willows.

We think the experimental traffic obstacles reduce the quality of life in the Willows. Obstacles should be used only if less costly and less invasive means of traffic control have been tried.

We support these standards: Any future traffic obstacle or sign must:

- 1. be requested by 60% of the residents within one block.*
- 2. be warranted by local accident, speed and volume statistics.*
- 3. not divert traffic unfairly to neighboring streets.*
- 4. preserve the current 4 minute emergency response time.*

We call on the Council to remove all experimental obstacles and signs which do not meet the standards above, saving remaining funds for responsible traffic management.

The breakdown of signatures is:

Menlo Park Willows:	955	
Other Menlo Park:	54	
Total Menlo Park		1009
East Palo Alto:	183	
Palo Alto	34	
Other cities	24	
Total non-Menlo		241
Grand Total		1250

Most of the East Palo Alto signers were Willows residents. Thus the number of signers from the Willows was over 1100. Our petition was presented to Willows' residents after the installation of the obstacles so those signing the petition knew exactly what they were voting against.

Source: SOS report The Willows Traffic Plan - The First Twenty-One Months, January 8, 1995

Opinion survey:

With the petition was an optional survey. 792 petition signers or 63% chose to take the survey. Their primary concern, and certainly one of my biggest concerns, is the obstruction of emergency vehicles. Here are the four top concerns from the survey:

	Signatures	Percentage
Obstruction of emergency vehicles:	676	85%
Obstacles are hazardous:	669	84%
Program is too expensive:	643	81%
Aesthetic damage to neighborhood:	621	78%