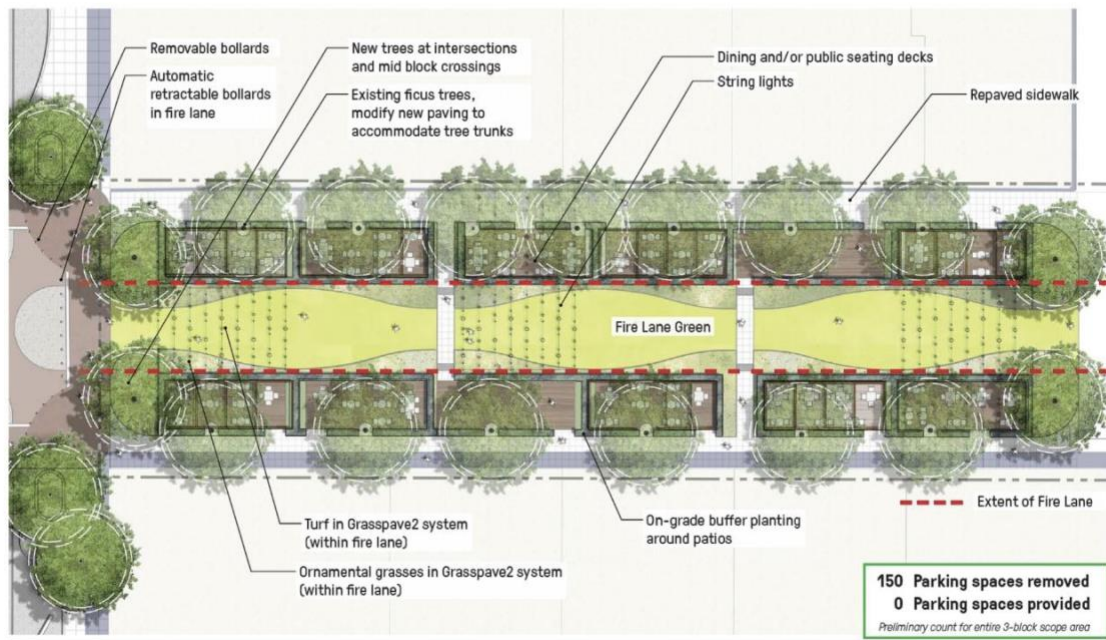


July 9, 2024--Public Comments for City Council

Dear Friends,

There is a WIN-WIN option to SAVE OUR TREES and HELP OUR BUSINESSES PROSPER!!!

Local community leader and SAVE OUR TREES advocate (www.saveourtreeswhittier.com), Conny McCormack, has shared that on June 18, 2022 three plans for the revitalization of Uptown were discussed. One of the options offered that night was called the **Pedestrian Promenade Plan**. When surveyed about the three plans, 86% of the general community and 83% of the Uptown property owners supported the Pedestrian Promenade Plan. This plan preserves most of the Uptown Ficus trees (70%), *offers a pedestrian-only street experience, park like environment, large dining and gathering patios, new and enhanced landscaping, and a mix of existing and new trees.*

1/2 Block Concept - 2021 Pedestrian Promenade Option

So, there WAS and STILL IS a Greenleaf Promenade solution that Keeps the Tree Canopy and our TREES, designed by SWA, that was proposed to the City Council, and was enthusiastically embraced by a super majority in Whittier: 86% of Survey total respondents, including 74% of Uptown business owners and 83% of Uptown business property owners.

I ask, plead, no beg you, to please RETHINK the current plan AND INSTEAD revisit and APPROVE the 2022 SWA Pedestrian Promenade (see visualization photo below).

CC: CM; ACM; CA; Council; Original to CC; Public Binder; Department



swa Consulting Studies for Nonprofit District of Oakland Avenue
Whittier, California

Ground Level View at Intersection - Night 5

which was supported by 86% of the local community and Uptown business owners but was jettisoned in favor of the current 2024 Plan which will cut down and destroy all 108 Ficus trees in Uptown (see visualization photo below). PLEASE SAVE OUR TREES AND SHADE CANOPY.



swa Greenleaf Promenade
Whittier, CA

(Note: the replacement tree pictured above IS NOT the actual size of tree that will be planted in 2024-2025 if the current Plan moves forward—the pictured tree size represents projected 20-year growth)

Considering the current warming patterns and heat waves we are increasingly experiencing in Whittier and the world over, the current Plan will destroy our shade canopy which won't

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provide the same shade and health benefits in Uptown for at best 60 years—at worst, 80! Recent temperature readings in Uptown: Under Ficus shade canopy 80 degrees, Concrete Pavement (no shade) 145 degrees! Rather than improving business, this kind of concrete desert will discourage foot traffic. You can't walk a child, you can't walk a dog, you can't enjoy a day with your family strolling beneath a leafy canopy, visiting shops and frequenting restaurants or going to the movies because it will be TOO HOT TO SHOP.

Please do the *right* thing--reconsider the current Plan--and **adopt the Pedestrian Promenade** Plan that was supported by the local community (the current plan is not) and is more eco-people friendly and will SAVE OUR TREES, OUR HEALTH, AND OUR BUSINESSES.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Best,

Patti McCarthy
Whittier Resident