



GGB Suicide Barrier Study

October 10, 2008

The Board of Directors voted on October 10, 2008, with a vote of 15 ayes and 1 no, to select Alternative 3 - the NET as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). The motion was made by Marin County Supervisor and Board member Hal Brown and seconded by Marin County Supervisor and Board member Charles McGlashan. The breakdown of the vote was as follows: AYES (15): Directors Brown, Cochran, Dufty, Grosboll, McGlashan, McGoldrick, Newhouse Segal, Pahre, Reilly, Sanders, Sobel and Stroeh; Second Vice President Ammiano, First Vice President Boro and President Moylan; NOES (1): Director Eddie; and ABSENT (3): Directors Hernandez, Kerns and Sandoval.

The selection of the LPA will provide direction for: 1) the preparation of written responses to comments; 2) the negotiation and execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to mitigate the adverse effects the LPA has on the historic property; and, 3) the preparation of any additional required studies for the LPA (for example, evaluate the potential for bird collisions). The responses to comments, MOA and additional studies will be incorporated into the Final EIR and Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI), which is anticipated to be completed by April 2009.

The next steps after the selection of the LPA and the preparation of the Final EIR/FONSI are the release and certification of the Final EIR/FONSI and adoption of the project. Additionally, the Board will certify that the Final EIR complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will make Findings and adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations. Caltrans, as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will issue a FONSI. However, this can only occur if the project is funded as demonstrated by the project's inclusion in MTC's fiscally constrained Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

October 10, 2008, Board Meeting Agenda, See Agenda Item No. 10

Additional Press Materials:

- Characterization of Public and Agency Comments
- Summary of GGB Suicide Incident Reports, 2000 to Sept. 30, 2008
- Sample Quotes from Public Comments Received, July 8 to August 25, 2008
- Comments Received during Public Comment Period, July 8 to August 25, 2008
 - Letters and Email from Individuals (12.5 MB)
 - Letters from Agencies
 - Letters from Organizations
 - Comment Cards Received at Public Meetings on July 22 and 23
 - Online Comments (28 MB)
 - Board Testimony (7 MB)

Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent System Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment October 2008

COMMENT CHARACTERIZATION

Formal Comment Period: July 8 to August 25, 2008

Throughout the comment period, **3,458** individuals, organizations and agencies provided **5,870** discrete or separate comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA).

The 3,458 individuals, organizations and agencies used the following methods to submit comments:

1. 2,823 came in via the comment form on the project website www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org
2. 44 were submitted via U.S. mail
3. 134 came via Email to the District
4. 15 were submitted using comment cards at one of the two public meetings held on July 22 in San Rafael and July 23 in San Francisco
5. 442 individuals provided testimony at the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) Board of Directors meeting on August 22, 2008, the majority of which was in the form of a petition

Non-DEIR/EA Comments

Approximately 96.4% of the 5,870 discrete comments received during the public comment period were not directed specifically at the environmental document per se.

The non-DEIR/EA comments fell within the following general themes.

1. 1,497 or 25.5% were General Comments Related to Suicide
 - Related personal stories of friends, loved ones who had committed suicide
 - Supported belief that people will find a way to commit suicide, if not on the Bridge then somewhere else
 - Supported the belief that a suicide deterrent is absolutely necessary. That the District has a moral duty to erect a barrier.
 - Expressed frustration that majority would suffer because of minority mental health problems

- Expressed belief that suicide is impulsive and barriers reduce suicides
 - Did not think that suicide something the City should be responsible for
2. 2,965 or 50.5% were Comments on Project Alternatives
- Expressed opinions (for and against) one or multiple alternatives
 - Expressed opinion on need for a barrier (for and against)
 - Suggested different ideas for alternatives
3. 878 or 15% Comments Related to Cost and Use of Funds
- Should use funds for mental health programs
 - Funding should be used to construct moveable median first
 - Barrier was a poor use of public funds
 - Should use funds to increase staff patrolling Bridge
 - Economy in no shape to be spending this kind of money
 - Redirect funds to schools
4. 318 or 5.4% were Other Comments that were not relevant

DEIR/EA Comments

3.6% of total comments received or 212 comments that were received pertained to the adequacy of the DEIR/EA and generally included comments about:

- No-build alternative was not adequately considered
- Supported performing additional bird studies
- A few addressed historic and cultural; and preservation issues

SAMPLING OF ACTUAL COMMENTS

IN SUPPORT OF A SUICIDE BARRIER

I am outraged that the Bridge Authority hasn't moved to secure this attractive suicide exposure before now. Our loved ones remain at risk. Build the barriers!

After watching the remarkably non-judgemental documentary, The Bridge, I was struck by the absurdity of the current argument over aesthetics. The Bridge has been, and will continue to be, an "attractive nuisance" which any ambulance chaser should be able to get shut down. Why not put not less than five people on the bridge at all times to insure that people exhibiting the characteristics outlined in the "Bridge" movie--nervousness, solitude, all the others--don't have the time to get over the rail. Much cheaper, more humane, dismisses the aesthetics argument. Your inaction is really criminal.

Other suicide lures such as the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower and Mount Fuji in Japan all have barriers. The Golden Gate Bridge should have a barrier to save the lives of people in need of help? I favor the Net System as it is the least costly and does not obscure the view.

I like the nets below that would catch people. But what is most important is saving life. I could live with any of the choices that would save people who want to jump. I have worked for thirty years in the field of alcohol and drug addiction and I've seen many people who felt like they could not face another day, but it can change and life can be meaningful again.

Saving lives is far more important than worrying about how the bridge will look aesthetically with a barrier. For those of us who have loved ones who took their lives off of this bridge, it is inconsequential for us to consider the aesthetic impact that a barrier will have if it will prevent further loss of life. And it will do just that.

A family friend jumped off the GG Bridge, leaving us shocked and saddened. We think a suicide barrier is imperative, especially considering this fine bridge is the most deadly one in the world for suicides. I'm sure there's a way to do this that would leave the beauty of the bridge and the view intact so everyone's needs are met. Please count my vote for a suicide barrier.

It is time we addressed this issue and remove this death-trap.

NOT IN SUPPORT OF A SUICIDE BARRIER

I will NEVER jump off of the bridge, but I fear being killed in a head on collision on the bridge! The safety of the vast majority of people who do not want to be killed, must be addressed before those unfortunate few that do! Don't waste another dollar on this, at least before you complete the installation of a lane divider!

People are going to find a way to do what they are going to do. We should not be asked to pay hugely for the small efforts that will be ineffective in any meaningful sense.

Adding any of the proposed barriers would be a travesty, and an insult to it's engineers. After walking the bridge this last June I was awestruck by it's beauty. AND the ability to look down over the railing at the water was thrilling... I vote NO BARRIERS... Let em jump, if not there, where next???

All that money for nothing. Not my tolls, Not my taxes.

We vigorously oppose the Golden Gate suicide barrier. This is an ill-advised idea and financial boondoggle.

So you all are still going ahead with the suicide barrier. No matter the majority of the population are against it. No matter that it will not totally prevent suicides. No matter what the cost, hell it's not your money it's ours, you are still going along. You people amaze me how you ever get these positions and then what you do when you do get them. I still have not received a reply to my question "is it possible that once the barrier is installed that a person might jump into the traffic???" Are you afraid to answer that??? I'll make you a deal, let it go to the voters and the majority wins.

I feel strongly that adding a vertical element to the bridge would detract from the historic design, and would detract from the enjoyment of the many recreational users of the bridge. The change would be very expensive at time when resources are extremely limited, and may only have the effect of forcing suicide attempts to other locations or methods. The traffic lane dividers that have been proposed would be a more valuable addition to the bridge's safety features

I feel that this is a waste of dollars. The percentages of people using the bridge is extremely small compared to all of the other suicides in the entire bay area. The millions of dollars spent on a physical barrier for the GG bridge could be put to better use towards suicide prevention programs of education and therapy for the entire bay area.

This is a bandaid to a larger problem that would benefit from the \$50 million being spent on the barrier. With \$50 million, you could not only add additional bridge security such as increased patrols, video monitoring, etc, but the money could be allocated toward better suicide prevention treatment and awareness programs. This is a lot of money to throw at one of a million ways a person can kill themselves, which would also ruin a beloved landmark.

It is beyond belief that a \$40-55MM expenditure could be even considered for this purpose. This is insane. Why would there not be more interest in spending money on behalf of poor people who want to live than for people who want to die? We, the people, would be repaying this debt. Let us vote on whether we want to spend this money, rather than leaving it in the hands of bureaucrats who will not feel the financial impact.

People need to suffer the consequences of their actions. Better to build a middle barrier for the bridge to help innocent people. Nineteen people a year is not as many as other means of suicide. Help for treatment would be better.

LETTERS AND EMAILS

Individual Comments

ARTHUR W. BAUM

**420 EL CAMINO DEL MAR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94121**

Phone (415) 668-9180

Fax: (415) 668-3570

July 29, 2008

Golden Gate Bridge
Highway & Transportation District
PO Box 9000
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

2008 AUG - 4 AM 9:03
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

I am opposed to any fences or netting put on the bridge to stop suicides. A person bent upon suicide will do so one place or another. To spend \$40-50 million plus the maintenance is a waste of money.

Sincerely,



Arthur W. Baum

Bette W. Wallace
944 Sir Francis Drake, #8
Kentfield, Marin County, CA 94904
Ph. (415) 258-9935

GGBH & TD
2008 AUG 26 PM 12:09

TOLL OFFICE

August 22, 2008

To: Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge District

I attended the Open House at the Embassy Suites Hotel in July concerning the Suicide Barrier proposal. A story about that meeting appeared the following day on the front page of San Francisco Chronicle, including head shots of me in support, and another woman opposed.

Since then many people have volunteered to tell me that one or more of their family have jumped, or committed suicide some other way. A young woman who opposed the barrier at the Open House told me, as we walked to our cars, ~~told me~~ that her youngest son, and her brother had both committed suicide. Her opposition is that she feels barriers are hopeless, that suicides can't be stopped. I assured her they can. A woman in my beauty shop said her cousin jumped off the bridge at age 22, a hopeless schizophrenic. A nurse in the YMCA pool told me of her son's rescue of a girl with his surf board. People see the Golden Gate Bridge pin Kary gave me in restaurants, the grocery store, or Starbucks, and tell me their story.

Suicide is the second highest cause of death today for young people between 10 and 24. I took a ride across the bridge on a recent Friday, where I saw hundreds of youngsters and adults on bicycles, tricycles and baby strollers, young and old, were hanging over the railing to look down at the water. No one could have anticipated who might jump or fall over the railing. My heart jumped!

➤ Since then, I have decided what type of barriers I would like to see, in this order: 1) The net sticking out on the outside of the railing, along both sides, and 2) a screen with horizontal lines inside the railing to prevent access to the net and maintain the view as much as possible.

Our beautiful bridge and its environment is a treasure, but it is dangerous because of the number of people and vehicles crossing it daily. Your administration does a great job of maintaining the safety and security of the bridge. You do not need to add to that people attracted to the bridge because of their fascination with suicide jumpers.

I have contacted the offices of State and Federal legislators in person, and have been assured of their interest. The new effort to form a Golden Gate National Park could become a help in funding the costs of the bridge. There is support for that in West Marin, according to local papers.

The Ark, the Marin IJ, and the Pacific Sun support the barrier. I know that John Brooks, Carol's father, has joined a foundation of families whose member has been a jumper. Sunday's Marin IJ has confirmed that.

I will be in touch with Carol Channing who went to Lowell High School with me in 1938. She graduated from Bennington College in Vermont, where Carol Brooks expected to go this September. I will be seeing her on September 25th at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco. I am sure she will be interested.

I will do all I can to support this effort. We really can't have our Bridge called "a bridge of death" because it is known to total 1300 plus suicides since 1937. I walked across the bridge on opening day with my aunt Vera of Tekamah, Nebraska. I am now 88 years old. It has been long enough!

Members of my family use the bridge daily. We cannot afford the cost of suicide which goes on continuously after a suicide. It endangers the life of others in trying to prevent or rescue them, and destroys the life of family and friends left behind.

This also works against the positive results and the international interest in our wonderful Golden Gate Bridge.

I will follow the progress of this matter with great interest as the Bridge Boards begins its discussion.

Most sincerely,

Bette White Wallace
Bette White Wallace
(415)258-9935

P.S. Your e-mail address has too many characters in it. Only 16 are allowed.

E-mail BetteWallace@AOL.com.

DANIEL C. ANDERSON, M.D., INC.

FAMILY PRACTICE
13847 E. 14TH STREET, SUITE 100
SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA 94578
352-6910

2008 JUL 15 AM 10:59
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

July 11, 2008

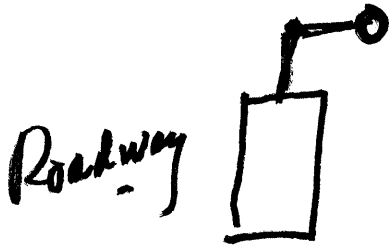
Golden Gate Bridge District
San Francisco, CA

RE: Golden Gate Bridge Security

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to make two suggestions for suicide prevention.

1. Install electric wires 18 to 24 inches above the existing bridge railing. The wires would be placed one foot away from the bridge walkway.



2. Install rolling cylinders on the top of the existing four foot barrier. These cylinders were used in Berlin during the Cold War.



Sincerely,

Daniel C. Anderson, M.D.

DCA:cr

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

To Whom It May Concern

2008 AUG 18 AM 10: 08

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

I urge you to vote in favor of a suicide barrier this time around. I think 1,300 deaths are enough? And we all know that this number is much too low. What about the people who have jumped and whose bodies have never been found? What about the bridge suicides the San Francisco Medical Examiner doesn't count separately from other "falls" from tall buildings? How many more deaths will it take before people realize that human lives are more important than a nice view?

Because these are not just figures and numbers, but real lives, real people. People who may have done this on an impulse and would otherwise still be with us. People who decided the moment they let go of the rail that they really wanted to live. People who had a great future ahead of them.

Like my son, Henry, who jumped on 8 May, 2007, at the age of 18. He was intelligent, an honor student, witty, with a dry and unexpected sense of humor. He graduated with highest honors - except he wasn't there to accept his diploma. My husband and I did that for him. He was sensitive and kind (up to a point, he was a teenager after all). He loved dogs and wanted to be a vet for the longest time until computers became his great passion. He was totally confident around, rebuilt a better one (with a little help), taught himself C++ and was going to be a computer engineer, scheduled to attend UC San Diego. He was excited about studying there.

But something, some impulse, led him to leave English class on a Tuesday morning, go to the school library to print off a map and driving directions to the Golden Gate Bridge and jump at lamp post 47 at 11:38 a.m. There was a tourist from Louisiana who watched him jump and called Emergency Services at 11:39. I seriously doubt he'll ever visit here again after what he had to witness. There was a fishing boat under the bridge and Henry entered the water 50 ft. away. He was pulled out of the water, the Coast Guard was notified, he was taken to Fort Baker where paramedics were standing by to transport him to San Francisco General Hospital. He was breathing and had a pulse and that gave everybody hope that he would survive (the head nurse wrote to me later and told me how hopeful they all were and how deeply his death affected them). Like over 98 % of people who jump from this bridge, he did not survive. He only had one broken bone, a rib, but his organs were badly damaged. There was brain damage, his spleen and one kidney were damaged but the worst damage was to his lungs. He kept bleeding into them and eventually drowned in his own blood.

Henry passed away at 3:25 pm at SFGH. Since I had been notified by the hospital, I was there to kiss him goodbye afterwards. The law enforcement chaplain who had driven my friend and I prayed over him and drove us back home. My husband, who had been on a business trip that week, arrived home at 11 pm and we were left to try and make sense of it all, to try to figure out what to do with our lives now. It's not the same anymore, there's something very important missing from our lives these days.

There isn't a day that I don't think about Henry and miss him badly. I still have nightmares over what happened. Often when I close my eyes and drop off to sleep, I "see" Henry slipping over the rail and falling into the water. No, I wasn't there but I read the police report (and the autopsy report, although I haven't been able to read the ER report yet) and I have enough imagination. Believe me, it's not a pretty mind movie.

We have been trying to figure out ever since what could have been done differently to prevent him from dying. And while there are lots of what ifs and maybes, the one definite answer is always the same: a taller barrier, not just a rail that is easily scaled and Henry would most likely still be with us.

So, please, this time around, don't decide to do nothing yet again. Think of the many lives already lost, think of the families whose lives have been ruined, the people who have lost a loved one, the parents who miss their children, who will never see their teenagers grow up, who will never have grandchildren. Think of the lives that can be saved by raising the rail and, please, make the right decision this time around.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Lew".

Doris Lew
4354 Summerfield Drive
Napa, CA 94558

Friday August 22

Dear Golden Gate Bridge Curators:

The bridge & I come from the same year, I have always loved it, remember 25 of 1 tolls, watched suicide barrier campaigns come and go, remember the experiment which, when publicizing suicides, placement in the local paper determined frequency.

Nowadays everything is so touchy that I know most of you have to publically support at least the idea of the barrier. You're in a touchy spot with bleeding hearts breathing down your necks. I say "Let 'em jump, just get the local media to bury the story in some obscure spot like they used to do. Please don't wreck the bridge. Joseph Strauss, Irving, and Gertrude Morrow are thrashing in their graves at the prospect!" Sincerely, E. Allen, St

~~TS~~ I come from a time of no barriers
& it was glorious: no motorcycle bicycle
helmets, no seatbelts, no high fences, riding
in the back of pickups, no security
guards, no anti-skid, traction control,
ABS, multi air bag cars (we were taught
how to drive!) unfenced railroad tracks
and airports. My god, what has
the world come to? Are we no longer
responsible for our actions - helpless
victims who need protection from
everything under the sun? Each
generation becomes less self-reliant,
more dependent, less responsible - look
at the money mess. I was taught,
"never a lender or a borrower be..."
and I do neither. Please don't
dismiss me as a tired, cranky,
old fart. My life is wonderful,
because I learned early on how
to manage it. I have tons of
common sense skills that come
from "not being protected" from
everything.

Ed

Ed Allen
4096 17th #105 SF 94114

~~Golden Gate Bridge District
Board of Directors~~

RE: ~~YB~~

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

2008 AUG 25 PM 1:19

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT



August 25, 2008

**COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIR/EA FOR GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE:
A FASTER, COST-EFFECTIVE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT**

TO: Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District

Limiting oneself to five design choices is **unimaginative**, contrary to this world-class bridge's intrinsic creativity and uniqueness. The anti-suicide barrier is the opportunity for an art enhancement project, funded totally through public art funds and benefactors. An inspired design could be simple and elegant, with no structural loading effects---thus negating the need for engineering and testing. Implementation would be super-accelerated. One possible design: Ethereal vertical translucent rods, atop the existing railing, lit softly with fiber optics---to create **"Ten-thousand points of light"**.

Arguably, any form of physical deterrent would have saved lives. But the 5 design proposals, with nets and horizontal/ vertical cages are obtrusive---with structural impacts and \$25-\$50 million in costs. Understandably, a recent Chronicle online poll found 65 percent favored leaving the bridge alone and not building anything. Often, architectural and engineering streamlining makes sense. Form follows function isn't a bad filter to test ideas. Art enrichment/ sculptural lighting could reinvigorate local artisans and create singular artwork.

A FRESH LOOK: Let's reevaluate goals for the anti-suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

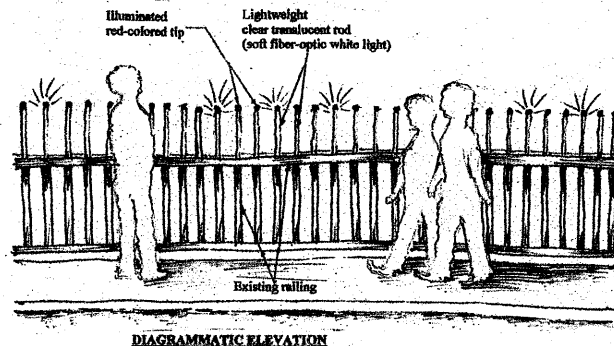
- Preserve the esthetics and historic integrity of the bridge, i.e. **virtually "invisible" changes**.
- Add no structural load to the bridge---vertically, laterally or aerodynamically.
- Prevent people from straddling, sitting or standing on the walkway's railings.
- Low cost and fast construction.

AN ART ENRICHMENT PROJECT: An art project could draw on public art funding and benefactors, e.g. artists Christo's and Jeanne-Claude's environmental art. Artwork has no impact on the structural integrity of the original structure---while adding to its esthetics and for the Golden Gate Bridge, adding to its safety.

A DESIGN CONCEPT: A myriad of designs are possible with thin wires, cables, rods... One possibility:

- Vertical translucent rods, on top of the existing railing, are visually soft and ethereal---fading into the background and lit softly with fiber-optics.
- The rods can be installed incrementally, first at high risk areas, without any bridge disruptions.
- With minimal weight and surface area, the aerodynamic design has no structural loading effect---negating the need for engineering and testing.
- No fasteners are needed, with no steel penetrations or corrosion, using clear adhesives.
- Fabrication and installation is simple, though technologically sophisticated.
- **Financing** opportunities exist with benefactors, art patrons and individual donors.
- A loan could kick start design/ construction while the donor program is underway.
- **Optimally, this design is no-cost, accelerated and effective.** Moreover, this design does not preclude the construction of future alternative anti-suicide barriers---which would likely take years to implement.

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
 HIGHWAY AND
 TRANSPORT DISTRICT
 2008 AUG 25 PM 4:04
 SECRETARY OF
 THE DISTRICT



HWong



Casey Joanna Brooks
5/3/1990 – 1/29/2008

JOHN, ERIKA & CASEY BROOKS

July 12, 2008

- Mary Currie, Public Affairs Director
- Cecilia Kupersmith, General Manager
- John Moylan, President of the Board
- Al Boro, First Vice President
- Tom Ammiano, Second Vice President
- Harold Brown, Jr., Director
- Gerald Cochran, Director
- Bevan Dufty, Director
- James Eddie, Director
- Dick Grosboll, Director
- Sabrina Hernandez, Director
- Mike Kerns, Director
- Charles McGlashan, Director
- Jake McGoldrick, Director
- Lynne Newhouse Segal, Director
- Barbara Pahre, Director
- Janet Reilly, Director
- Joanne Sanders, Director
- Gerardo Sandoval, Director
- J. Dietrich Stroeh, Director

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By now most if not all of you know who I am and know my story. At 6:40AM on January 29th, my 17 year old daughter and only child, Casey, leapt to her death from the Golden Gate Bridge. Her body has not been found. She was a Redwood High School senior ready to go off to the college of her choice and make her mark in the world. There were no obvious warning signs; it was an impulse. To say that our community – family, friends, Casey's friends, neighbors, school, church, doctors, therapists – is utterly in shock and crushed is a massive understatement.

Before this catastrophe, I had never had a close encounter with suicide, never gave a suicide barrier a second thought and felt that a suicidal person could not be stopped. The Golden Gate Bridge was nothing more than the highlight of my daily commute from Marin to San Francisco. Imagine how it feels now? As you well know, my story now joins the 2,000 other identical stories of the other suicide victims and their survivors. You know who they are.

15 Claire Way Tiburon, CA 94920 Tel/Fax: 415-383-5967 E-Mail: johnrbrooks@comcast.net

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
2008 JUL 18 AM 11:31
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

I want this letter to serve as my formal response to the suicide barrier proposals now that the issue has been thrust into the public spotlight with the recent release of the Environmental Impact Study, appealing to reason as much as compassion. So I will address each issue as I see them separately.

1. ***The public doesn't want a suicide barrier.*** The vast majority of us, as Americans, hate to be inconvenienced, hate needless expenses imposed on us, and abhor any limitations on our personal freedoms. Therefore, if put to a public vote, it stands to reason that a suicide barrier would be soundly voted down because the vast majority of the public has been spared the effects of this tragedy. Further, the way the press - such as the *Marin IJ* and *Chronicle* - position their public opinion "polls" is to guaranty an overwhelmingly negative response. What else would you expect when the questions and artistic renderings are presented in such a stilted, dispassionate manner? If you want a poll, let both sides fully express their case and do it right.

But this is not a popularity contest. If put to a public vote, we would probably not have helmet laws, seat belts, airbags, gun laws, fences around freeways, overpasses and train tracks, locked access to the roofs of tall buildings, controls on dangerous substances, and our beloved TSA, to name but a few. **We need a suicide barrier because we are supposedly a civilized and compassionate society that cares about the safety of our fellow citizens, even if it's not "popular". This is a moral imperative!** To be brutally honest, for us to sit by knowing that the deaths continue makes us no better than the German citizens who knowingly stood by and let the Jews be gassed by Nazis. Or the Chinese political *apparatchiks* who knowingly approved the construction of shoddy schools that ultimately killed thousands of school children in the recent earthquake. I don't know how any of you in a position to do something can live with yourselves while this travesty continues. I certainly can't. ***Since Casey's death, at least a dozen more people have leapt to their deaths, and counting!***

2. ***A suicidal person will simply go elsewhere. The money would be better spent on the core issue – mental health.*** I couldn't agree more that we should deploy more resources to mental illness. But that doesn't assure that we will protect someone – like Casey – who was overcome by a **temporary impulse and had easy and ready access to the means to act on that impulse.** There is more than enough analysis and evidence out there that proves that suicide barriers are highly effective. Will they stop all suicides? Of course not. Nothing is 100% foolproof. But you have to be aware of the numerous studies done, such as Professor Richard Seiden's at Berkeley, that showed that over 90% of would-be jumpers who were stopped did not make another suicide attempt. How about Great Britain, which converted from coal gas to natural gas in the 60's and 70's, and saw its ***overall*** suicide rate drop by 1/3. Look at the success of suicide barriers at the Empire State Building, Eiffel Tower, Sydney Harbor Bridge, Bloor Street Viaduct, Ellington Bridge, and others that have brought suicide rates down dramatically. When a suicide barrier was erected on the Ellington Bridge in Washington, D.C., the public predicted that suicidal people would simply walk to the nearby Taft Bridge to end their lives. But while suicides on the Ellington Bridge were virtually eliminated, those on the Taft Bridge hardly changed. Why? Because the Taft Bridge has a chest high barrier whereas the Ellington Bridge had had a waist high barrier. Of course, one "advantage" that many of these examples have is that the gruesome evidence of a body is left behind for all to see. Not so with the Golden Gate. Only the Coast Guard and the Coroner get to deal with the aftermath – if there is one. **Honestly, how much more evidence do you need?**

3. ***The vast majority of suicides in the Bay Area are NOT the result of the Golden Gate Bridge. Why not focus on them? Are their lives worth any less?*** Of course every suicide and accidental death is tragic. And we do have an army of professionals, services and safety measures in place (see #1 above). Will they stop every suicide or death? Of course not. Again, nothing is 100% foolproof. ***But if we have such an obvious, blatant and shameful magnet for death in our community that is so well known, how on earth can we be so blasé about it?*** If a few people a month jumped from a downtown high-rise – even if that accounted for a small percent of the total – don't you think that access to that roof would be immediately barred? How about a particularly dangerous stretch of road notorious for deadly crashes? We don't ignore them because the fatalities are small relative to total fatalities. One life is not worth any more than another, but when this is so in-our-face how can we ignore it?
4. ***We must not obstruct the "iconic view" from our treasured national landmark.*** By making "the view" more important than saving lives, the message we're sending is that ***a few lives lost every month is but a small price to pay to preserve "the view"***. How do you defend that? Doesn't that make us look incredibly barbaric and at the very least shallow, selfish and uncaring? And really, ***how many people are affected by the view as opposed to the "idea" of the view?*** When was the last time you walked or biked across the bridge? Motorists can't see much of anything in the couple of minutes it takes to cross the bridge because (1) your eye level on the roadbed is below the railing and (2) you need to keep your eyes on the road to avoid a head on collision. So that leaves the tourists who walk out on the bridge, snap a picture and leave. Are we preserving this view for them?
5. ***We don't have the \$50 million needed to build the barrier. That money would be better spent elsewhere when money is tight.*** Frankly, if the only remaining objection is money then that is the least of my worries. Is it worth it to spend \$50 million on a project that affects so few of us? Depends on how you look at it. ***Take \$50 million divided by 2,000 lives lost to the bridge and you get \$25,000 per life lost. I'd give up everything to have Casey back – even for a second. The families of 9/11 victims reportedly received an average of over \$1 million per life lost.*** I don't claim to be an expert on public finance, but I do know that there are operating expenses (routine repair and maintenance) and capital expenses (lane barriers, suicide barriers, retrofitting). Operating expenses, I would guess, are funded mostly by tolls, fees and taxes. I wouldn't expect increases in my taxes and tolls to pay for a suicide barrier, but would of course have no objection if they did. ***Unfortunately, the public assumes that the cost of a suicide barrier would come directly out of their pocket or at the expense of a more popular program. I can't swear to this, but I think this assumption is probably false.*** Monies for a suicide barrier I assume would come from an entirely different bucket at the state or federal level, such as highway funds. If you took \$50 million out of a highway fund, you are not taking it away from other priorities like mental health, but maybe you are taking it away from a re-paving project. ***The money should be the least of our worries.***

Building a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is the ***morally right thing to do*** for a society that believes itself to be civilized, caring and compassionate, and that is indeed the image that the Bay Area projects to the world. Until something is done, the Golden Gate Bridge will be nothing more than our dirty little secret – but it isn't much of a secret anymore.

The Golden Gate Bridge has destroyed many lives. Now it has destroyed mine. My life now is but a meaningless, empty shell of its former self, with my only child gone. But it isn't just me. Let me close with a sample of the 653 wall posts to-date on Casey's FaceBook page from her friends. An extraordinary person was taken away from them – and the rest of us – far to soon. They are completely destroyed and desperate to stay connected with her, as am I.

The Urge to End It

Is suicide the deadly result of a deep psychological condition — or a fleeting impulse brought on by opp

All

By Scott Anderson

“There is but one truly serious philosophical problem,” Albert Camus wrote, “and that is suicide.” How to explain why, among the only species capable of pondering its own demise, whose desperate attempts to forestall mortality have spawned both armies and branches of medicine in a perpetual search for the Fountain of Youth, there are those who, by their own hand, would choose death over life? Our contradictory reactions to the act speak to the conflicted hold it has on our imaginations: revulsion mixed with fascination, scorn leavened with pity. It is a cardinal sin — but change the packaging a little, and suicide assumes the guise of heroism or high passion, the stuff of literature and art.

Beyond the philosophical paradox are the bewilderingly complex dynamics of the act itself. While a universal phenomenon, the incidence of suicide varies so immensely across different population groups — among nations and cultures, ages and gender, race and religion — that any overarching theory about its root cause is rendered useless. Even identifying those subgroups that are particularly suicide-prone is of very limited help in addressing the issue. In the United States, for example, both elderly men living in Western states and white male adolescents from divorced families are at elevated risk, but since the overwhelming majority in both these groups never attempt suicide, how can we identify the truly at risk among them?

Then there is the most disheartening aspect of the riddle. The National Institute of Mental Health says that 90 percent of all suicide “completers” display some form of diagnosable mental disorder. But if so, why have

Photographs by Todd Hido

advances in the treatment of mental illness had so little effect? In the past 40 years, whole new generations of antidepressant drugs have been developed; crisis hotline centers have been established in most every American city; and yet today the nation's suicide rate (11 victims per 100,000 inhabitants) is almost precisely what it was in 1965.

Little wonder, then, that most of us have come to regard suicide with an element of resignation, even as a particularly brutal form of social Darwinism: perhaps through luck or medication or family intervention some suicidal individuals can be identified and saved, but in the larger scheme of things, there will always be those driven to take their own lives, and there's really not much that we can do about it. The sheer numbers would seem to support this idea: in 2005, approximately 32,000 Americans committed suicide, or nearly twice the number of those killed by homicide.

But part of this sense of futility may stem from a peculiar element of myopia in the way we as a society have traditionally viewed — and attempted to combat — suicide. Just as with homicide, researchers have long recognized a premeditation-versus-passion dichotomy in suicide. There are those who display the classic symptoms of so-called suicidal behavior, who build up to their act over time or who choose methods that require careful planning. And then there are those whose act appears born of an immediate crisis, with little or no forethought involved. Just as with homicide, those in the “passion” category of suicide are much more likely to turn to whatever means are immediately available, those that are easy and quick.

Yet even mental-health experts have tended to regard these very different types of suicide in much the same way. I was struck by this upon meeting with two doctors who are among the most often-cited experts on suicide — and specifically on suicide by jumping. Both readily acknowledged the high degree of impulsivity associated with that method, but also considered that impulsivity as simply another symptom of mental illness. “Of all the hundreds of jumping suicides I’ve looked at,” one told me, “I’ve yet to come across a case where a mentally healthy person was walking across a bridge one day and just went over the side. It just doesn’t happen. There’s almost always the presence of mental illness somewhere.” It seemed to me there was an element of circular logic here: that the act proved the intent that proved the illness.

The bigger problem with this mental-illness rubric is that it puts emphasis on the less-knowable aspect of the act, the psychological “why,” and tends to obscure any examination of the more pedestrian “how,” the basic mechanics involved. But if we want to unravel posthumously the thought processes of the lost with an eye to saving lives in the future, the “how” may be the best place to look.

To turn the equation around: if the impulsive suicide attempter tends to reach for whatever means are easy or quick, is it possible that the availability of means can actually spur the act? In looking at suicide's close cousin, murder, the answer seems obvious. If a man shoots his wife amid a heated argument, we recognize the crucial role played by the gun's availability. We don't automatically think, Well, if the gun hadn't been there, he surely would have strangled her. When it comes to suicide, however, most of us make no such allowance. The very fact that someone kills himself we regard as proof of intent — and of mental illness; the actual method used, we assume, is of minor importance.

But is it?

As it turns out, one of the most remarkable discoveries about suicide and how to reduce it occurred utterly by chance. It came about not through some breakthrough in pharmacology or the treatment of mental illness but rather through an energy-conversion scheme carried out in Britain in the

1960s and '70s. Among those familiar with the account, it is often referred to simply as “the British coal-gas story.”

For generations, the people of Britain heated their homes and fueled their stoves with coal gas. While plentiful and cheap, coal-derived gas could also be deadly; in its unburned form, it released very high levels of carbon monoxide, and an open valve or a leak in a closed space could induce asphyxiation in a matter of minutes. This extreme toxicity also made it a preferred method of suicide. “Sticking one's head in the oven” became so common in Britain that by the late 1950s it accounted for some 2,500 suicides a year, almost half the nation's total.

Those numbers began dropping over the next decade as the British government embarked on a program to phase out coal gas in favor of the much cleaner natural gas. By the early 1970s, the amount of carbon monoxide running through domestic gas lines had been reduced to nearly zero. During those same years, Britain's national suicide rate dropped by nearly a third, and it has remained close to that reduced level ever since.

How can this be? After all, if the impulse to suicide is primarily rooted in mental illness and that illness goes untreated, how does merely closing off one means of self-destruction have any lasting effect? At least a partial answer is that many of those Britons who asphyxiated themselves did so impulsively. In a moment of deep despair or rage or sadness, they turned to what was easy and quick and deadly — “the execution chamber in everyone's kitchen,” as one psychologist described it — and that instrument allowed little time for second thoughts. Remove it, and the process slowed down; it allowed time for the dark passion to pass.

Quite inadvertently, the British gas conversion proved that the incidence of suicide across an entire society could be radically reduced, upending the conventional wisdom about suicide in the

process. Or rather it *should* have upended the conventional wisdom, for what is astonishing today is how little-known the British coal-gas story is even among mental-health professionals who deal with suicide. Last November, I attended a youth suicide-prevention conference in New Hampshire at which Catherine Barber, a member of the Injury Control Research Center at the Harvard School of Public Health, gave a PowerPoint presentation on creating physical barriers to suicide — or “means restriction,” in public-health parlance — to a large group of mental-health officials and school counselors. While giving a brief history of the approach, she came to several slides describing the British gas-conversion phenomenon and paused.

“Is everyone familiar with the British coal-gas story?” she asked. “If so, I'll just skip over this.”

Among the 150 or so attendees, only about a half-dozen hands went up. Instead, most looked quite baffled.

In Northwest Washington stands a pretty neoclassical-style bridge named for one of the city's most famous native sons, Duke Ellington. Running perpendicular to the Ellington, a stone's throw away, is another bridge, the Taft. Both span Rock Creek, and even though they have virtually identical drops into the gorge below — about 125 feet — it is the Ellington that has always been notorious as Washington's “suicide bridge.” By the 1980s, the four people who, on average, leapt from its stone balustrades each year accounted for half of all jumping suicides in the nation's capital. The adjacent Taft, by contrast, averaged less than two.

After three people leapt from the Ellington in a single 10-day period in 1985, a consortium of civic groups lobbied for a suicide barrier to be erected on the span. Opponents to the plan, which included the National Trust for Historic Preservation, countered with the same argument that is made whenever a suicide barrier on a bridge or landmark building is proposed: that such barriers don't really work, that those intent on killing themselves

Scott Anderson is a frequent contributor to the magazine. His last article was about the war in Lebanon in 2006.

will merely go elsewhere. In the Ellington's case, opponents had the added ammunition of pointing to the equally lethal Taft standing just yards away: if a barrier were placed on the Ellington, it was not at all hard to see exactly where thwarted jumpers would head.

Except the opponents were wrong. A study conducted five years after the Ellington barrier went up showed that while suicides at the Ellington were eliminated completely, the rate at the Taft barely changed, inching up from 1.7 to 2 deaths per year. What's more, over the same five-year span, the total number of jumping suicides in Washington had decreased by 50 percent, or the precise percentage the Ellington once accounted for.

What makes looking at jumping suicides potentially instructive is that it is a method associated with a very high degree of impulsivity, and its victims often display few of the classic warning signs associated with suicidal behavior. In fact, jumpers have a lower history of prior suicide attempts, diagnosed mental illness (with the exception of schizophrenia) or drug and alcohol abuse than is found among those who die by less lethal methods, like taking pills or poison. Instead, many who choose this method seem to be drawn by a set of environmental cues that, together, offer three crucial ingredients: ease, speed and the certainty of death.

So why the Ellington more than the Taft? In its own way, that little riddle rather buttresses the environmental-cue theory, for the one glaring difference between the two bridges — a difference readily apparent to most anyone who walked over them in their original state — was the height of their balustrades. The concrete railing on the Taft stands chest-high on an average man, while the pre-barrier Ellington came to just above the belt line. A jump from either was lethal, but one required a bit more effort and a bit more time, and both factors stand in the way of impulsive action.

But how do you prove that those thwarted from the Ellington, or by any other suicide barrier, don't simply choose another method entirely? As it turns out, one man found a clever way to do just that. With a somewhat whimsical manner and the trace of a grin constantly working at one corner of his mouth, Richard Seiden has the appearance of someone always in the middle of telling a joke. It's not what you might expect considering that Seiden, a professor emeritus and clinical psychologist at the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health, is probably best known for his pioneering work on the study of suicide. Much of that work has focused on the bridge that lies just across San Francisco Bay from campus, the Golden Gate.

Since its opening in 1937, the bridge has been regarded as one of the architectural and engineering marvels of the 20th century. For nearly as long, the Golden Gate has had the distinction of being the most popular suicide magnet on earth, a place where an estimated 2,000 people have ended their lives. Over the years, there have been a number of civic campaigns to erect a suicide barrier on the bridge, but all have foundered on the same "they'll just find another way" belief that made the Ellington barrier so contentious.

In the late 1970s, Seiden set out to test the notion of inevitability in jumping suicides. Obtaining a Police Department list of all would-be jumpers who were thwarted from leaping off the Golden Gate between 1937 and 1971 — an astonishing 515 individuals in all — he painstakingly culled death-certificate records to see how many had subsequently "completed." His report, "Where Are They Now?" remains a landmark in the study of suicide, for what he found was that just 6 percent of those pulled off the bridge went on to kill themselves. Even allowing for suicides that might have been mislabeled as accidents only raised the total to 10 percent.

"That's still a lot higher than the general population, of course," Seiden, 75, explained to me over lunch in a busy restaurant in downtown San Francisco. "But to me, the more significant fact is that 90 percent of them got



past it. They were having an acute temporary crisis, they passed through it and, coming out the other side, they got on with their lives."

In Seiden's view, a crucial factor in this boils down to the issue of time. In the case of people who attempt suicide impulsively, cutting off or slowing down their means to act allows time for the impulse to pass — perhaps even blocks the impulse from being triggered to begin with. What is remarkable, though, is that it appears that the same holds true for the nonimpulsive, with people who may have been contemplating the act for days or weeks.

"At the risk of stating the obvious," Seiden said, "people who attempt suicide aren't thinking clearly. They might have a Plan A, but there's no Plan B. They get fixated. They don't say, 'Well, I can't jump, so now I'm going to go shoot myself.' And that fixation extends to whatever method they've chosen. They decide they're going to jump off a particular spot on a particular bridge, or maybe they decide that when they get there, but if they discover the bridge is closed for renovations or the railing is higher than they thought, most of them don't look around for another place to do it. They just retreat."

Seiden cited a particularly striking example of this, a young man he interviewed over the course of his Golden Gate research. The man was grabbed on the eastern promenade of the bridge after passers-by noticed him pacing and growing increasingly despondent. The reason? He had picked out a spot on the western promenade that he wanted to jump from, but separated by six lanes of traffic, he was afraid of getting hit by a car on his way there.

"Crazy, huh?" Seiden chuckled. "But he recognized it. When he told me the story, we both laughed about it."

The offices of the Injury Control Research Center are on the third floor of the Harvard School of Public Health building in Boston. The center, directed by David Hemenway, consists of an internationally renowned team of public-health officials, social scientists and statisticians, and over the past decade they have been in the vanguard of a movement that looks at suicide prevention in a new and very different way: call it the Band-Aid approach.

"One of the differences between us and those in mental health," Hemenway explained, "is that we focus on the 'how' of suicide. What are the methods used? Is there a way to mitigate them? And that's where examples like the British coal-gas story are very instructive, because they show that if you can somehow remove or complicate a method, you have the potential of saving a tremendous number of lives."

Animating their efforts is one of the most peculiar — in fact, downright perverse — aspects to the premeditation-versus-passion dichotomy in suicide. Put simply, those methods that require forethought or exertion on the

actor's part (taking an overdose of pills, say, or cutting your wrists), and thus most strongly suggest premeditation, happen to be the methods with the least chance of "success." Conversely, those methods that require the least effort or planning (shooting yourself, jumping from a precipice) happen to be the deadliest. The natural inference, then, is that the person who best fits the classic definition of "being suicidal" might actually be *safer* than one acting in the heat of the moment — at least 40 times safer in the case of someone opting for an overdose of pills over shooting himself.

As illogical as this might seem, it is a phenomenon confirmed by research. According to statistics collected by the Injury Control Research Center on nearly 4,000 suicides across the United States, those who had killed themselves with firearms — by far the most lethal common method of suicide — had a markedly lower history of depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, previous suicide attempts or drug or alcohol abuse than those who died by the least lethal methods. On the flip side, those who ranked the highest for at-risk factors tended to choose those methods with low "success" rates.

"We're always going to have suicide," Hemenway said, "and there's probably not that much to be done for the ones who are determined, who succeed on their 4th or 5th or 25th try. The ones we have a good chance of saving are those who, right now, succeed on their first attempt because of the lethal methods they've chosen."

Inevitably, this approach means focusing on the most common method of suicide in the United States: firearms. Even though guns account for less than 1 percent of all American suicide attempts, their extreme fatality rate — anywhere from 85 percent and 92 percent, depending on how the statistics are compiled — means that they account for 54 percent of all completions. In 2005, the last year for which statistics are available, that translated into about 17,000 deaths. Public-health officials like Hemenway can point to a mountain of research going back 40 years that shows that the incidence of firearm suicide runs in close parallel with the prevalence of firearms in a community. In a 2007 study that grouped the 15 states with the highest rate of gun ownership alongside the six states with the lowest (each group had a population of about 40 million), Hemenway and his associates found that when it came to all nonfirearm methods, the two populations committed suicide in nearly equal numbers. The more than three-times-greater prevalence of firearms in the "high gun" states, however, translated into a more than three-times-greater incidence of firearm suicides, which in turn translated into an annual suicide rate nearly double that of the "low gun" states. In the same vein, their 2004 study of seven Northeastern states found that the 3.5 times greater rate of gun suicides in Vermont than in New Jersey exactly matched the difference in gun ownership between the two states (42 percent of all households in Vermont opposed to 12 percent in New Jersey). From these and other such studies, the Injury Control Research Center has extrapolated that a 10 percent reduction in firearm ownership in the United States would translate into a 2.5 percent reduction in the overall suicide rate, or about 800 fewer deaths a year.



Beyond sheer lethality, however, what makes gun suicide attempts so resistant to traditional psychological suicide-prevention protocols is the high degree of impulsivity that often accompanies them. In a 1985 study of 30 people who had survived self-inflicted gunshot wounds, more than half reported having had suicidal thoughts for less than 24 hours, and none of the 30 had written suicide notes. This tendency toward impulsivity is especially common among young people — and not only with gun suicides. In a 2001 University of Houston study of 153 survivors of nearly lethal attempts between the ages of 13 and 34, only 13 percent reported having contemplated their act for eight hours or longer. To the contrary, 70 percent set the interval between deciding to kill themselves and acting at less than an hour, including an astonishing 24 percent who pegged the interval at less than five minutes.

The element of impulsivity in firearm suicide means that it is a method in which mechanical intervention — or "means restriction" — might work to great effect. As to how, Dr. Matthew Miller, the associate director of the Injury Control Research Center, outlined for me a number of very basic steps. Storing a gun in a lockbox, for example, slows down the decision-making process and puts that gun off-limits to everyone

but the possessor of the key. Similarly, studies have shown that merely keeping a gun unloaded and storing its ammunition in a different room significantly reduces the odds of that gun being used in a suicide.

"The goal is to put more time between the person and his ability to act," Miller said. "If he has to go down to the basement to get his ammunition or rummage around in his dresser for the key to the gun safe, you're injecting time and effort into the equation — maybe just a couple of minutes, but in a lot of cases that may be enough."

It reminded me of what Richard Seiden said about people thwarted from jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. When I mentioned this to Miller, he smiled. "It's very much the same," he said. "The more obstacles you can throw up, the more you move it away from being an impulsive act. And once you've done that, you take a lot of people out of the game. If you look at how people get into trouble, it's usually because they're acting impulsively, they haven't thought things through. And that's just as true with suicides as it is with traffic accidents."

I met Debbie in the lobby of a resort hotel just outside Burlington, Vt. She is a very pretty woman who looks far younger than her 50 years, and her shoulder-length blond hair neatly conceals the damage to the right side of her head. She has no difficulty speaking, certainly none with memory. In fact, it is only when she stands that her injuries are apparent; leaning on a cane, she moves slowly, shifting her partly paralyzed left side much like someone who has suffered a stroke. "People often think I was in a car accident or something," she said with a tentative smile. "If they ask, I usually just say, 'It's a long story,' and leave it at that."

Until the spring of 2004, Debbie lived a particularly Rockwellian version of the American middle-class experience. Married to an investment banker and residing in a picturesque village in northern Vermont, she worked part time at the local town hall while playing soccer mom to her two children, a boy and a girl. That spring, however, with both her children off to college, she became increasingly aware of a certain aridness in her marriage and felt besieged by the demands of a new full-time job. After she and her husband endured a hellish cycle of trial separations followed by brief rapprochements, he finally asked for a divorce. The day before they were to sign divorce papers in May 2005, Debbie drove to a nearby gun store and told the manager she wanted to buy a handgun for self-protection. After her driver's license was run to make sure she had no felony convictions, Debbie walked out of the store with a .38-caliber revolver and a packet of hollow-point bullets. The whole process took about 15 minutes.

"I just didn't see any other way out of the situation," she said. "I seemed incapable of making a decision about my marriage, about my job. I just felt so overwhelmed with everything."

Back home, she went up to her master bathroom with the gun and closed the door behind her. Not wanting to leave a mess, she thought to lay a dark towel in the shower, then stepped inside and sat down.

Paradoxically, it may have been Debbie's fastidious streak that saved her life. Unfamiliar with guns and without a mirror to guide her hand, she set the revolver to her head at an odd angle. The bullet cut a path through a portion of her brain before exiting at the back of her skull, but it also left Debbie as one of the very few people ever to survive a hollow-point shot to the head.

She remembers feeling a moment of intense pain and then nothing else for a long time. Her next memory is of her husband, standing over her and screaming, "What have you done?" and the sound of an approaching ambulance. She found she could speak, but all she kept saying over and over was: "I don't want to die. Please, I don't want to die."

As with every other survivor of a near-lethal suicide attempt that I spoke with, Debbie told her story with an almost eerie poise. There was one moment, though, at which she suddenly fell silent, where words failed her.

"You know, I hear myself describing all this," she said, "but it seems completely surreal. I feel like I'm describing a movie I saw or a book I read. Even sitting here now and looking at that" — she motioned to her cane — "it's hard to believe this is something I actually did."

I suspected part of her incredulity stemmed from the recentness of the event; it had been less than three years. But perhaps it was also rooted in something more profound. What united all the survivors I spoke with was a sense of having been so utterly transformed by their experiences that, in essence, they had become different people.

In California, I met with Ken Baldwin, a schoolteacher who, in the grips of a deep depression 22 years ago, leapt from the Golden Gate Bridge.

"I've had two lives," Baldwin said. "That's the only way I've ever been able to describe it. Up to the day I jumped, that was one life, and now this is another. I'm not so much a changed man as a completely different one, and that's why it's so hard to even recollect what I was like back then, what I was thinking."

One aspect of the survivors' personalities that appears to have been left behind is whatever mind-tumble caused them to try to kill themselves in the first place. Since their attempts, none of the survivors I spoke with had experienced another impulse toward suicide. Nor had they spent much time seeing psychologists or hanging out in support groups. In Baldwin's case, he attended just five therapy sessions after his jump from the Golden Gate.

"And after that fifth session," he recalled, "the therapist said: 'You know, I really don't think you need to do this anymore. You seem to have it all put back together.' And he was right."

For each, it's almost as if their near-death experience scared them straight, propelled them back to a point of recovery beyond even their own imagining. But that's actually not so unusual; just as Seiden found that less than 10 percent of people thwarted from jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge went on to kill themselves, a host of studies show that same percentage holds among those who carry out "near fatal" attempts but

somehow survive. Beginning in the 1970s, Dr. David Rosen, a psychiatrist and Jungian psychoanalyst, tracked down and conducted lengthy interviews with nine people who survived leaps from the Golden Gate, as well as one who had gone off the nearby Bay Bridge.

"What was immediately apparent," Rosen recounted, "was that none of them had truly wanted to die. They had wanted their inner pain to stop; they wanted some measure of relief; and this was the only answer they could find. They were in spiritual agony, and they sought a physical solution."

In September 2000, Kevin Hines, a 19-year-old college student suffering from bipolar disorder, leapt from the Golden Gate. Along with Ken Baldwin, he is one of only 29 known survivors of the fall. Today Hines controls his bipolar disorder with medication and a strictly controlled regimen of diet and exercise and sleep, even while maintaining a frenetic schedule. Having recently married, he is frequently on the road lecturing for a suicide-prevention network while simultaneously working toward a psychology degree. One of his most intense ambitions, though, is to finally see a suicide barrier erected on the Golden Gate.

"I'll tell you what I can't get out of my head," he told me in his San Francisco living room. "It's watching my hands come off that railing and thinking to myself, My God, what have I just done? Because I know that almost everyone else who's gone off that bridge, they had that exact same thought at that moment. All of a sudden, they didn't want to die, but it was too late. Somehow I made it; they didn't; and now I feel it's my responsibility to speak for them." ■

'The more obstacles you can throw up' to potential suicides, one doctor told me, 'the more you move it away from being an impulsive act. And once you've done that, you take a lot of people out of the game.'

Judith Robinson
562 B Lombard Street
San Francisco, California 94133-2314
415-788-9112

9 August, 2008

Golden Gate Bridge District
P.O. Box 9000
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA. 94129-0601

RE: Oppose visual for suicide prevention barriers

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose the installation of any suicide barriers on the bridge that would deface, mar or otherwise destroy the architectural integrity of the design, visible from on or off the bridge, or preventing views while on the bridge.

Non-intrusive methods to do so (such as nets) would be preferable, if some form of prevention installation is chosen.

Thank you for considering my position on the matter. I am a property owner in San Francisco with views of the bridge, which I also drive over regularly.

Sincerely,


M. J. Robinson

2008 AUG 13 AM 10:39
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

69 WEST SHORE ROAD
BELVEDERE, CALIFORNIA 94920

July 22, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Trans. Dist.
P. O. Box 9000
San Francisco, California 94129

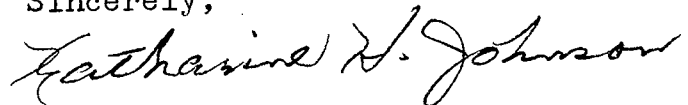
Gentlemen:

It would be a shame to destroy the classic beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge by adding a suicide barrier of any type, even a supposedly invisible net.

People from all over the world come to San Francisco just to see this glorious landmark and the views it affords. I live in Marin and cross the bridge often, each time marveling at its beauty and the number of people walking, bicycling and peering over the railing at the water below.

Please do not spoil an important tourist attraction and take away the pleasure of so many people. The Bridge District cannot be held responsible for suicides.

Sincerely,



Katharine H. Johnson

RECEIVED
JUL 24 2008
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

Suicide Deterrent Project
Golden Gate Bridge
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

2008 JUL 15 AM 11:04

13 July 2008

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

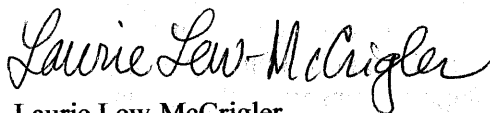
Dear Sir,

After waiting two years for your study to conclude, you allocate two consecutive days for public comment – and, naturally, I will be out of town. Here are my comments:

1. I do not support any horizontal designs (1B, 2B) since that only encourages people to climb the fencing.
2. The net design is the worst of those proposed: the netting will rot faster than metal, it may require continuous modifications to prevent people from escaping the net, and it definitely requires continual manpower to police the nets and free anyone caught (this could turn into a popular sport).
3. I prefer the vertical designs (1A, 2A). The current 4-foot fence seems to be difficult to paint and one can observe holes where it has rotted through. Thus the completely new vertical fence 2A seems the logical choice. Questions to be addressed: Are the vertical railings close enough so that children cannot get their heads stuck (e.g., banister railings)? Is there a method to easily paint close vertical railings? Are the railings solid enough so they cannot be pried apart?
4. Wow, how amazing is it that **all** five proposed designs cost \$40-50 million?? Who would have thought that such differing designs would each end up costing the same amount? Oh, and could we put a cap on spending so that the contractor pays for everything over the bid price? We have too many examples of projects going with the lowest bid only to end up paying double (triple? more?) the original estimated cost. There should be a penalty for this!
5. I am enthused to see the proposals but I reserve judgment until I actually see a barrier built. After all, a barrier has been proposed numerous times over the last 70+ years but never built.
6. Finally, how much did this two-year study cost? I ask because there are already news reports that the gate toll is increasing in order to pay for regular maintenance. I wonder if it is only a matter of time before we hear there is not enough money for a suicide barrier.

Of course, the real question is: how many lives were lost while this two-year study was being conducted? One was my nephew Henry who jumped off the bridge last year, just 3 weeks prior to his high school graduation. I only hope that this is the **last** study and we will actually get a suicide prevention barrier.

Sincerely,



Laurie Lew-McCrigler
2436 Homewood Drive
San Jose, CA 95128

J.L. Bay 958
Dubay, California
95021-0958
408-832-1311

Mr. Jeffrey Lee
City & Engineering Dept.
Golden Gate Bridge District
Bay 9000 Presidio Station
San Francisco, California 94129-0000

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2008
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. Lee,

Thank you very much for the lovely book regarding the construction of a Suicide Barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. It is very interesting to read and the colored photos are beautiful.

I feel very honored to be on your list to receive the book.

It is very sad to know that a barrier need be constructed to prevent such a tragedy from occurring.

I feel that the construction of the Suicide Barrier must be approved and constructed to save any more lives from being lost at that location.

Many have there because of the known of annual bridges, others know it's usually always sure death, others because they may get a few moments of public exposure by jumping from the famous bridge.

From the considered designs of the barrier I personally feel the horizontal design should be considered because

they do not obstruct the view from
the bridge as much as the vertical
lines would.

Then you would be observing the
view between the horizontal lines the
view would be clearer.

If you look at the view between
the vertical lines you would see the
lines at the side of your eyes obstructing
the view.

I am really sorry my open heart
pattern would be unable to pass the
wind test. The open heart pattern,
as previously mentioned, automatically
sends a message of love and compassion
Vertical and horizontal lines give more
of a Prison picture.

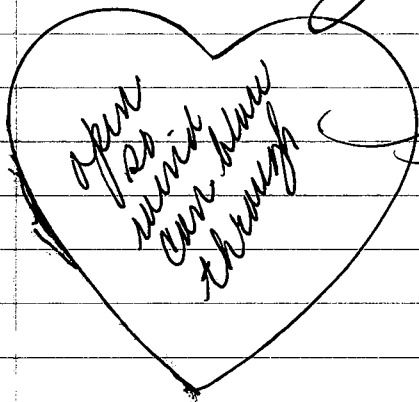
One must construct what is
the safest for the bridge regarding
the wind velocity.

If hearts can be display along
the bridge with the horizontal lines
maybe the same message can be
expressed.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely

Leann Lee Jackson



Please note following page 56

Added Remarks:

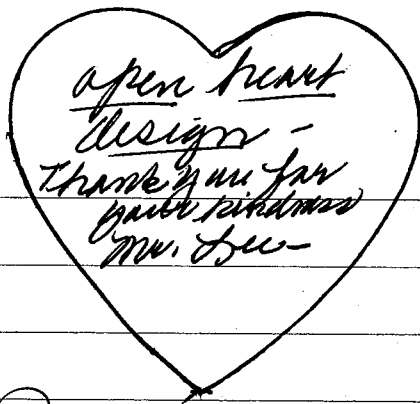
Please, please Do Not put any
Transparent or Net Panels on
the Barrier

The Butterflies, Birds, Falcons
cannot tell that they cannot fly
through them. They will be killed
when hitting the transparent and entangled
in the netting.

We must build a barrier to save
Human Lives But We Must Protect
all other life at the same time

Butterflies, birds, Falcons, plants
etc. as it takes all life to make this
world complete.

Leana Lee Jackson



July 28, 2008
P.O. Box 958
Silicon, California
95021-0958

Mr. Jeffrey Lee 408-832-1311
Adm: Engineering Dept. 408-832-8349
Suicide Deterrent Project
Golden Gate Bridge District
Bay Area Presidio Station
San Francisco, California 94129-0601

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2008

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. Lee:

I'm writing this letter because I heard the program on KBC last Thursday. I felt so sorry for Lelia Cooperman. I thought KBC was very rude to her.

The Suicide Barrier should by all means be constructed if it saves any life.

That 50 million or whatever the cost being sent to an organization to talk to people about suicide ~~when~~ would never help anybody.

First of all they are not on the spot at the critical time and secondly I consider them worthless.

Since my precious animals were taken from me illegally and murdered or

at the same place (which I just recently heard). This was since Animal and Senior Cruelty. I have done animal rescue since 1951.

I showed Poodles for Confirmation at Dog Shows. I showed cats at Cat Shows and had ten champions and one Grand Champion. My kennel and catery name registered at AKC and CFA.

I am fighting with all my heart set to commit ~~suicide~~ suicide. I miss them so much. My friends say No Lee - No Lee.

I have called Suicide Prevention twice and in my opinion they are absolutely worthless.

I would never commit the act in public at a well known location as the Golden Gate Bridge. That would be an insult to a beautiful city and a beautiful bridge. Suicide isn't God's Way.

In desperation I think some people are drawn by the notoriety of the bridge and want that one last moment of the media for their act.

I hope people to walk the bridge to prevent that action could never be

successful as they cannot be at all locations
of the bridge at all times

Netting and transparent materials
should never be used. All species of
life must be protected.

Now Lee, I still would like to see
my heart design considered as it sends
a message (a silent message) from the
bridge and the city.

Straight lines say nothing and looks
like a Prison Wall. Maybe that the reason for ^{opposition}

I think maybe you may have
misunderstood my heart pattern.
The wind could blow through it
the same as the straight lines.

My design was an open heart. All you
do is use the steel or iron in the shape
of hearts connected as I drew in my design.

Maybe the people would better accept
that as a Suicide Barrier.

I apologize for this letter but I feel
so sorry for the wonderful KOREA'S Show.

Sincerely,
Lena Lee Jackson

Dear Board Member,

August 25, 2008

The Golden Gate Bridge District Board can be proud of the suicide prevention measures performed by the bridge staff, workers, and California Highway Patrol. The "No Build Alternative" to the proposed barrier debate should not be looked upon as inhumane or non-caring. Each year a group of fifty or more people are identified as suicidal, taken into custody, and referred to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation and treatment. They are discovered through a system of live feed cameras, bicycle patrols, and crisis hot line phones. They are seen climbing over the rail, sobbing at mid span, pacing, staring over the side, or sitting alone in their cars. They are identified and helped. The vast majority of these do not go on to take their lives. In 1978 Dr. Richard Seiden found that over 95% of the 515 people taken off the bridge were either living or died of natural causes. The current identification system works. Lives are being saved.

Once a barrier is erected, nobody will come and thus be identified. The customary fifty people will remain suicidal and at risk, and most mental health professionals believe that at least 10 of them would take their own lives during the next few years.

On the other hand, there are twenty suicides off the bridge each year which a barrier would eliminate. However, most mental health professionals believe that at least 15 of them would take their own lives elsewhere by other means.

The annual suicide rate in the Bay area is 600, and the overall effect of erecting a barrier will have no effect on that number. With or without a barrier there will be 20-25 suicides related to the bridge. A certain number of suicides will be prevented by a barrier, however an equal number will take their own lives because they were never identified and referred into the mental health system.

More can be done to prevent suicide related to the bridge. The District Board is in a position to improve detection and prevention. Increased bicycle patrols, more intensive camera and coverage, new and innovative signage, and more phones could increase the identification process. More lives would be saved, not lost. The cost for these improvements would be miniscule in comparison to the projected \$50 million for a barrier. Steps taken today, at a relatively small cost, could prevent future suicides. The Board should convene a panel to study and recommend further improvements to the already successful program of suicide prevention. Board members, CHP, bridge staff, local suicide prevention agencies, mental health professionals, and other volunteers could be charged with examining the possibilities and making recommendations. More lives would be saved with an expanded "No Build Alternative."

Sincerely,

Mac Coffey, Ph.D.

2008 JUN 28 AM 10:44
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT OF
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE,
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

S. J. Bridge Hwy & Trans. Dist.

8/12/08

"Beautiful for spacious skies & amber waves of grain" — the Golden Gate Bridge — even tho' constructed by man — is in that category, as is the surrounding area.

To spoil this pristine beauty by adding to it any of the proposed negatives that the Golden Gate Bridge District is considering is beyond belief.

Whyp is this decision left to persons appointed or elected? Please don't use that power regardless of the will of the people.

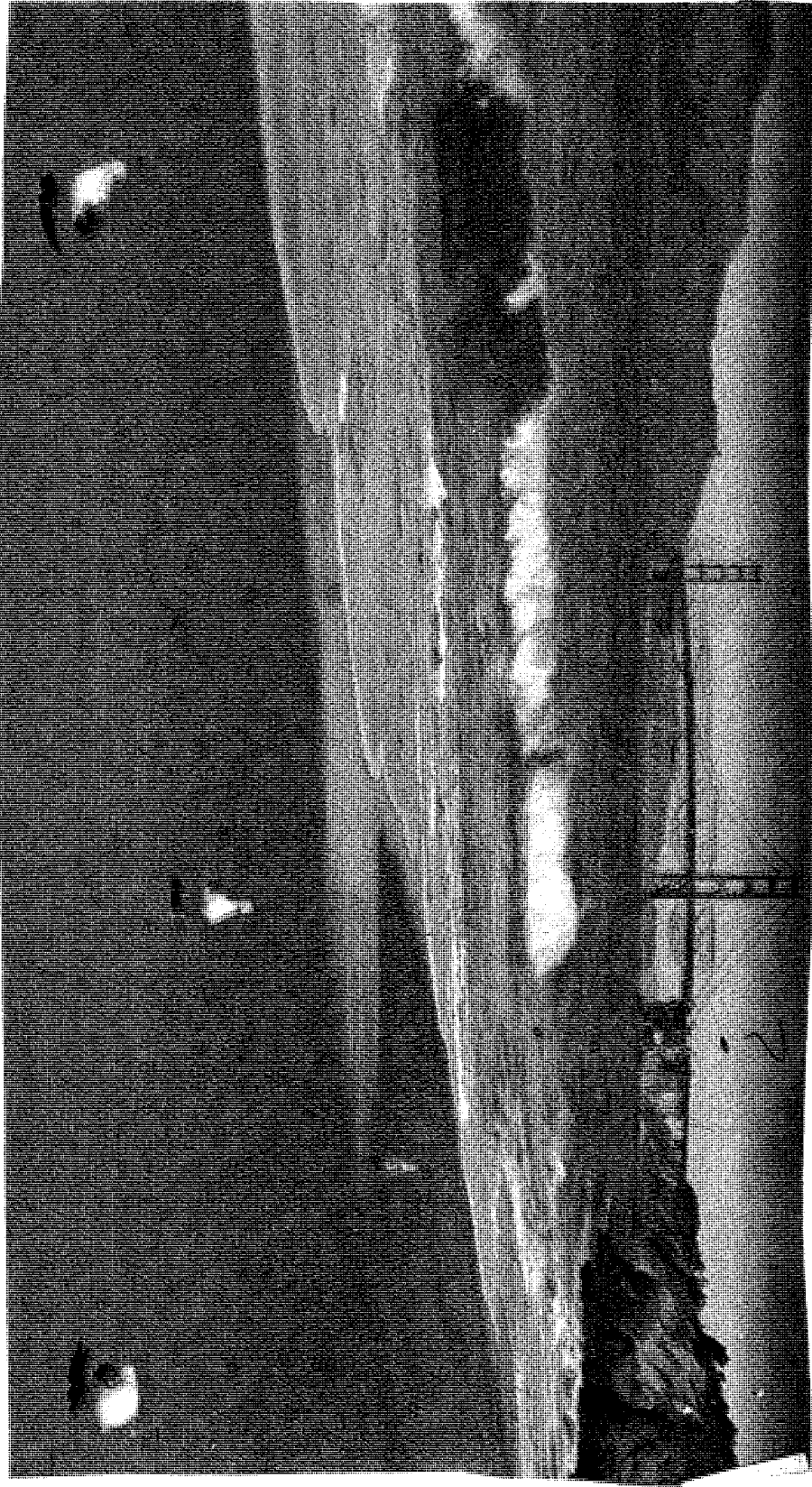
Perhaps the effort could be made into having a moveable lane barrier — as has been suggested — on the bridge which would do more to save lives & injuries than the above —

Reply requested

Marian Corbett

715 Myra Way

Pan Francisco CA 94127



August 19, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge
Highway & Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

RE: Comment on the Draft EIR/EA and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

To: Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District and Caltrans (Lead Agencies for CEQA and NEPA):

The Draft EIR/EA clearly describes a direct adverse effect to the Bridge character-defining features under Cultural Resource impacts for all build alternatives, which also have Section 4(f) effects. Adverse visual impacts are also described for views of the bridge from Vista Point for Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B, which does not meet the District Board criteria to "have minimal visual and aesthetic impacts on the Bridge".

The historic resource and Section 4(f) effects of each of the Build Alternatives, in addition to the visual impacts to this internationally prominent historic structure, should render a decision in favor of the No Build Alternative. Deterring suicide attempts on the Golden Gate Bridge would not have prevented the other 599 suicides in the Bay Area in 2005, and will not prevent suicides in the future in the Bay Area.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Duffey
Environmental Consultant
1172 Greenwich Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

7/11/08

2008 JUL 15 AM 10:55

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

Kleer Sur & Madam of the Transportation Commission

Please do not install a physical
suicide deterrent system in the Golden
Gate Bridge. The cost is prohibitive
and any more alterations will
negatively affect the aesthetics of
one of the most visually pleasing
man made objects on earth.

I know many individuals
expressed grief at the loss of their
loved one who jumped off this
magnificent bridge. Please consider
also the many millions of people
who experience untold joy at walking/
biking/driving on the bridge each year
and seeing unobstructed, incredible
views.

Thank you
Michele Ganda
San Francisco

JULY 18, 08
DEAR GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERANT PRO;

FIRST AND FOREMOSTLY ALLOW ME TO HUMBLLY INTRODUCE MYSELF. MY NAME IS MECKIE WOMACK OF SAN JOSE CA. I AM 26 YEARS OF AGE AND CURRENTLY INCARCERATED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY JAIL FACILITY. I AM A EX-GANG MEMBER RESIDING IN A PROGRAM "BREAKING BARRIERS" WITH IN SAID FACILITY; FOCUSING ON CHANGE IN MY LIFE AND A 'BETTER FUTURE' FOR A BRIEF ENLIGHTENMENT ON OUR PROGRAM; AND CAUSE! WE ARE ALL HERE TO SEEK OUT MORE, PRODUCTIVE, POSITIVE AND DRUG FREE LIVES. HERE I AM PROVIDED WITH MANY TOOLS AND ESSENTIALS TO BETTER MYSELF IN ALL ASPECTS: SUBSTANCE ABUSE, PARENTING, HEALTH REALIZATION, ANGER MANAGEMENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, CRIMINAL THINKING / FRAME WORK FOR RECOVERY, HIV/AIDS AWARENESS EDUCATION AND GANG PREVENTION!

WITH THAT SAID PLEASE PERMIT ME TO DELVE INTO THE IMPORTANCE, ASWELL AS THE HEART AND SOUL PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IN HAND. I WAS READING A COPY OF OUR SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS PAPER AND CAME ACROSS YOUR ADD IN REGARDS TO GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERANT..... I HAVE RECENTLY LOST A JR HIGH SWEETHEART TO SUICIDE LAST AUGUST HER NAME WAS "DEBBIE SAMINETAGO" SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE IN THE LOS GATOS HILLS NEAR VASONA PARK. SHE IS AND CONTINUES TO BE REMEMBERED BY HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS, SINCE JR HIGH WE LOST CONTACT THROUGH THE YEARS, BOTH GOING THROUGH LIFE'S HARD SHIPS

AND ROUGH TIMES. WHEN HEARING THIS INFO FROM ANOTHER FRIEND IT BROKE MY HEART AND THREW ME OFF SAURO. SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL AND LOVED PERSON AS I ONLY RECALL BACK THEN AND CROSSING PATHS OCCASIONALLY SINCE THEN. GROWING UP IN THE JUVENIAL SYSTEM, I WAS INTRODUCED TO SUICIDE FOR THE 1ST TIME IN MY GRAND HOME "NAMED THE ARC ALLIANCE OF RECREATIONAL CARE CENTER FOR YOUTHS IN 1998. A CLOSE FRIEND/HOMIE OF MINE "DAVID PEREZ" TOOK HIS OWN LIFE AT 14 YEARS AFTER HIS BROTHER LOST HIS TO GANG VIOLENCE. THESE SORT OF THINGS YOU ALWAYS HEAR ABOUT, CATCH WIND OF THROUGH NEWSPAPER OR TELEVISION OR THROUGH OTHERS. BUT IT REALLY HITS HOME ESPECIALLY WHEN ITS THOSE YOU CONSIDER LOVED ONES. I STRONGLY FEEL THAT GOD, MY HIGHER POWER, WANTS ME TO SEARCH AND SEEK OUT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON THIS UNFORTUNATE, MISUNDERSTOOD WAY OF DEALING WITH "HARD TIMES" IN THOSE TERMS. THERE IS SO MUCH I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABREASTED UPON IN REGARDS TO YOUR "PROGRAM" ITS "CAUSE", PURPOSE AND "SET GOALS" SO THAT I TOO MAY BE OF HELP AND AVAILABLE AT ALL COST. LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND SHORT, BUT SWEET. PRIOR TO MY INCARCERATION DATE OF JUNE 19 2008; CHANGE AND TAKING LIFE SERIOUS WAS AND STILL REMAINS TO BE MY PRIORITY AND GOAL. I WAS CURRENTLY ATTENDING SAN JOSE CITY COLLEGE. LOOKING TO OBTAIN MY AA'S DEGREE IN 'ART'. VOLUNTEER AT VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL, DISCHARGED MY PAROLE NUMBER. I WAS MAKING SOME POSITIVE CHOICES FOR MYSELF, ALTHOUGH MY ADDICTION

OVER THE YEARS, HAS GOTTEN THE BEST OF ME.
DEPRIVING ME FROM ACHIEVEMENTS, LIVING OUT
DREAMS AND THE MAIN THING, "DOING THE RIGHT
THING". IN REGARDS TO MY CASE AND CURRENT
SITUATION; I WILL BE TAKING IT TO TRIAL, FOR
I AM INNOCENT OF THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST
ME! HENCE, WHILE I REMAIN FIRM AND
STEADFAST IN MY RECOVERY, LENDING MY
HELPING HAND AND WHOLE HEART TOWARDS
POSITIVITY AND MAKING A CHANGE IN ANOTHER'S
LIFE FOR THE BEST, I STRONGLY BELIEVE TO BE
BOTH BEAUTIFUL AS WELL THERIAUTIC FOR I
MYSELF AND OTHERS! GETTING INVOLVED IS THE
FIRST STEP FOR ME, IS THIS POSSIBLE? AND IF SO
HOW MAY I DO SO? I'M EAGER TO BE A PART
OF THE SOLUTION AND NOT THE PROBLEM WITH
THE REST OF MY LIFE! IT DEPENDS ON IT!!

BEFORE I CLOSE THIS LOVELY ENCOUNTER MIGHT I
ADD THAT I AM VERY ARTICULATE AND A WONDER
ARTIST! I HOPE THAT MY EFFORTS, LABOR
AND TIME CAN BE INVESTED INTO YOUR
PROGRAM. WITH THAT SAID ALLOW ME TO
EXIT IN THE SAME FASHION THAT I ARRIVED
IN ALWAYS WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE, AND
A PARAMOUNT OF LOVE AND RESPECTS!

* PLEASE RESPOND TO THE ADDRESS BELOW! *

MECKIE WOMACK

PFN# DQG281

BK# 08042333

HOUSING = 5-C

885 - N SAN PEDRO ST

SAN JOSE CA,

95110.

GOD BLESS!
C

SAFETY
JUL 18, 2008

1
To Watch A NIGHT CONCERT:
LEAVE THE GOLDEN GATE
BRIDGE ALONE.

Would you rather a person
park on the rail road tracks
to attempt suicide and take
a few victims with him?

LEAVE IT ALONE

R. SCHNEIDER
RITA GRANHADE
VALIA ROSA
95707
ORPH SCHNEIDER

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2008
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Cherny

**Professor
Department of History
San Francisco State University**

**Vice-President
Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board
City and County of San Francisco**

Home address: 1462 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122

11 August 2008

Mr. Jeffrey Y. Lee, PE
Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2008

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. Lee,

I am responding, somewhat belatedly, to your letter of April 29, requesting that I reply to you if I have any concerns regarding the potential effects of a suicide deterrent on the Golden Gate Bridge as an historic resource.

First let me explain that I am vice-president of the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Board). However, the Board will not be holding a hearing on the issues associated with the suicide deterrent project, so I am responding to your letter as an individual.

I have been a member of the Board since April 2003, and have served as vice-president of the Board since January 2006. During the time that I have served on the Board, we have reviewed hundreds of proposals for alterations in historic structures, including structures on the city, state, and national registers. I am responding to the Draft EIR/EA as I would if this project had come to the Board for review and comment.

First of all, there has been established a clearly defined need to make alterations in the historic structure. The large preponderance of the evidence from various studies indicates clearly that a suicide barrier does, in fact, prevent suicides. I would draw the conclusion from the studies of which I am aware that any of the proposed "build" alternatives would be likely to significantly reduce, if not completely end, suicides from the bridge. And I would conclude that this public good completely justifies alterations in the historic structure. Although there is not yet a law that requires installation of a suicide barrier, this is clearly a public health issue.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards are not intended to prevent any change to historic structures. On the contrary, they are designed to *guide* such changes so as to minimize damage to historic resources. The Standards acknowledge a variety of reasons for altering a historic structure. During my service on the Board, we have reviewed many alterations to historic structures. One of the most frequent has been the addition of a garage to a home that is individually listed as an historic resource or that is part of an historic district. When such proposals are sensitive to the need to minimize alterations to the historic structure, i.e., the proposal is developed to comply with the Standards, the proposed garages have almost always been approved—indeed, during

my service on the Board we have only once denied a proposal to add a garage to an historic structure.

I provide this information to illustrate the reality that the Standards are intended to guide alterations to historic structures, not to stand as a roadblock to changes in such structures. If it is appropriate, under the Standards, to alter an historic house to provide its owner with the convenience of a garage, I would consider it immensely more appropriate to alter the Golden Gate Bridge to save lives.

*I therefore cannot agree with the conclusion on pp. 2-113 and 2-114 of the DEIS/EA, that "The addition of any of these barrier systems would be an alteration to the historic property that is not consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties." I know of no section of the Standards that directly addresses a situation like that facing the Bridge District. However, it does seem to me that the most similar situation is for alterations intended to meet accessibility requirements, or health and safety code requirements, or to improve energy efficiency. Such changes to historic structures are made regularly because they are required for other reasons than preservation, rehabilitation, or reconstruction. In this instance, though there is not yet a code requirement, there is certainly a clear *moral* imperative. With regard to such alterations, the Standards specify: "particular care must be taken not to obscure, damage, or destroy character-defining materials or features in the process of undertaking work to meet code and energy requirements."*

Given that, the question for me then becomes: Which alternative is the least intrusive? Which alternative makes the least significant changes to the historic structure while also best serving the primary purpose of preventing suicides?

Of the proposed "build" alternatives, I see Alternative 1A as most preferred in that it makes the least significant changes in the historic structure. First of all, it preserves most of the original rail, and the addition to the original would be differentiated from it. Second of all, it preserves the verticality of the original rail. By preserving most of the original rail, it minimizes changes to the structure, and by differentiating the new from the old it complies with the Standards.

I see Alternative 2A as next most preferred, because it preserves the verticality of the original structure, but less preferred than Alternative 1A in that it removes the original rail.

Alternatives 1B and 2B, by introducing a horizontal barrier, make significant changes to the original design, by substituting for the current verticality a horizontal feature. It may also be questioned whether they would be as effective as Alternatives 1A and 2A, since the horizontal cables could be used as a ladder.

Alternative 3 makes the most radical changes in the original structure by adding a new design element--a net projecting from the side of the bridge. I would consider it least preferred for that reason, and also because it is likely to become rapidly unsightly, and

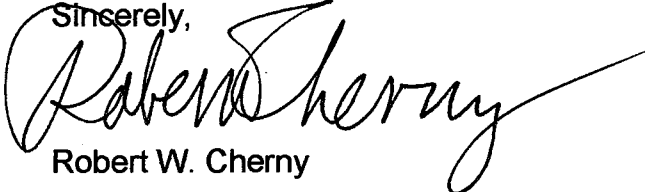
to require more maintenance than the other alternatives, because it will catch litter and debris. In addition, like Alternatives 1B and 2B, it would seem to me that the net is less likely to be a significant barrier to someone who jumps first into the net and then climbs over the edge.

I find the mitigation measures proposed in the DEIS/EA to be completely appropriate.

There are aesthetic dimensions to all of these alternatives, but consider for a moment that an effective suicide barrier would prevent the most distressing and least aesthetic of all viewing experiences--the view of someone leaping to his/her death in full sight of bridge visitors or commuters. I cannot imagine anything less aesthetic than seeing someone fall to his/her death and then watching the Coast Guard retrieve the body from the water. Thus, *any* effective barrier would be an aesthetic improvement. Alternatives 1B and 2B, unfortunately, pose a similar potential--of visitors and commuters witnessing someone trying to climb the horizontal cables. And Alternative 3 poses the potential of visitors to the bridge witnessing someone leaping into the net and then, perhaps, trying to climb over the edge. Only Alternatives 1A and 2A, it seems to me, would be effective in preventing even an attempt to jump from the bridge. In addition, even if a visitor to the bridge does not witness an attempted suicide, Alternative 3 presents the highly unaesthetic potential of viewing the bay through a net littered with trash and debris.

Finally, though it does not have to do with the Standards or with aesthetics, I would like to comment on the cost issue. I have seen estimates that the barrier could cost \$40-50 million. In terms of saving lives, this seems a small price to pay. Consider that the Environmental Protection Agency has recently established \$6.9 million as the price of a human life. While it seem crude to put any dollar value on a human life, this number has been approved by the EPA as the number to be employed for a variety of planning purposes. By that measure, the barrier would need to save only seven lives to justify the cost.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Cherny

cc: Bridge District members, Mary C. Currie

July 25, 2008

Re: Proposed Suicide Barrier

Dear GGBTD Board of Directors,

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

2008 JUL 28 PM 1:35

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

I live in Terra Linda and commute to San Francisco on the 38, 44 and 54 Express buses. I am a member of the Bus Passenger Advisory Committee, although I write to you as an individual. I strongly oppose construction of a suicide barrier on the bridge.

You are currently increasing the bridge toll by a dollar to address a budget deficit of 91 million dollars. Why would you simultaneously consider a suicide barrier that could cost as little as forty to fifty million dollars, but may cost more, possibly a great deal more? (Current estimates for replacing Doyle Drive are much higher than initial estimates, and the actual cost of the new east span of the Oakland Bay Bridge is far exceeding initial projections.)

If the Board wishes to minimize suicides on the bridge, it could, at very little cost, close it to pedestrians and cyclists unless and until a barrier is in place. This would engender a great deal of controversy, but it should also provoke consideration of the underlying issue: public agencies simply cannot take on the responsibility to ensure that every citizen is safe at every moment in every situation. That responsibility belongs in many cases to the individual.

Whatever the circumstances that led up to it, jumping off the bridge is a volitional act. The jumper has the right to make what others may regard as a very bad decision. He or she takes primary responsibility for the consequences of that decision, followed, arguably, by the jumper's family members and friends, who should have been aware of the possibility and would have been in the best position to encourage preventive measures.

There have been two serious head-on collisions on the bridge so far this year. A moveable median barrier would have prevented both of them. It seems to me that the District has a responsibility to protect people who intend to drive safely that comes before any responsibility it may (or may not) have to protect people who intend to kill themselves.

The family members and friends that jumpers leave behind are understandably distraught, as any of us would be in similar circumstances. If they believe that a barrier should be put in place to spare others similar pain, they have the option to mount a fundraising campaign to pay for it. But they shouldn't expect a public agency that exists to expedite travel between San Francisco and the North Bay to divert part of its limited resources to an endeavor unrelated to its purpose.

Thank you for taking my point of view into account.



Stanton Klose
San Rafael, CA

100 Thorndale Drive #447
San Rafael CA 94903
415/488-0531

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

2008 JUL 29 PM 1:13

July 28, 2008

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and
Transportation District
P.O.Box 9000, San Francisco CA 94129

Re: Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

Dear Board members and bridge officials:

Condolences for the emotional, political hotbed you face with this issue.

I cannot find any justification for the District to spend over \$40 million to give the APPEARANCE of preventing suicide at the GG Bridge site. The cost per potential deflected suicidal individual boggles the mind. I read that an estimated 1300 people jumped in the bridge's 71 years; if correct that averages to less than 20 a year!

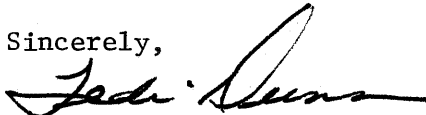
I haven't read any data on the costs and dangers involved in "rescuing" people who land in the net or who take the vertical or horizontal bars as a challenge to surmount--and they will. I object to putting safety personnel and others at risk for thrill seekers and 'cause'-attention seekers as well as for the intentionally suicidal.

Realistically, hopping over the rail is less damaging to all involved: the suicide, the survivors and rescuers. Less damaging, for example, than a deliberate auto or motorcycle "accident" that injures or kills others. As a social worker I've seen the physical and emotional aftermath of messy failed suicides on the perpetrator and his community. (Lest I sound too detached, I'll add that my own two children were suicidal as teenagers and young adults and one was headed for the bridge.)

Still, I oppose spending public transportation monies on physical barriers which are simply not cost effective on any measure. The only legitimate concern of the GGB District with suicide is for the safety of those bridge users and personnel who might get caught up in the dangerous behaviors of both intentional suicides and risk takers who see the barrier as a challenge (think net as a bungee cord).

Please don't spend any more of our scarce resources to give the "appearance" of caring.

Sincerely,



Ms. Tedi Dunn

Letter
Rec'd 8/5/08
Sent to MARY CURRIE

Golden Gate Bridge Dist
MARY CURRIE Director
Re: Barrier

I Am a 30yr Marin
Resident and former Law
Enforcement Officer (SFPD)

I strongly support a
suicide barrier. It will
save many mixed-up lives

The beauty of the bridge
is secondary to saving lives

A 12ft vertical barrier
is un-climbable and
is the safest way to go.

A net would be more
burdensome on rescue per-
sonnel. A net would give
the jumper a second chance
to scamper off the net
(over,

ADD INTO THE WATER

THANK YOU
ROBERT VAUDIS
259 SAN RAMON WAY
NOVATO, CA 94945

to Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge

Page 1
of 5

SUSAN O'SULLIVAN
APT 30
1350 WASHINGTON STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109-4156
415-346-2602

I July 30, 2008
I favor banners
the Golden Gate Bridge.

I am computer illiterate as
many poor people
with suicidal thoughts may
be, and, thus your computer
responses, may be a little lopsided
~~in favor of~~ ~~against~~ against
those not high functioning
enough to use computers
who are ~~not~~ familiar with desktop.

2008 AUG - 4 PM 4: 19
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

As early as 10 I thought
about jumping off the GGBridge
and never got over the idea until
my dad moved to marino and
crossed the bridge daily.

Dr. Raymond Zablotsky's Son
who was the chief of S.F. Kaiser
psychiatric died jumping from the
GG BRIDGE (I guess about a year ago)

I thought that unfortunate
death ^{of his son} would possibly bring some
charge + (Cover)

It is too easy Page 2
if you of 5

live in San Francisco

to have a plan of suicide
with that Bridge

Dr Zabolotney is a
very nice man and I
was hoping that maybe
with his influence due
to the loss of his son
that something would be
done & done quickly.

Anyone can suffer depression
and despair, family members
and even ourselves.

I think a barrier above
the 4ft would be a symbol
of love to and from San Francisco
showing we care.

continued Pg 3

If 1,300 people

have died

jumping from

the bridge

that is \$40,000 per life but
so far

not to mention

all the fear and depression

the thoughts

this suicide I con-
creates.

A human life (life period) is
precious.

Also the bridge
is dangerous

as it is

to bike riders I rode
over it on a bike built

for 2 and the wind

nearly blew us over the railing

Pg 4

f 5

The first

time I was hospitalized

for mental illness

at 18 there was

someone caught in a

net from jumping from the GG Bridge

We need barriers

so people wouldn't jump

in the first place not

even think about

jumping. A Net is better

than nothing but I

prefer something horizontal

or vertical people can't

scale ~~over~~ or even think

of getting thru I do not
know which is safer a horizontal
or vertical

Pg 5
End of 5

I have done A
lot of volunteer
work and met
the first person
to jump the Golden Gate
Bridge and survive
at the Sierra Club
doing volunteer work
He hurt his back; but, God
only knows the pain
of the other countless
Souls involved or
thinking about it.

Also, it may be
expensive but it would
create some employment.

SUSAN O'SULLIVAN
APT 30
1650 WASHINGTON STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109-4156

Sincerely
Susan K. O'Sullivan
(415)
2602

Received 8/27/08

Bette W. Wallace
944 Sir Francis Drake, #8
Kentfield, Marin County, CA 94904
Ph. (415) 258-9935

2008 AUG 28 AM 10:28
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRAIL SPORT DISTRICT

August 22, 2008

To: Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge District

Honorable Board Members and staff,

I attended the Open House at the Embassy Suites Hotel in July concerning the Suicide Barrier proposal. A story appeared the following day on the front page of San Francisco Chronicle (including head shots of me in support.) Your efforts are commendable, since the public generally hates to talk about, or listen to talk about suicide.

Since then, a number of people have told me that one or more of their family have jumped, or committed suicide. A young woman who publicly opposed the barrier at the Open House, later told me that her youngest son, and her brother, had both committed suicide. She felt barriers are hopeless, the money is wasted and suicides can't be stopped. I assured her suicides can be stopped and explained why. A woman in my beauty shop said her cousin jumped off the bridge at age 22, a hopeless schizophrenic. A nurse in the YMCA pool told me of her son's rescue of a girl who jumped, with his surf board. People in restaurants, the grocery store, or Starbucks see the Golden Gate Bridge pin that Kary Witt, Bridge Manager, gave me. They want to tell me their story.

Suicide is the second highest cause of death today for young people between ages of 10 and 24 years. I rode across the bridge on a recent Friday. Large numbers of youngsters and adults on bicycles, tricycles and baby strollers, were hanging over the railing to look down at the water. My heart jumped! No one could have anticipated who might jump or fall over the railing.

Since then, I have decided the type of barriers I would like to see, in this order: 1) The net sticking out on the outside of the railing, along both sides, and 2) a screen with horizontal lines inside the railing to prevent access to the net and maintain the view as much as possible.

Our beautiful bridge and its environment is a treasure, but it is dangerous because of the number of people and vehicles crossing it daily. Your administration does a great job of maintaining the safety and security of the bridge. It is crucial that the number of jumpers be reduced dramatically. Beauty of the bridge cannot be allowed to supercede preventable death.

The Golden Gate Bridge has totaled 1300 plus suicides since 1937. Can we let it be known internationally as "the bridge of suicide?" I walked across the bridge during the opening week in 1937. I am now 88 years old. Seventy years of procrastination is long enough! I will use all I have ever learned in and out of public life to support the installation of safety barriers to help you eliminate this hypnotic form of tragedy.

I have contacted the offices of State and Federal legislators, to gain their support. The effort to form a Golden Gate National Park could be a help in funding the costs of the barrier. There is support for that in West Marin. (Speaker Nancy Pelosi's project). Marin papers: The Ark, the Marin IJ, and the Pacific Sun support the barrier. I know that John Brooks, Casey's father, has pursued every possible avenue of assistance.

I will be in touch with Carol Channing who graduated from Bennington College in Vermont, where Casey Brooks expected to enroll this September. I will be seeing Carol on September 25th at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, and I will ask for her support in publicizing and raising funds.

I realize that the Board members face serious challenges, but the public cost of suicide continues and endangers public safety. The cost of suicide for families and friends of victims endures for many years.

I will follow the progress of this matter with great interest as the Bridge Board begins its discussion of the issues.

Most sincerely,

**Bette White Wallace
(415)258-9935**

P.S. There was no Golden Gate bridge in 1932 when my family came to California from Nebraska.

SAN FRANCISCO :: July 23, 2008
3:30pm-7:30pm
San Francisco Ferry Building, Pier 1
Port Commission Hearing Room, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111

I am the founder of San Francisco Suicide Prevention service that has been helping save thousands of lives for fifty years. But the 1930 design of the Golden Gate Bridge was lethal! It ignored the need for a deterrent to desperate, impulsive acts. Even as long ago as 1961 when our service first opened, it was said by the callous that suicidal behavior was not worth preventing because suicides weren't worth saving. This is now being said again. It seems that for some, the cost is too much, or the bridge is too pretty, while the cost in human life is irrelevant. But human life is all we have and far more valuable than dollars and design. We should have responded to this human need years ago. Impulsive acts of self destruction can be reduced and we have no excuse to ignore them. Today we know better than the original architects of the bridge.

We must show we care for people in despair. Construct a barrier or a net so that the bridge can stand as proof not of greed or callous irresponsibility but as proof of our humanity.

Bernard Duncan Mayes
Bern Mayes
bernardmayes@yahoo.com
202-557-6062
1 Saint Francis place #1707
San Francisco CA 94107

Bette W. Wallace
944 Sir Francis Drake #8
Kentfield, CA. 94904
(415) 258-9935

July 20, 2008

**To: The Chairman and members of the Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge District
San Francisco, CA.**

Honorable members of the Board,

Marin Supervisor Hal Brown, a member of the Bridge Board, has suggested that I write to you in support of the necessity for a Suicide Barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. My long private and professional interest in the subject has been reactivated by the fatal jump from the Bridge by Casey Brooks, a 17-year old resident of Belvedere, and a student of Redwood High School in Larkspur, on January 29th of this year. Her body has not yet been recovered.

Suicide is a subject that people don't want to hear or talk about. It is a threat to one's own mortality. When a person is in great difficulty in public, people often turn their heads, or walk the other way. They don't want to get "involved". Others who are compassionate and could help, may worry about legal liabilities. By the time a person is perceived to be a "jumper", the rescue may come too late.

Suicide is often called a cry for help. It is a complex issue in which a person experiences great emotional agony and depression. The person may withdraw from normal activities and hide his or her feelings, unless a family member, a teacher, or a friend becomes concerned and starts asking questions. It occurs on every level of the social scale from the most privileged to the poorest. I could describe numerous examples to you.

In the Mental Health field in Marin County "going to the Bridge" is a term often heard. That is a terrible trade mark for the Golden Gate Bridge. Today, suicide is the second highest cause of death among young people 10 to 24 years old. Insurance companies do not pay for suicides. The emotional and financial costs to families, and to the public, is very high for years no matter how you look at it!

I understand that this is a difficult time for the Bridge District, with Doyle Drive repair so imminent, and there will be opposition. I intend to seek special help from Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, whom I know, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who is in process of turning the Golden Gate Bridge District area Recreation Area to a National Park, which will draw even more attention to The Bridge. Since a study of the suicide barrier has finally been made, a way must be found to construct it. The time is NOW.

Sincerely,

Bette W. Wallace
Bette W. Wallace

I am enclosing pertinent copies of articles in local newspapers since that time, including the heartbreaking letter of John R. Brooks, Casey's father, in the San Francisco Chronicle of July 16, 2008. I am a former Conservatorship Investigator for the Marin County Public Guardian, a Veterans Officer, Consumer Deputy, and a former member for 13 years of the Tamalpais Board of Trustees, which includes Redwood High. I am also mother of five adult children and 14 grand- and great-grandchildren.

My family came to San Francisco from Omaha Nebraska in August 1932. There was no bridge at that time. I walked across the Golden Gate Bridge at its opening on June 2, 1937. Suicide from the Bridge was unthinkable.

After World War II, my husband Joseph and I came to Marin in 1947. I have lived 23 years in Belvedere, 2 years in Ross, 20 years in Corte Madera, 2 years in Larkspur Landing and 22 years in Kentfield. We had five children, all still living. Widowed in 1984, I now have 9 grandsons and 4 grand-daughters. (3 are "great")

I hold an Adult Teaching Credential in Consumer Law, and a Master's Degree in Community Development and Public Service from Lone Mountain University (1979) Affiliated with U. of San Francisco. (Thesis: Mediation as Alternative to Violence.)

Positions held:

County of Marin, Conservatorship Investigator, Veterans Officer, Consumer Deputy, 1st recipient of Marin County Human Rights award. (1971 - 1982)

Board of Trustees: Tamalpais Union High School District (3 four-year terms, 1 year as Chairperson). Redwood High is included. (1966-1979)

San Quentin State Prison (Inmate Education Dept., teacher and supervisor of inmates) (1965 to 2002) 16 years inside the Perimeter. Oldest retiree at that date.

I am now a writer of books and letters of interest to various media.

Bette Wallace

2/8/08

B/12/08

OBITUARIES

Casey Joanna Brooks

Redwood high school senior Casey Joanna Brooks of Tiburon, the daughter of John and Erica Brooks, died suddenly January 29, 2008. He was 17.

A public memorial service will be held at 4 p.m., Saturday, February 9, at St. Stephen's Church in Elvedere.

Casey was born in Portland and spent the first 11 months of her life in an orphanage. John and Erica Brooks adopted Casey and brought her to the Brooks' Connecticut home. In 1995, the family moved to Marin and settled in Tiburon.

Casey attended Reed Elementary School, Bel Air School, Del Mar School and Redwood High School. She had been accepted at Bennington College in Vermont. Outside her studies, she loved being with her friends, listening to music and reading. She was interested in political science, the environment and human rights, and was interested in a career that would make the world a better place.

"Casey was a seeker of knowledge, a teacher, a philosopher, a soothing presence and, ultimately, a saint," said her father. "We are only now beginning to understand and appreciate the magnitude of the impact she had on our community, and we embark together on a journey to learn what she was placed on Earth to teach us. Casey's presence will be with us forever."

Casey's closest female friend was Roxanne Makoff. The two met in kindergarten at Reed School. Roxanne and Casey were running over to her mother's car at the end of the day and saying, "Mommy, write this down. I just met my new best friend!" Casey attended Redwood and Roxanne went off to boarding school in New Hampshire, but the two remained tight. Casey loved driving, but wasn't happy at Redwood, Roxanne said.



Asked about the qualities that made Casey her friend, Roxanne said, "She was always brutally honest and down to earth. She was funny and she was very caring about my friendship with her. She was a really good listener."

Another friend, Julian Klehr of Mill Valley, who attends Tamiscal High School, said, "Casey was extremely compassionate and wise beyond her years."

Besides her parents, Casey leaves her paternal grandmother, Dorothy Brooks of Madison, Connecticut; her paternal great-grandmother, Helen Brooks, also of Madison; and her maternal grandmother, Toni Borkowski of Tawas, Michigan; her aunts and uncles, Don and Kim Brooks of Abington, Pennsylvania; Lester and Diane Borkowski of Tawas; and Rich and Joyce Borkowski of Bronson, Michigan; and many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be sent to Marin Suicide Prevention Center, P.O. Box 4369, San Rafael, CA 94913-4369; or to a charity of one's choice.

Casey Brooks Remembered

BY DIANE SMITH

There were both smiles and tears in Del Mar Middle School's new gymnasium last Saturday evening when Casey Brooks, a Redwood High School senior who died on January 29, was remembered in song, poems and letters.

Organized entirely by her school friends, the celebration of life was attended by 200-plus people. Readings were interspersed with the music by the Itchy Mountain Men and other musicians who joined the local band.

Casey's dad, John Brooks, read two poems written by Casey that testified to her talents as a writer.

One friend commented, "It didn't matter if you knew her very well or not so well, you knew you were lucky to have met her."

John Brooks ended with, "Our biggest concern is that when this evening is over, everyone will forget about us. We want to be sure you know you will always be welcome to our home."

Pat Collins, whose son Kevin was one of two people who have survived jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge, spoke about ways to "end the horror of suicide." Collins now is an advocate of "The Bridge Rail Foundation" that is pushing to build a higher railing on the bridge. "Hope is the most powerful of all the emotions," he said. "But hope without action is hopeless."

Kevin said afterward that as he fell, he realized he had made a mistake. He now gives talks to war veterans about depression in hope of saving lives.

Collins said of the Golden Gate, "The rails are too low and the access too great." He said the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District board has agreed to "study the problem."

Tables set up in the gym held jars for donations to be divided between The Bridge Rail Foundation and the Family Service Agency of Marin Suicide Prevention and Community Counseling. Donations may be made online at www.bridgerail.org and at www.fsamarin.org (click on "Donate Now" then pull down menu after

3/28/08

Teenagers' Plea for Suicide Barrier Puts Trivial Pursuits into Perspective

BY DEIRDRE MCCROHAN

It was more than John Brooks could stand, apparently.

After sitting in the Tiburon Town Council meeting for more than an hour, listening to the excruciatingly tedious details of a dispute over skylight shrouds for a new multi-million dollar home on Ridge Road that has been under construction for a decade, he got up from his seat and paced in the town hall lobby, making little sounds of exasperation. It's hard to wait your turn when the discussion going on seems so, well, unimportant in the larger scheme of things.

Finally, when the town council voted on an outcome to the stone-veneer panel, shroud and skylight dispute that became the subject of a lawsuit, the property owner and the neighbors began to leave the council chambers.

Brooks confronted the property owner (who had sued the town over his rooftop accoutrements) and said, "We had to sit through your presentation. You owe it to us to sit through ours."

And the property owner, perhaps responding to Brooks' emotional state, and like others in the room not knowing what was ahead, found himself drawn back into the council chambers.

Brooks then went to the podium with Sarah Barr, a Redwood High School senior who lives in the Reedlands, to plead with the Tiburon Town Council to take

a position in support of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Brooks is the father of Casey Brooks, a Redwood High School teen who took her own life by jumping from the bridge in January.

"We don't have any more children," Brooks told councilmembers. "She grew up here, went to school here. She was going to go to Bennington College. Now she's gone."

Sarah lives up the street from Casey and had known her since Casey was five.

"Only a few months ago, I was opposed to a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge," said Sarah. "I thought it was beautiful and it should stay the way it was. But something happened on January 29 that changed my opinion very strongly."

"When teens consider suicide, they see an escape," said Sarah. "They don't see death. Casey had four seconds before she hit the water to realize that. The Eiffel Tower is one of the seven wonders of the world. It has a suicide barrier. Where is ours?"

Tiburon Mayor Jeff Slavitz commended Barr and spoke words of comfort, but also told her the town council wouldn't be able to take any action on her proposal because it wasn't on the agenda. Neither he nor any of the councilmembers made any commitments. They just listened. And after Brooks and Sarah left the room with their families, the council somberly adjourned. ☹

#120/08(7)

www.thearknewspaper.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Time to Take Action!

To the editor:

Re: May 28th story of a teenager's appeal to the Tiburon Town Council for support of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

My heart goes out to John Brooks and Sarah Barr, a high school friend of Casey Brooks, who "went to the Bridge" and jumped. I feel impelled to respond.

The Golden Gate Bridge is 70 years old. So many people of every age have jumped from the bridge. Surely it is time to take action!

People don't want to talk about suicide, or "going to the Bridge." It's too scary! It draws attention to one's own mortality. There is also a stigma attached to emotional and mental problems. We must get over it. Who's to blame? People tend to be judgmental, to demand punishment. That's the last thing needed!

Suicide is a cry for help, a needed relief from severe emotional pain. It is a belief that the pain will stop if you jump, whether it is impromptu, or contemplated for a period of time. People of every social standing and mental ability are tempted. Some would argue, "The devil made me do it!" Others remain silent in their agony. The suicide rate is very high among children from 10 to 24 years of age.

Alertness and wisdom are needed by family members and friends. Sometimes a young friend knows about their friend, but adults don't believe them.

Signs to look for: If a person is unusually moody, remains in their room listless, disinterested and anxious, or if they become suddenly cheerful and start giving away precious things to other people, it is a sign they have made up their mind to go.

Regardless, a calm person, a friend, a family member is needed to listen, to persuade the person to talk. To my surprise, I learned to ask the person if they were thinking about suicide. They will tell you.

sequences to themselves, and to others; to realize that life is very precious and worth living. They need to be assured that you will help them to find help. Listen for the right idea, and act upon it.

Tell a family member, a teacher, a minister, a practitioner, a social worker, a trained therapist or psychiatrist, and follow through. You can only be blamed for remaining silent, or feeling that it's not up to you.

If the person has no family or friends, the police may be needed to prevent a disaster and get help. We are our brother's keeper. Emotional and mental problems have a severe effect on everyone connected.

Don't be afraid to also get help for yourself. Now is the time to pray, to learn to listen more to our children and family members, to talk to them no matter how busy we are. We need to follow our own best instincts, to let people know they are loved and cared for, and then go do it!

-Bette W. Wallace

Former Conservatorship Investigator

Thanks for Support of Classic Car Show

To the editor:

The directors of the Tiburon Classic Car Show, Bruce Ross, Jim Hermann and Tom O'Neill, want to thank our community for the fine support we received in the running of our 7th annual classic car show.

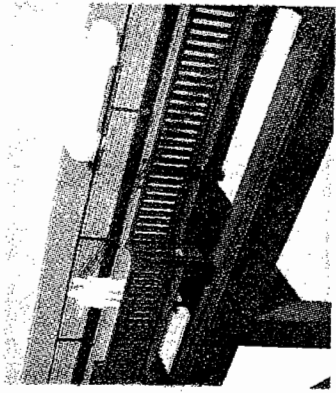
With the help of our generous sponsors and advertisers, plus the car show participants, we raised over \$10,000 that will be given to Rotaplast International to help fund teams of local doctors to carry on their good work for children in Third World countries.

An event like this requires a lot of volunteer effort and we want to specially thank our planning committee for its guidance, the Town of Tiburon for their help with the street closure and the overall ease of

the Police and Fire Depart

S. Flumovelle

THE GREAT BARRIER



The bridge today: Four-foot-high handrails are easily scaled by those planning to commit suicide.

Try to change the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, and you'll start a fight — but officials ask for feedback on 5 designs for a suicide deterrent



Additional barrier, horizontal rods: An 8-foot barrier with horizontal rods 5½ inches apart would be added to the existing barrier along with a transparent winglet at the top to prevent jumpers from climbing over.



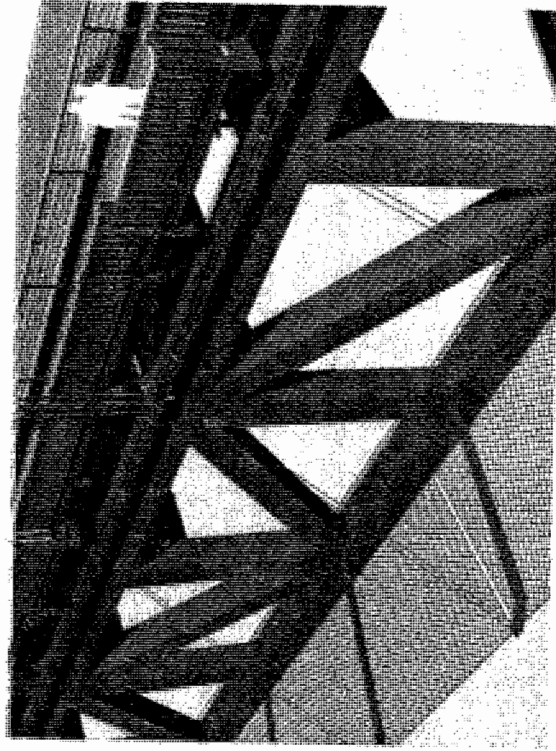
New barrier, horizontal rods: A new 12-foot barrier with horizontal rods 4.4 inches apart on the lower section and 6 inches apart on the upper portion, plus a winglet at the top, would replace the existing rail.

By **Michael Caban**
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Changing the design of a landmark such as the Golden Gate Bridge is sure to provoke controversy — even if the goal is to save lives. The idea of installing a suicide barrier — even if the goal is to save lives. The idea of installing a suicide barrier has been debated for decades, but a study released Tuesday is the most comprehensive to date, analyzing five designs (shown here) to prevent people from jumping to their deaths.

Each design would cost an estimated \$40 million, bridge officials say, but no funding has been secured. The public can comment on the designs and review the draft environmental impact report at www.ggsuicidebarrier.org. Public hearings will be held from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 22 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Francisco, 1000 Marin Parkway, San Rafael, and from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 23 at the Port Commission Building, room, second floor. The public also could move forward with plans for the barrier in October at the Golden Gate Bridge.

Golden Gate Bridge is sure to provoke controversy — even if the goal is to save lives. The idea of installing a suicide barrier has been debated for decades, but a study released Tuesday is the most comprehensive to date, analyzing five designs (shown here) to prevent people from jumping to their deaths. Each design would cost an estimated \$50 million if built, bridge officials say, but no funding has been secured. The public can comment on the designs and review the draft environmental impact report at www.ggsuicidebarrier.org. Public hearings will be held from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 22 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Francisco, 1000 Marin Parkway, San Rafael, and from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 23 at the Port Commission Building, room, second floor. The public also could move forward with plans for the barrier in October at the Golden Gate Bridge.



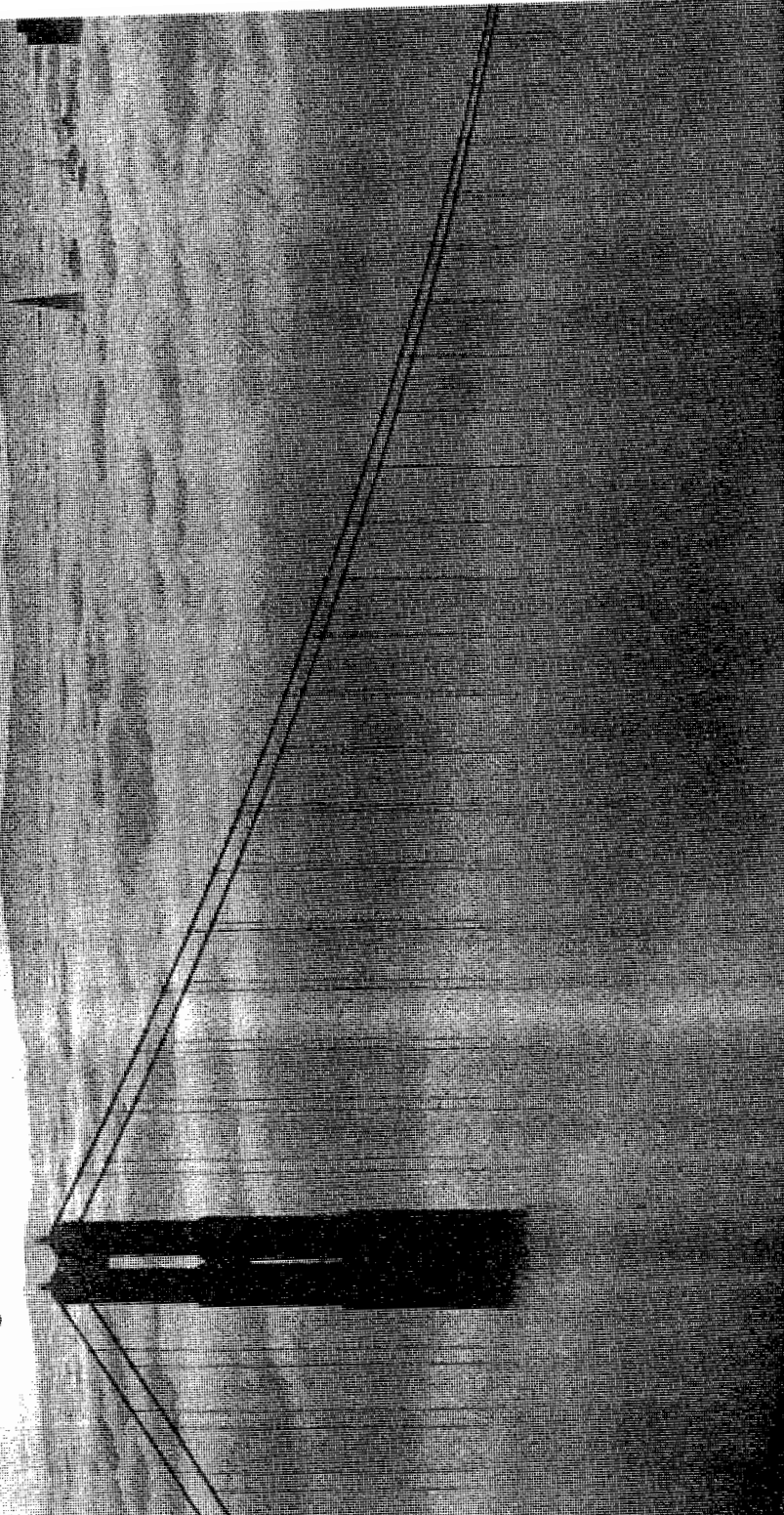
Netting: A net system would be installed on the sides of the bridge, 20 feet below the walkway and 5 feet above the bottom of the span.

SFGate.com ▶ **Which do you prefer?** Cast your vote at sfgate.com/webat/gate/bridge. Results will be printed in Sunday's paper.

▶ **Suicides:** Chronicle is sponsoring a debate on the bridge debate: sfgate.com/ethalbeauty.

Illustrations by the Golden Gate Bridge District

A BRIDGE'S MAGIC TOLL: Why barriers are needed



By John R. Brooks

By now, many of you know my story. At 6:40 a.m. on Jan. 29, my 17-year-old daughter and only child, Casey, leapt to her death from the Golden Gate Bridge. Her body has not been found. She was a Redwood High school senior ready to go off to the college of her choice and make her mark in the world.

There were no obvious warnings; it was an impulse. To say that our community — family, friends, Casey's friends, neighbors, school, church, doctors, therapists — is utterly in shock and rushed is an understatement. Before this tragedy, I had never had close encounter with suicide, never a suicide barrier a second thought, and pretty much felt that a suicidal person could not be stopped. The Golden Gate Bridge was nothing more than the highlight of my daily commute from Marin to San Francisco.

Imagine how it feels now? In recent weeks, the issue of suicide barrier proposals has been thrust into public spotlight once again with release of an environmental impact study. Despite 2,000 suicides at the bridge, and counting, many residents I argue against such barriers, but these arguments do not stand up to reality — or to compassion:

A suicidal person will simply go elsewhere. The money would be better spent on the core issue — mental health.

I couldn't agree more that we should deploy more resources to mental illness. But that doesn't assure that we will protect someone — like Casey — who was overcome by a temporary impulse and had easy and ready access to the means to act on that impulse.

Will barriers stop all suicides? Of course not. But numerous studies, such as one done by Professor Richard Seiden at Berkeley, have shown that more than 90 percent of would-be jumpers who were stopped did not make another suicide attempt.

Look at the success of suicide barriers at the Empire State Building, Eiffel Tower, Sydney Harbor Bridge and many others. When a suicide barrier was erected on the Ellington Bridge in Washington, D.C., the public predicted that suicidal people would simply walk to the nearby Taft Bridge to end their lives. But while suicides on the Ellington Bridge were virtually eliminated, those on the Taft Bridge hardly changed.

The vast majority of suicides in the Bay Area are NOT the result of the Golden Gate Bridge. Why not focus on them? Are their lives worth any less?

S.F. Chronicle
7/16/08 p. B 9

Remembering Casey

A sample of the 653 wall posts to-date on Casey Brooks' Facebook page. On Jan. 29, she leaped to her death from the Golden Gate Bridge.

- "... god i miss you so much casey..." Sarah, July 1
- "...i have that clenching feeling in my stomach ... just wanting to be with you so badly..." Maryse, June 28
- "...casey we are graduating today, i miss you so much, wish you were here, i love you..." Emily, June 12
- "...i'm still waiting for you to come back..." Lauren, May 30
- "...you mean the world to me casey..." Roxanne, May 21
- "...i can't stop thinking about you, i can't fall asleep, i miss you so much, it just keeps on hitting me harder and harder..."

FEDERIE LEBRON/7TH GATE

"idea" of the view? When was the time you walked or biked across bridge? Motorists can't see much of a thing in the couple of minutes it take cross the bridge because (1) your eye level on the roadbed is below the railing; (2) you need to keep your eyes on road to avoid a head-on collision. So it leaves the tourists who walk out on bridge, snap a picture and leave. Are preserving this view for them?

We don't have the \$50 million needed to build the barrier. The money would be better spent elsewhere when money is tight

Frankly, if the only remaining objection is money, then that is the least my worries. Is it worth it to spend \$1 million on a project that affects so few of us? Depends on how you look at it. Take \$50 million divided by 2,000 lives per life lost. I'd give up everything I have Casey back — even for a second.

Unfortunately, the public assumes that the cost of a suicide barrier would come directly out of their pocket or the expense of a more popular program. I can't swear to this, but I think this assumption is probably false.

Monies for a suicide barrier, I assure, would come from an entirely different bucket at the state or federal level, su-

Manor 8x
7/13/08

Suicide barrier designs a sign of needed progress

IT ISN'T EASY to blend emotion and engineering, especially when the subjects are suicide and a world-class structure like the Golden Gate Bridge. The bridge district is taking a serious look at what it will take to install a suicide barrier on the span. There will be financial costs and aesthetic impacts, but something needs to be done to reduce the number of suicides at the bridge each year.

The world-famous Golden Gate Bridge is a magnet for people who want to commit suicide. Hundreds have jumped to their deaths from the bridge since it opened.

The district has stepped up its surveillance of the sidewalk and has trained bridge workers in intervention techniques, but too many people still use the bridge to take their lives each year. Local advocates working to prevent suicides make a compelling case that a barrier on the bridge would save lives.

The engineering challenge is to produce a design that fits the bridge's distinct architecture. The other challenge is the cost, which could be \$50 million, according to new projections.

If a barrier prevents 30 people from committing suicide each year, it would be an investment we all can be proud of.

a fatal head-on collision on the bridge in several years. A suicide barrier will save far more lives.

The district should be able to make a good case for state and federal money for a suicide barrier.

The five designs presented last week are an important step forward in what will be a spirited debate, one that hopefully will produce the best solution — and consensus. We look forward to the debate about which design best fits the bridge.

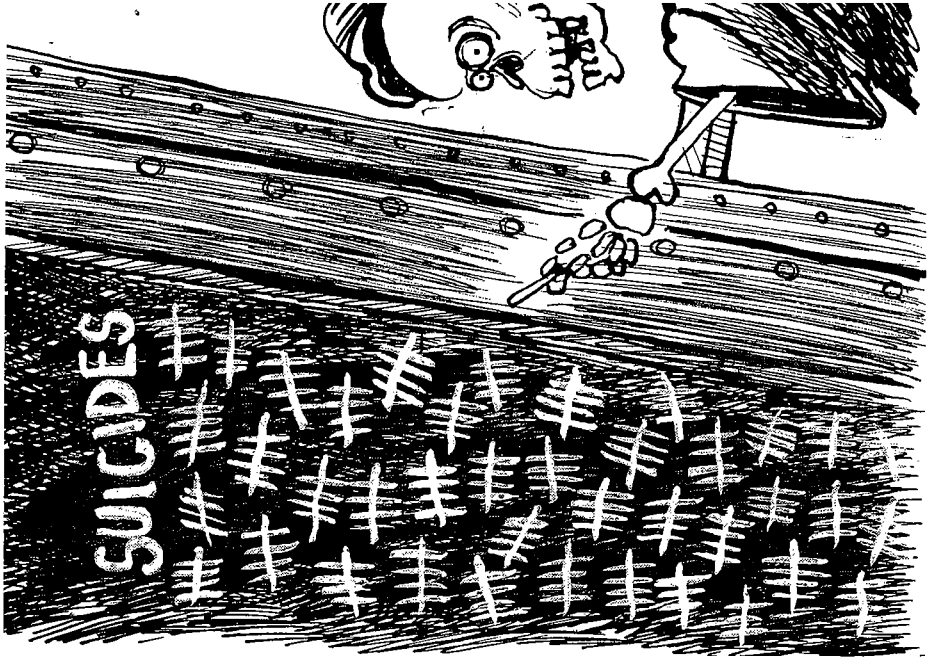
Engineering tests have indicated that different types of barriers can be installed without compromising the safety of the span.

The designs unveiled last week range from variations of an 8-foot tall metal fence atop the railing to a net under the edge of the sidewalk.

Suicide barriers have been installed and have proven effective on other suicide magnets such as the Eiffel Tower and other bridges.

There are many people whose primary worry is changing the appearance of the bridge. That is a valid concern that the proposed designs attempt to address through minimizing the aesthetic impact.

The 19-member district board, after weighing all the comment, arguments and evidence, will have to decide what is best for the bridge.



had never been sent to either conflict.

"We see a lot of things that are going on in the war which do contribute," said Col. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatric consultant to the Army surgeon general.

"Mainly the longtime and multiple deployments away from home, exposure to really terrifying and horrifying things, the easy availability of loaded weapons and a force that's very, very busy right now. And so all of those together we think are part of what may contribute, especially if somebody's having difficulties already," Colonel Ritchie said at a Pentagon news conference.

Some common factors among those who took their own lives were trouble with relationships, work problems, and legal and financial difficulties, officials said.

The 115 confirmed suicides among active-duty soldiers and National Guard and Reserve troops who had been activated amounted to a rate of 18.8 per 100,000 troops — the highest since the Army began keeping records in 1980. Two other deaths were suspected suicides but are still under investigation.

Ninety-three of the 115 suicides were active-duty troops; 22 were members of the Army National Guard or Reserve who had been mobilized. There were also 166 attempted suicides among troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and 935 in the whole Army. As of Monday, there had been 38 confirmed suicides in 2008 and 12 more deaths that were suspected of being suicides but were still under investigation, said Lt. Col. Thomas E. Langstrand, head of command policies and programs.

Watch The Times.

NYTimes.com/Video.

I intend to call Nancy Pelosi, she is making the US Drive and ...
"Recreation Area". Maybe she and/or Diane Feinstein can help. I know them both. (Thoughts)

Thursday, July 17, 2008 America Online: Bette Wa



I intend to call Nancy Pelosi, she is making the GG Bridge and area into a "National Park" from a "Recreation Area". Maybe she and/or Diane Feinstein can help. I know them both. (Thoughts while writing!

Thursday, July 17, 2008 America Online: BetteWallace

Bridge board should say 'no' to suicide barrier

GOLDEN GATE Bridge District directors face tremendous pressure to install a suicide deterrent on the span. This is one of those times when the better decision is to do nothing.

District directors should say "no" to spending an estimated \$40 million to \$50 million on a barrier that will not and cannot eliminate all bridge suicides.

In no way do I minimize the personal agony surrounding each of the 19 people who on average annually jump to their death from the bridge, yet one must ponder the statistic that those deaths represent a tiny fraction of the almost 32,600 American suicides each year.

Bridge district officials face a practical dilemma. None of the five proposed barriers or nets will completely eliminate suicides. Certainly some of the 19 will be deterred, but a few will succeed despite best efforts, while others inevitably will find another site to end their lives.

The current barrier plan produces a mediocre result at great cost.

7/13/08 Marin J. Spotswood

DICK SPOTSWOOD



Columnist Dick Spotswood of Mill Valley shares his views on local politics every Sunday in the IJ. His e-mail address is spotswood@comcast.net

A flawed suicide barrier isn't the wisest expenditure of public funds. There are those who say that no sum is too great to save even one life. That's nonsense.

Society could make airplanes far safer by encapsulating every passenger and virtually guarantee that no ship would sink by mandating double hulls.

We don't go to that extreme since the real-world costs of these theoretically beneficial lifesaving moves can't be ignored. An inevitable part of human existence is making cost-benefit analysis and then deciding

if the risk is worth the price.

Of course, Americans are not universally appalled at the very act of suicide. Consider the conundrum of those who demand that government take every conceivable action and spend the last dollar to prevent Golden Gate Bridge suicides yet simultaneously advocate enactment of a California assisted suicide law.

The other moral dilemma is that there aren't unlimited funds to do good. It's proper to ask if the almost \$50 million might be more productive elsewhere.

Bridge directors need to remember that every decision has unintended consequences. If the bridge board were to commit to paying even a matching share of the cost of a suicide barrier of dubious effectiveness, in addition to further raising the toll, the move would cause the agency to cut public transit.

More transbay auto travelers imply more fatal auto accidents. Simultaneously, fewer people on buses and ferries harms the environment by adding pollutants to the atmosphere which kill people.

We can't have it all. There are those well-meaning folks who face every societal problem and instinc-

tively react by exclaiming "do something." It's particularly easy for politicians who can please a constituency demanding action while avoiding the hard responsibly of coming up with the needed funds.

Occasionally, we can't and shouldn't act. This is one of those times.

Yes, the bridge district should increase its already excellent efforts to deter suicides with increased bridge patrols and camera surveillance. But it shouldn't spend \$50 million of unfunded taxpayer dollars to erect a suicide barrier aimed at stopping the unstoppable.

ODDS & ENDS: The November race for two seats on the ever-contentious Marin Healthcare District Board is shaping up. In recent years the battle has been between slates, one allied with Marin General's current operator, Sutter Health, and the other advocating an independent public hospital. With Sutter's soon to depart the scene, the old lines are blurred. Incumbent Sharon Jackson of Mill Valley will be running together with retired San Rafael obstetri-

cian-gynecologist. The big question other incumbent, surgeon Archimedes will run and if an will join him. Filing day and closes on Ramirez decides the event, filing close

REPORTS from the lines indicate cause of the disaster of trees felled death. The like toro are blanketed with. The magnitude of great and the cost large, that little is remove what can o

Don't kid yourself day is approaching be furious that so l done to reduce so o should be topic one political debate, but the radar.

Removing the de be expensive, but it than burning down of Marin's hillside r

MEMO

Date: Thursday, June 26, 2006

To: The Ark, 1550 Tiburon Blvd. Tiburon, CA. 94920

Attention: Barbara Gness, Editor

From: Helen Bette Wallace
944 Sir Francis Drake, # 8
Kentfield, 94904
(415) 258-9935

Re: Suicide Letter
June 25th issue
of The Ark

Dear Barbara:

Thanks so much for publishing my letter re the Suicide Barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge supported by Mr. Brooks and Sarah Barr. You were very generous to print such a long letter.

I realize I omitted to enclose specific public contacts which can be made to get help in the front of the Marin County phone book;

National Suicide Prevention Hotline
English 1-800-273-8255
Spanish 1-800-670-954

Marin County Public Guardian
20 N. San Pedro Road, Ste 2014
San Rafael, CA. 94903
Ph. 499-6168

Veterans Affairs
10 N. San Pedro Road, Ste. 1010
Ph. 499-6193

In serious emergency
Call 911 or local police station

Many churches can provide assistance and help.



Official Program

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

FIESTA

SAN FRANCISCO

MAY 27

JUNE 2

1937

July 22, 2008

TO: Denis Mulligan, Chief Engineer
FROM: Daniel Canada, President, representing

THE SAN FRANCISCO DUMB IDEA DISCUSSION SOCIETY

Attention: All Golden Gate Bridge Officials

Up until now, the dumbest idea ever presented by City officials was when a past mayor wanted to eliminate cable cars as a way to save money. You have now managed to tie that bad idea. Namely, a ***Suicide Prevention Barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.***

Suicide is an emotional problem which needs to be addressed by suicide prevention experts. That is where money ought to be spent to prevent suicides. The GGB is perfect the way it is and needs no ***ridiculous*** mechanical suicide prevention devices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Canada". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Daniel L. Canada
650 Chestnut St. #103
San Francisco, CA 94133

July 22, 2008

TO: Denis Mulligan, Chief Engineer
FROM: Daniel Canada, President, representing

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Canada". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the beginning.

Daniel L. Canada
650 Chestnut St. #103
San Francisco, CA 94133

A Suicide Barrier Must Be Built on the Golden Gate Bridge

by Mary Teetor Zablontny

Since the Golden Gate Bridge was opened, as many as two thousand people have leapt to their deaths all along its mighty span. Three years and five months ago, on the terrible day of February 1, 2005, one of them was my eighteen-year-old son, Jonathan Zablontny. Since then, more than seventy people have followed him into the waters of San Francisco Bay. In the Bay Area, there is a shattering indifference to this problem, due to a combination of concerns about the bridge's appearance and misconceptions about suicide.

Suicide barriers have been added to other famous and beautiful structures. The Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building, and the Vatican, to name but a few, all have suicide barriers. The people in charge of those buildings decided that a minor change in appearance was a small price to pay for the saving of many lives. But the price also seems steep to many in the Bay Area in terms of the money that will have to be spent: \$25,000,000. Yes. Quite a price tag. But let us consider for a moment why the Bridge Board has requested and received \$20,000,000 from the federal Congestion Management and Air Quality fund: to build a median barrier for the bridge. People have indeed died in head-on collisions on the bridge. Thirty-six people since 1971; thirty-six people in thirty-seven years. But last year alone, thirty-five people jumped to their deaths from the bridge. The average number of deaths per year on the bridge due to suicide is twenty. That's right: one death per year due to traffic accidents, twenty per year due to suicide.

Pure numbers and cold logic, in a just and compassionate world, should dictate where there is the greater need to spend \$25,000,000.

I want now to turn to the misconceptions about suicide. Many people think that if those bent on suicide from the bridge find a barrier in their way, they will just seek out some other means. Completely untrue, according to many studies. A long-term followup of people prevented from jumping off the bridge showed that twenty-five years later, 94% of them were either still alive, or had died of causes other than suicide. In Great Britain, the suicide rate dropped 25% after toxic coal gas was replaced by a safer gas, making it impossible to commit an easy, painless suicide by putting one's head in the oven. Restricting access to lethal means prevents suicides.

It is widely thought that suicide is a choice people make freely, and some even say that suicidal people should be allowed to make that choice. But suicide is not a rational and freely chosen act. In the case of my son and many other teens, it is done on a rash impulse. Or, far more often, it is a response to overwhelming, unbearable physical or psychological pain. No one in possession of a sound mind and a sound body kills himself or herself. Suicide is the way mental illness kills people, in the cruelest way, by forcing them to turn their own hands against themselves. It is the end result of a disease process. Just like any other death due to illness. It follows, then, that society does have a moral obligation to do everything it can to prevent suicides.

The lack of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is no longer merely a local issue. The status of the bridge as the number one suicide magnet in the world is attracting national and

global attention. Eric Steel's 2006 movie, "The Bridge," has received wide recognition. The ABC news show "20-20" aired a piece on the bridge in October of 2006. The *Washington Post* ran a story on the bridge by Karl Vick on March 17, 2008. *The New York Times Magazine* ran an article on July 6, 2008, titled "The Urge to End It All," by Scott Anderson. There are many other newspaper and magazine articles about this disgrace to the Bay Area. People all over the world are becoming aware that San Francisco is the only place where nothing has been done to prevent such deaths.

It is long past time to put an end to the fatal attraction of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Mary Teetor Zablony
Ray Zablony
584 Page St.
San Francisco CA 94117
415. 626. 0322
maryteetor@yahoo.com

Testimony Presented to the Golden Gate Bridge District: Construction of Suicide Barriers
The Rev. Dr. Douglas K. Huneke – July 22, 2008

My name is Douglas Huneke. I am in my 28th year as head of the pastoral staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon. I am the department chaplain for and provide critical incident services to the women and men of the Southern Marin Fire Protection District, the Sausalito Police Department, and the Marin County Sheriff's Office. Among the other ways I have served this community include as co-founder of the Marin Interfaith Council, founding trustee and chairperson of the Marin Community Foundation, United States Selective Service System, and the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

I applaud and greatly appreciate the Bridge District Board and the bridge staff and California Highway Patrol who use cameras, foot patrols, emergency phones, staff training, and surveillance by officers in cars in an attempt to prevent suicides from the bridge.

Based on my related experiences over 38 years of ministry and chaplaincy, I speak to you in full support of the installation of a suicide barrier that will reasonably deter or prevent people from taking their lives off of the bridge. Some have argued, coldly and indefensibly, as did a Tiburon psychologist who contended that bridge suicides are carefully planned and executed with strategic precision.¹ Or, you've read the weekly political pundit in the *Marin Independent Journal* who speciously and erroneously argued that barrier supporters "demand that government spend every last dollar to prevent...bridge suicides."² You've heard all about aesthetics, iconic architecture, tourists, and the nostalgia of those of us native-born San Franciscans who love the sight of the bridge.

It is too often and too easily asserted that a bridge suicide takes but one life and therefore the cost of a barrier outweighs its benefits. In fact, the cost of a bridge suicide, as every suicide, must be weighed according to a variety of economies. It deeply damages and often kills the spirit of spouses and families, parents and siblings, classmates of youth who take their lives, school and community counselors, friends and work associates, religious institutions and their leaders, witnesses to the fatal jump, first responders including firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement, Coast Guard officers and crews, coroners, and the conscience of the citizenry. Suicide from the bridge may be a solitary act, but its emotional, familial, social, political, and economic consequences expand exponentially.

Not long ago, a youth suicide from the bridge, following two earlier suicides, tragically struck at the core of our community. The high school was deeply traumatized, school counselors and teachers were overwhelmed by the number of students not only in profound grief, but driven to despair. One bridge suicide sent a number of students into long-term counseling, into psychiatric care, and at least two into residential mental health placements out of the community, resulted in several additional suicide attempts, and appears to be indirectly related to a subsequent more recent bridge suicide. Two years later, school counselors continue to work with students still in significant conflict or despair and who cannot be

expected at this point in their development to comprehend the decision to commitment suicide or make sense out of their own tumultuous feelings about that act or their fear of doing the same.

Families are forever changed by the devastation. One family of a prominent south bay businessman who jumped, is in grave crisis with a marriage at risk, children left fatherless, a wife trying to make sense of the unexpected and unpredictable, and three years later family members in continuing counseling and business associates equally vulnerable. You will hear testimony from the families, from ministers and rabbis devastated by the long-term burdens of working with surviving families and presiding over memorials, from counselors and teachers, mental health professionals and first responders strained to the limit by the carnage they must recover or, tragically, witness in autopsies. Finally, one of the first, if not the first suicide from the bridge was a World War I veteran in his late 40's suffering from what might today be known as post-traumatic stress disorder.³ There is an added mental health and moral urgency to build the barrier: with more Viet Nam era veterans having taken their own lives than died in battle, and so also with the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, we may reasonably expect and must prevent more such PTSD battle related deaths from this bridge.

The escalation of these tragic costs associated with bridge suicides must run in the tens of thousands of dollars per death and in the tens of hundreds of directly related professional hours. They deflect the normal labors of school counselors, administrators, and teachers, and of employees and co-workers, increase the cost to insurance companies for mental health interventions with surviving families, peers, associates, and friends, and reflect an incalculable social and emotional cost to families and for the support of emergency responders.

Once again, I honor you for the steps you have taken, for the difficult decision you must make, and for the way these deaths and the testimony you hear may touch each of you. I urge you to give great weight to the larger social costs, the often-unconsidered but great economic costs, and therefore vote to support the installation of a suicide barrier that will reasonably deter or prevent deaths from the bridge.

The Rev. Dr. Douglas K. Huneke, 240 Tiburon Blvd., Tiburon, CA. 94920 / 415-383-5272

¹ *Marin Independent Journal*, 2/20/07, B6.

² *Marin Independent Journal*, 7/13/08, B7.

³ Tad Friend, "Letters From California: Jumpers," in *The New Yorker*, 10/13/03.

Yes to a Suicide Barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge 7-21-2008

I definitely want to see a suicide deterrent barrier installed, and the horizontal lines above the handrail is the most visually in keeping with the bridge and the least distracting. While the net below is functional, and, if kept in view by rescue workers, could provide a solution, preventing a jump in the first place is far preferable. At any rate, a human being is a "biological resource" that certainly should trump any aesthetic consideration. It neither honors Charles Evans (the actual designer of the Golden Gate Bridge) nor speaks well about the local residents and commuters who use the bridge and admire it as an icon to allow death to be synonymous with the span, or to be cavalier about those suffering, isolated people who are drawn to end-it-all there and who need help, not a lift over the edge and a cold, heartless and cynical goodbye wave of the hand.

You suicide barrier nay-sayers should be reminded that historically, people only jump from the side facing the city (the east side), so no barrier is needed on the west side at all. As someone who has experienced depression and had thoughts, decades ago, of jumping from the bridge myself, I could tell you why I think that side is such a draw: the truth is that the San Francisco skyline looks so beautiful and archetypal when seen from that bridge in the eyes of someone who feels rejected and left out and like a failure. Through those eyes, it looks at once desirable and impossible to reach.

Eight out of ten persons contemplating suicide are in a depressive episode, it has been shown. While some people are more prone than others to depression, a brain chemistry imbalance triggered by stress, no one is totally immune from it. Sufferers from depression need help, not a mean-spirited farewell. Many among those who have survived the jump say they wouldn't do it again. It's too easy an exit, on the east side of the Golden Gate bridge. Please block it!

Since emotionally distressed people are among those who converge there, a booth with mental health counselors would also be a very good thing. A barrier is the urgently needed first step. We need a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Do we or do we not care about human life and emotional healing in the San Francisco Bay Area? Our ultimate response here will speak volumes to the rest of the world about that.

Sincerely,
Sharon Skolnick-Bagnoli
138 Mission Ave., San Rafael, CA 94901
srsb@visigraf.com 415-455-8221

County of Marin
Suicide Statistics for Marin County
2007

Gender	Number	%	Method	Number	%
Female	17	24%	Jumping	35	49%
Male	54	76%	Gun Shot	9	13%
Total	71	100%	Overdose	7	10%
			Hanging	11	15%
Race	Number	%	Cutting	1	1%
White	58	79 %	Asphyxia	7	10%
Black	3	4%	Carbon Monoxide	0	
Asian	7	10%	Other Causes	1	1%
Hispanic	4	5%	Total	71	100%
Native American	1	1%	Marin Residents	40	56%
	73 (greater than total reported - may include duplicated individuals)		Non Residents	28	39%
Marital Status	Number	%	San Quentin	1	1%
Single	33	46%	Unk	2	3%
Married	17	24%	Prior Attempts	Number	%
Divorced	18	25%	Yes	12	
Widowed	1	1%	Unknown	59	
Unk	2	3%			
Age	Number		CMHS Involvement	Number	%
5-14	0	0	Open Episode (seen at least once within last year)	4	6 %
15-24	5	7%	Former (not seen within last year)	4	6 %
25-34	7	10%	Seen at CMHS 1 time only- May include Open & Former individuals	3	NA
35-44	16	23%			
45-54	19	27%	Location		
55-64	13	18%	Home	24	34%
65-74	4	6%	In Auto	1	1%
75-84	5	7%	Golden Gate Bridge	35	49%
85+	1	1%	Other Location	10	14%
unk	1	1%	San Quentin	1	1%
Total	71	100%	Total	71	
Reported Physical Health Problems	17	24%			

Note: The reported rate for Marin residents committing suicide in Marin is lower than the rates indicated for Marin residents in California in State Statistics. This report only indicates incidences of suicide occurring in Marin County and does not capture those residents who may have committed suicide out of the county.

Suicide Statistics for Marin County Deaths 1997 to 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Deaths by Suicide	55	48	42	29	47	47	45	48	52	67	71
Golden Gate Bridge	28	22	16	10	12	19	20	19	20	28	35
San Quentin Inmates	2	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	3	3	1
Marin Residents	26	24	21	16	33	28	23	31	28	36	40
Psychiatric Care	23	16	24	10	15	13	16	17	23	25	26
Active CMHS Clients	5	3	1	2	2	1	2	4	7	3	4
Former CMHS Clients	5	4	6	5	8	7	5	11	5	4	4
Suicides Per 100,000*	11.3	10.4	9.1	6.5	13.3	11.3	9.3	12.5	11.2	14.3	15.8
(Marin County Population)							247289	247289	250400	252600	252600

* Reflects Non Adjusted Rate of Resident Deaths Occuring In Marin

Marin County Population Data for 2006 & 2007 was 252,600 per Association of Bay Area Governments Report

Marin County Population Data used for 2005, was 250,400 per Calif. Dept. of Finance California County Profile @ www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/FS_Data/profiles/pf_home.asp

o Marin County Population rate was 247,289 for 2000 per U.S. Census Bureau estimate. This is population data used for 2003 & 2004 rate determination.

Marin County suicides are grossly inflated by having an unsafe GGB,

Marin Mental Health Board

Resolution Regarding Construction of a Suicide Barrier on the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge

WHEREAS, suicide is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States Claiming over 31,000 lives each year; and,

WHEREAS, Research indicates that most people who commit suicide have an untreated but treatable mental illness, clinical depression or heavy alcohol use, or both; and,

WHEREAS, In Marin County suicide is a leading cause of death claiming over 500 lives since 1997; and,

WHEREAS, The Golden Gate Bridge has been the site of more than 1300 known suicides in the 70 years since its construction, more than any other site in the entire world; and,

WHEREAS, There were more suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge in 1997 than there were traffic fatalities on the bridge during the last quarter century; and,

WHEREAS, Available research indicates that over 90 percent of the individuals prevented from committing suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge do not make another suicide attempt; and,

WHEREAS, It is now possible to design and construct an aesthetically acceptable barrier that will prevent suicides from occurring on the Golden Gate Bridge without detracting from the view or grandeur of this magnificent architectural wonder; and,

WHEREAS, Other architecturally significant structures such as the Empire State Building and the Eiffel Tower have eliminated suicides by constructing a suicide barrier; and,

WHEREAS, Marin County has a long established commitment to establish and enforce public policies that protect the health, well-being and safety of its residents, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby declare that the absence of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is a hazard to the public's health and safety; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby support a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Marin Mental Health Board pledges to work with the San Francisco Mental Health Board to work toward reducing incidences of suicide in our communities; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby support and encourage the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors to complete a design and consultation contract on the suicide barrier; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby urge the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors to proceed with haste to eliminate this public hazard.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Mental Health Board of the County of Marin held on this 25th day of February 2008.



CHAIR, MARIN MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

From: Randall Van Nostrand [rvn@SNPNET.com]

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 9:27 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Against Suicide Barrier

Please do not put up a suicide barrier. It will ruin a truly magnificent experience for the millions of people who cross the bridge each year. Additionally the No Action alternative has not been fully vetted. To make such a huge change to a true American monument without this, is irresponsible.

Randall Van Nostrand

SNP Communications

san francisco I seattle I austin I new york

415.343.3954 office

415.218.0647 cell

415.343.3939 main

TalkBack: www.snpnet.com

From: Mark Vreeland [m95030@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 11:07 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: barrier??? What for???

Dear Friends,

A suicide barrier is a total waste of money. As normal, people haven't checked out the statistics of committing suicide as compared to those who jump from the GG bridge.

The stats are that there is 19 jumpers/year average. 90% of these people jump from the city view or east side. Obviously a reason for not even thinking about a barrier on the west side of the bridge. During difficult times in the economy, the rate rises. Perhaps we should focus out attentions on how to make our economy better instead of wasting our time/money on this foolishness.

Has anyone checked out the article from SF gate.com Thursday, January 18, 2007? OR According to the WHO Sept. 8, 2006 press release, "yearly, more than 1 million people commit suicide, and that between 20 to 50 million attempts were made."

This means that in terms of suicides, the GG bridge doesn't have a minuscule proportion of the suicide trade. That even thinking of placing a barrier on this bridge is unthinkable.

As a person who is on medication for depression myself, I can state that if one was wishing to commit suicide, there are many other ways this can be done without such emotional turmoil and perhaps a long distance drive.

My suggestion is to place a diving board on the east side near the center. Charge a nominal toll for entrance into the area and let them have at it if they wish to do so. I personally like the spring board idea compared to my nurse friend that likes the solid platform. Since I'll never use it, I really don't care.

I am in total agreement about never publicizing the people's names that jump. Great idea.

Did anyone check to look at the suicide stats after this "rule" was adopted? Did the jumpers reduce their numbers in the next 3 years? Not significantly if you account for the economy.

There is no doubt that people kill themselves all the time in some rather innocuous ways such as causing auto accidents. Are there stats on these suicides? No. There are probably more people that kill themselves (and others) this way in a month than in 1 year from jumping from the bridge .

Jumping off the bridge kills only the jumper and not others. Another reason for promoting the diving board idea. Tourism will also increase.

Another great idea is not to have anyone including he coast guard search after these bodies since these things make the "jump" more attractive to some.

Overdosing on prescriptions, guns, illegal drug overdoses, "extreme sports", and even not making yearly

appointments to get a yearly exam can all be forms of committing suicide.

Wake up people and learn that your efforts to build a barrier are misguided and unnecessary.

Mark

From: gtucker@mailstation.com
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 3:50 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: bridge suicide barrier

I am against erecting barrier. It is not in social or economic interests of the community. Expected results do not justify investment or concern. It would also be a serious detractor from bridge views.
Gordon J. Tucker (resident), San Francisco, Ca.

From: Andrew Wernick [andrewwernick@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 3:47 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Comment on the draft EIR/EA

August 25,2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

Golden Gate Bridge

Highway & Transportation District

P.O. Box 9000, San Francisco, CA 94129

FAX: 415-563-0809

Below you will find my comment on the draft EIR/EA:

I am not convinced that the construction of a physical barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge will significantly address the issue of suicide prevention. It may prevent individuals from jumping off the bridge but it will not prevent the act of suicide.

Funds for a physical barrier would be more wisely spent for the creation of a Golden Gate Suicide Prevention Clinic in the Presidio adjacent to the bridge. It is the compassion and understanding of people that can better address the issue of prevention. A barrier would simply deter the means.

The Golden Gate Bridge has stood as a suicide icon in this country and around the globe for years. The first individual jumped after three months of its completion. The Bridge is not however, the prime location or means of committing the act of suicide. The use of a firearm in one's home is far more prevalent. If a physical barrier on the bridge were to be erected, it would not surprise me if after three months; a suicide prone individual would walk to the north tower with a pistol and put the gun to his head in frustration of not being able to jump. What then of the millions to erect a physical suicide barrier? I don't see the wisdom in the expenditure.

There is no doubt that losing a loved one though suicide is devastating to friends and family. It touched my life several times in college and though graduate school. In none of the cases would a barrier on the bridge saved a life so I can't blame the Golden Gate. The saddest of all, is that we never got the chance to say good-bye.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wernick

Andrew Wernick
10 Liberty Ship Way Suite 237
Sausalito, CA 94954-3312
telephone 415-332-5520

From: Carol Bolter [ctb240@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 10:33 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Crazy!

Are we out of our minds? With the economy the way it is I think there are many much more important things to be spending 50 million dollars on, like food, shelter & health insurance for people. I vote NO.
Carol Bolter

From: william foti [mailto:w.foti@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 6:56 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: RE: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier Study Schedule on October 16, 2007

So you all are still going ahead with the suicide barrier. No matter the majority of the population are against it. No matter that it will not totally prevent suicides. No matter what the cost, hell it's not your money it's ours, you are still going along. You people amaze me how you ever get these positions and then what you do when you do get them. I still have not received a reply to my question "is it possible that once the barrier is installed that a person might jump into the traffic?????" Are you afraid to answer that??? I'll make you a deal, let it go to the voters and the majority wins. William Foti a taxpayer, a native of California and very much against what you all are trying to do.

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier Study Schedule on October 16, 2007
Date: Tue, 16 Oct 2007 12:03:52 -0700
From: MCurrie@goldengate.org
To: Bridgesuicidedeterrent@lists.mcn.org

Status Update on the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier Study

The following provides an update on the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent System Study (Study).

Phase 1 of the Study concluded on May 24, 2007, when the wind tunnel testing findings were presented to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) Board of Directors

(Board). Phase 1 focused on performing wind tunnel testing of generic potential suicide deterrent concepts as the Bridge is a long span suspension bridge that responds dynamically, and potentially dramatically, to wind. The wind tunnel testing was undertaken to determine which generic concepts do not create wind stability problems for the Bridge and focused on three generic concepts: (1) adding to the existing railing; (2) replacing the existing railing; and (3) utilizing nets that cantilever out horizontally. Concepts with various heights, component dimensions and wind appendages have been tested to determine which combinations of variables are acceptable for the Bridge, from a wind stability standpoint. The full report and associated sketches of potential suicide barriers concepts passing the wind test are posted on www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org.

Phase 2 of the Study encompasses evaluating the Phase 1 generic concepts that passed the wind tunnel tests in accordance with required federal and state environmental laws and reviews. A draft environmental document will be prepared that will consider and evaluate a "no-build" alternative as well as several "build" alternatives. "Build alternatives" will be developed utilizing the results from the wind tunnel testing.

The draft environmental document provides information about the required federal and state environmental studies undertaken and evaluates each alternative against the established Study Criteria (as posted on the Study website). It also includes a description of the environmental setting, evaluation of potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potential impacts of the alternatives. The document provides information developed for each alternative including architectural renderings, visual impact analysis, historic preservation considerations and cost. As the Bridge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places it is afforded protection under both state and federal historic preservation laws.

In accordance with these laws, the District, in addition to developing and releasing for public comment a draft environmental document will be consulting with appropriate state and federal agencies throughout the process.

Study Schedule Update: The original Study schedule was ambitious. With Phase 2 starting in June 2007, the original schedule called for the release of the draft environmental document just four months later. The District will not be able to keep to this timeline and wanted to bring you up to date as to why.

The original aggressive schedule did not anticipate a change in the environmental review process. On July 1, 2007, there was a change in the way that the federal government, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), participates in the review of environmental documents prepared in California that require federal review, as our environmental document does. This review responsibility was delegated to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) from the FHWA.

The District is working closely with Caltrans, FHWA along with Historic Preservation agencies as this new review process has evolved. The Study environmental document

schedule is delayed due, in part, to the “growing pains” of this transition which are to be expected in a transition of this magnitude. We can not side-step this process and will continue to work as hard as we possibly can to move this project through the environmental process successfully.

We appreciate the support of our partner agencies, FHWA and Caltrans, in moving this project forward.

The draft environmental document is now scheduled to be released for public comment in mid-2008, with a final document anticipated in late 2008.

We appreciate your understanding during this transition.

Study Website: Visit the Suicide Barrier Study website at www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org to learn more as the Study advances. Please direct all interested parties to the Study website.

Mary Currie, Public Affairs Director
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129

Use video conversation to talk face-to-face with Windows Live Messenger. [Get started.](#)

From: stephen turpie [mailto:turpie1@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 10:37 AM
To: Jan Tarantino
Subject: Suicide Barrier

Sirs,

Has everyone gone insane?

Is there even one member of your group that has the sense to vote against spending a dime on the foolish idea of a suicide barrier?

I am appalled and dismayed that you even spent **two million** of tax payer and toll payer monies to do the ridiculous study and now you are seriously thinking of spending 12 to 50 Million?! to build something that is already announced as unable to prevent all suicides!!!!

Where has common sense gone?

What is the cost efficiency of this? How much will each proposed "saved" soul cost the rest of us?

What is the additional cost to maintain this stupid idea? You can't even afford to maintain the bridge now and you're willing to throw away 50Mill for this ineffective, useless and totally unneeded addition.

Can you actually look in the mirror and convince yourselves that this is a good idea or are you all afraid of standing up to the hysteria of a minority.

Please tell me there is at least one sane person among you.

Steve Turpie

From: Karen Engbretson [KEngbretson@goldengate.org]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2008 10:27 AM
To: GGBSDS; Mary Currie
Cc: Molly Graham; Jeffrey Y Lee; District Secretary
Subject: FW: suicide barrier

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Karen B. Engbretson
Assistant Clerk of the Board
Office of the District Secretary
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District
kengbretson@goldengate.org
415-923-2225

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From: John Boessenecker [mailto:jboess@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 10:37 PM
To: Jan Tarantino
Subject: suicide barrier

To the Board off Directors:

Are you people crazy? What kind of PC garbage are you trying to sell? You continue to raise the bridge tolls and now you want to spend even more money on feel good repairs? The bridge was built on the understanding that once it was paid for there would be no toll at all. Here we are 72 years later and you not only are raising the toll again, you want to waste even more money.

I've got a better idea. Let's spend \$50 million to ban rope, \$50 million to band gas stoves, and \$50 million to ban guns. After all, as everyone knows, people don't kill people, guns and bridges do.

John Boessenecker
San Francisco

From: Karen Engbretson [KEngbretson@goldengate.org] on behalf of Jan Tarantino [JTarantino@goldengate.org]
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2008 11:01 AM
To: GGBSDS; Mary Currie
Cc: Molly Graham; Jeffrey Y Lee; District Secretary; Denis Mulligan
Subject: FW: suicide barrier-golden gate bridge

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Karen B. Engbretson
Assistant Clerk of the Board
Office of the District Secretary
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District
kengbretson@goldengate.org
415-923-2225

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From: nancy greenfield [mailto:nanlougreenf@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 11:49 AM
To: Jan Tarantino
Subject: suicide barrier-golden gate bridge

22 Skylark Dr. #122
Larkspur, Ca. 94939
July 21, 2008

Golden Gate Bridge District
Board of Directors

Dear Board Member,

I do not support the suicide barrier because of the immense cost. 25 or fifty million dollars is too much to spend. Just as every household has to look at the costs of individual projects, so does the GGBDist. Which project will impact the most people? Will it be Doyle Drive improvements or

the moving median on the bridge or a decrease in the tolls for commuters?

Having a family member who commits suicide is tragic, tragic, tragic!!! I can empathize with them.

My vote, if I have one, is to not direct money to be spent on the suicide barrier.

If I had another vote, it would be to not increase the toll for commuters for whom the impact is immense.

All best wishes....Sincerely, Nancy L. Greenfield

From: Dana Melnichek [mailto:Dana.Melnichek@ci.san-rafael.ca.us]
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2008 10:04 AM
To: Denis Mulligan
Subject: FW: Suicide barriers GGB

Hi Denis, Mayor Boro asked me to forward this e-mail to you. Thank you! --Dana

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Duggan [mailto:edduggan@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 12:40 PM
To: Sanrafael Mayor
Cc: Ed Duggan
Subject: Suicide barriers GGB

Mr. Mayor

The way to stop suicides is to close pedestrian access to the bridge.

Since that is unlikely pedestrian access should be subject to a \$5:00 toll to be earmarked for installation and maintenance of suicide prevention measures.

This idea should liven up the debate. You can quote me as I love hot water.

Thank you all you have done for our City and Marin County.

CIAO

Ed Duggan

From: gtopor@sbcglobal.net [mailto:sandgtopor@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 12:45 PM
To: Jan Tarantino
Subject: Suicide Deterrent

Hi,

Having looked at the recent proposals for a Suicide Deterrent System as proposed for the Golden Gate Bridge, and having just read an article in the New York Times Magazine of 6 July 2008 by Scott Anderson in which he refers to the work of Richard Seiden, please allow me to ask this question.

If Mr. Seiden's data, and that of others talks about "time", cutting off or slowing down the means to act, and has been shown to work at the Taft and Ellington Bridges in Washington D.C. why hasn't any sort of barrier (of the same style proposed) at say five (5) to six (6) feet high been suggested?

Yes, I knew people who took their own life, but I am definitely not an expert in this field, nor am I opposed to increasing the deterrent, (I do accept that you can not stop people from taking their own life), but does it really have to cost \$50 million dollars?

Thanks,

gt

George Topor

42 Spindrift Passage
Corte Madera, CA 94925
415 945 0650
415 302 9148 cell
gtopor@sbcglobal.net

From: Wayne T. [mailto:digsthelake@mchsi.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 7:28 PM

To: bridgecomments

Subject: Suicide rail

Seemingly, the question that just a very few are forcing the Directors to consider, is one of priorities. Surly, it would be great to prevent suicides. They are devastating to the family and friends who are left behind. However, the person who commits suicide has made a choice. The choice to end his/her life despite what effects it may have on those left behind to pick up the pieces.

Another priority that the Directors have been agonizing over is that of a moveable median barrier. If I recall, the hue and cry for a median barrier was a lot louder and a lot more people involved than a suicide barrier. A moveable barrier, properly designed, will prevent 100 % of the deaths and horrible injuries sustained by those involved in a cross over accident. AND, unlike a suicide, those involved in that accident didn't make a choice: they were just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And while the movable median barrier will prevent 100 % of the deaths, can we say the same thing for the suicide barrier? If a person hell bent on suicide can't climb over the barrier, perhaps it will become just as acceptable to throw themselves over the traffic barrier in front of a truck. This might even result in the truck swerving into on-coming traffic and yet another person(s) gets killed.

It is apparent that a median barrier will save lives every time, while a suicide barrier is just a stop gap solution for someone who is really determined. Lets spend the limited resources in the best way possible. If the public would take the time to think about this and make their feelings known, I would bet they would vote for a median barrier every time.

Wayne Diggs
Bus Transit Manager (ret.)
3310 Lakeshore Blvd.
Lakeport, Ca. 95453

From: Elaine Mannon [elaine@mannon.com]

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 10:43 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: GG Bridge

Please reconsider - A barrier that will destroy the beauty of this San Francisco monument will not stop people from taking their lives. The bridge does not cause people to commit suicide.

Elaine Mannon

From: gtucker@mailstation.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 3:54 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge anti-suicide barrier

I vote for NO barrier at all. Any suicide is regrettable but barrier is not answer to matter from a cost-effective or bridge appearance consideration. Gordon J. Tucker

From: Edward Delsuc [loeddel@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 1:03 PM

To: Suicidebarrier; letters@pressdemocrat.com

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge

People bent on suicide will find many ways to do away with themselves - pills, hanging, drowning, cutting arteries, jumping from any other bridge or building. Wouldn't it be much better to spend the money on mental health care for many people instead of worrying about the few that jump off bridges?

Lois Delsuc, Healdsburg

From: Randall Trefzger [randalltrefzger@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2008 1:24 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: ...i STRONGLY oppose the placing of any "Suicide Barrier(s)" on the Golden Gate Bridge

This is truly an "only in San Francisco" moment. Do you really think that the number of overall suicides (in general)

will decline due to such a barrier? Unbelievable.

Sincerely,

Randall Trefzger
650 Chestnut St., #105
San Francisco, CA 94133

jumpers

From: Erik Linker [camo@pirate4x4.com]

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 3:30 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: jumpers

Dear sirs.

Please do not alter the bridge with any anti jumping fences or nets.

Erik "Camo" Linker
Vice President Sales & Marketing
Pirate4x4.com
530-333-4847
camo@pirate4x4.com

From: RonFeiertag@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 7:47 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: My Comment About the Barrier

I oppose the construction of a suicide barrier because it would waste money and achieve nothing. Anyone who was prevented from jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge would find another, more destructive, way of killing himself or herself. Someone who jumps off a tall building would be much more likely to kill someone who is walking in the street than someone who jumps off the bridge into the water.

Ron Feiertag

It's only a deal if it's where you want to go. Find your travel deal here.
(<http://information.travel.aol.com/deals?ncid=aoltrv00050000000047>)

From: Jill Johnson [jilljohnson@comcast.net]

Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2008 8:14 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: My opinion

Creating a suicide barrier on one of the most beautiful landmarks in the world is ridiculous. This is an ill-conceived idea and an unnecessary waste of money. It is not going to prevent someone who wants to end their life from succeeding. If they don't do it on the Golden Gate Bridge they will do it elsewhere. Are we now going to put suicide barriers on every tall building, on every bridge, every freeway overpass? Why one would even consider such an incredible expense in this economy is astonishing to me. Who thinks this stuff up?

Leave the Golden Gate Bridge as it is – spectacular and breathtakingly beautiful. Spend this “extra money” cleaning up all the trash in the city, or feeding/sheltering the homeless.

Jill Johnson
Sunnyvale, CA

From: Joe Cline [jwdc56@msn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 10:39 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: No Bridge Barrier

Those responsible for taking a direction on this matter need to use sound judgment. It makes no sense to spend \$40-50MM for a suicide barrier, regardless of what the activists say. If they were told it would cost \$100 million or even \$150 million they would still say it was worth it. We're compassionate people but if something doesn't make sense, it doesn't make sense no matter what an activist says.

From: Carsten Kristensen [carsten@copenhagenfurniture.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 4:44 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: one dollar toll increase

I am opposed to any toll increase. I am a working stiff and this will amount to about \$300 annually, money I don't have in this economy. If you want a barrier, suggest you impose a \$10 fee for pedestrians for whom crossing the bridge is elective and optional.

Carsten Kristensen

From: SHEILAHERSHON@comcast.net

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 2:16 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: opinion

Please - after much painful consideration on my part - do not change the design in any way except to keep it safe for its daily users, the cars, the walkers, all who use and enjoy its utilitarian beauty.

I understand the pain of the ones who have lost their loved ones. I hope the day will come for them to understand the bridge was not the cause. They may never know the cause but it was deeper than the fact that the GGB "was there."

I oppose any barrier. Please keep the design of the bridge as it stands today. Thank you.

Sheila Hershon

Marin Resident for 48 years

From: Davis, Darren (EFS) [Darren.Davis@morganstanley.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 9:24 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Cc: Marcia Davis

Subject: Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Barrier - Strongly Oppose

I strongly oppose the building of a barrier on one of the most globally recognized treasures of our country, The Golden Gate Bridge.

While my heart goes out to the families of those who have taken their lives by jumping off the GGB, we must stop becoming a "Nanny State".

These families are looking to place the responsibility of an individual who has attempted to commit/committed suicide on someone else other than the individual and the family themselves.

We as people must stop acting as "babysitters" for individuals who are acting irrationally, and reaching out for help. Families always say "they just didn't know" or "had no idea". While this is tragic, it does not transfer the responsibility to the state.

If these troubled individuals have decided to kill themselves, a barrier will only stop them from "jumping". They may decide instead to jump off a building, shoot themselves or park their SUV on a commuter train track.

For some people who have the desire to commit such a desperate, final act in ones life is a spontaneous decision.

However, getting to the GGB is not a "spontaneous" task. One must drive and/or walk out to jump. Therefore, they have thought about jumping.

I feel the money that would be spent on the barrier would be better spent by funding suicide prevention programs, better medical treatment and education for those that seek help.

Regards,

Darren Davis

Marin Resident

Dialy Golden Gate Transit Rider

This is not an offer (or solicitation of an offer) to buy/sell the securities/instruments mentioned or an official confirmation. Morgan Stanley may deal as principal in or own or act as market maker for securities/instruments mentioned or may advise the issuers. This is not research and is not from MS Research but it may refer to a research analyst/research report. Unless indicated, these views are the author's and may differ from those of Morgan Stanley research or others in the Firm. We do not represent this is accurate or complete and we may not update this. Past performance is not indicative of future returns. For additional information, research reports and important disclosures, contact me or see <https://secure.ms.com/servlet/cls>. You should not use e-mail to request, authorize or effect the purchase or sale of any security or instrument, to send transfer instructions, or to effect any other transactions. We cannot guarantee that any such requests received via e-mail will be processed in a timely manner. This communication is solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential information. We do not waive confidentiality by mistransmission. Contact me if you do not wish to receive these communications. In the UK, this communication is directed in the

UK to those persons who are professional and eligible counterparties (as defined in the UK Financial Services Authority's rules).

From: Keith Wedmore [kbwedmore@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 6:51 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Re: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier -- absence of relevant Study

Importance: High

Dear Mary

Because you wrote to me on Monday "There will not be an opportunity at these meetings for public testimony or presentations" I did not come yesterday. I did not wish to listen to a no-input exposition about alternative designs and environmental impact. I gather from today's press that in the event I was misinformed. Much was said on the question of whether there should be a barrier. That is what I address.

Why the barrier? Who will it benefit? What will its effects be on deaths?

One immediate effect will be the less serious one (in a sense). You will set an example that plaintiff's lawyers will force others to follow. All those now in charge of roads, bridges, beaches and the Grand Canyon itself, will realize they are going to have to cease to be mere way-builders or overseers of recreation resorts. They must become part of life care. They may be sued for every death. This will cause hundreds of thousands of miles of new fencing, cut off the great sights of America in large part, never mind most highways and railroads. You will have set an example, the following of which will be horribly expensive. Indeed, it is not too much to say, it will cause chaos. (After all, cars can kill. A no-four-wheels policy? Where is this all to stop?)

I recall that one reason the Empire State building and the Eiffel tower have suicide barriers is that they have, if I might put it delicately, matters of street hygiene and ground level safety to consider, as you do not. Many people jumped from the burning 9/11 buildings, one of them actually killing a fire officer.

I turn to the more serious matter. Why a barrier? How can it possibly effect the total number of suicides, let alone reduce them, just by removing one of the methods? Are there no suicides elsewhere, in those parts of the world where

there is no GGB? ? If we put up a GG Bridge in London (say) , will the suicide rate increase by 20 or so a year, and then go down by that number if we take it away again?

The truth is that there are other ways of killing yourself. We all know this. Presently suicides by jumping under Bart trains or Muni busses are few, as far as I know. But such choices, far more dangerous to others, will foreseeably be made, absent the Bridge. People who did not actually wish to die, will find themselves thwarted by a bus swerving to avoid a body or by being in one of the vehicles it may hit. Recall the law of unintended consequences?

I am amazed that some proponents seem to assert a one-on-one relationship between deaths from the bridge, and lives saveable by its not being there. On what possible evidence?

The Board has identified potentially significant impacts , including (1) impacts related to land use and recreation, (2) visual and aesthetics, and (3) cultural and biological resources.

They strangely did not include: *could a Barrier make any difference to the outcome?*

The board may wish to to commission an informed report on what the effect of the barrier would be would be on the totality of deaths by suicide and those related to the suicide. The report should assume, as I do, that the barrier will be totally effective.

London gets some 300 suicides a year. A common way is throwing yourself in front of a tube train as it enters the station; or under a bus, or a truck. The last two are not so reliable, as the driver normally will try to swerve: risking his and other lives, especially those of those that the truck or bus runs into.

The favorite, then, is the train. There are some 2000 drivers of London Underground trains. People jump under them on average twice a week. If drivers serve (as on average they do) for 20 years, then they are required, by their job, to

run over 8 people. There is no way they can stop the train in a 2 or 3 seconds. This is very upsetting for the driver, and for the passengers. The distress of drivers forced to kill is unforgettable. The Unions do complain.

There is a long service stoppage, while the bits are cleared up and the police finish their inspections. The body is not in the sort of state passengers wish to see, let alone relatives who have to identify and bury. It is a fearful way of committing suicide. The GGBridge has an advantage there. You get a one-piece corpse, and no actual viewers. Nor is there a dispute about did they fall or were they pushed?

The GGB is a decent and (it must be said) dignified way of killing yourself. (Note that people always choose the Bay side.) It doesn't involve others, save the couple needed to drag you out of the water. The suicide has his last moments of dignity. And nobody goes down with him.

I am not a proponent of suicide. It is generally thought, and it is true from my experience as a Barrister and as a human being, that many or most of these deaths happen during (mostly undiagnosed) clinical depression, and might well have been saved. But I myself know of no way of being tipped off and intervening in advance, *nor do I know of any who does*. Would-be suicides become withdrawn towards the end, and, well, unlikely to write to dear Abbey for advice. I greatly regret this -- I have lost two friends and two cousins to suicide by now -- but there is absolutely nothing I can do or could have done about it. Nor am I against rebuilding the Twin Towers on the grounds they might again be the occasion of (rational!) suicide.

I trust the Supervisors will now see fit to ask : for whose good? Cui Bono? And what damage might we do?

sincerely,

Keith Wedmore

On Oct 16, 2007, at 12:03 PM, Mary Currie wrote:

Status Update on the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier Study

The following provides an update on the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent System Study (Study).

Phase 1 of the Study concluded on May 24, 2007, when the wind tunnel testing findings were presented to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) Board of Directors (Board). Phase 1 focused on performing wind tunnel testing of generic potential suicide deterrent concepts as the Bridge is a long span suspension bridge that responds dynamically, and potentially dramatically, to wind. The wind tunnel testing was undertaken to determine which generic concepts do not create wind stability problems for the Bridge and focused on three generic concepts: (1) adding to the existing railing; (2) replacing the existing railing; and (3) utilizing nets that cantilever out horizontally. Concepts with various heights, component dimensions and wind appendages have been tested to determine which combinations of variables are acceptable for the Bridge, from a wind stability standpoint. The full report and associated sketches of potential suicide barriers concepts passing the wind test are posted on www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org.

Phase 2 of the Study encompasses evaluating the Phase 1 generic concepts that passed the wind tunnel tests in accordance with required federal and state environmental laws and reviews. A draft environmental document will be prepared that will consider and evaluate a “no-build” alternative as well as several “build” alternatives. “Build alternatives” will be developed utilizing the results from the wind tunnel testing.

The draft environmental document provides information about the required federal and state environmental studies undertaken and evaluates each alternative against the established Study Criteria (as posted on the Study website). It also includes a description of the environmental setting,

evaluation of potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potential impacts of the alternatives. The document provides information developed for each alternative including architectural renderings, visual impact analysis, historic preservation considerations and cost. As the Bridge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places it is afforded protection under both state and federal historic preservation laws.

In accordance with these laws, the District, in addition to developing and releasing for public comment a draft environmental document will be consulting with appropriate state and federal agencies throughout the process.

Study Schedule Update: The original Study schedule was ambitious. With Phase 2 starting in June 2007, the original schedule called for the release of the draft environmental document just four months later. The District will not be able to keep to this timeline and wanted to bring you up to date as to why.

The original aggressive schedule did not anticipate a change in the environmental review process. On July 1, 2007, there was a change in the way that the federal government, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), participates in the review of environmental documents prepared in California that require federal review, as our environmental document does. This review responsibility was delegated to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) from the FHWA. The District is working closely with Caltrans, FHWA along with Historic Preservation agencies as this new review process has evolved. The Study environmental document schedule is delayed due, in part, to the “growing pains” of this transition which are to be expected in a transition of this magnitude. We can not side-step this process and will continue to work as hard as we possibly can to move this project through the environmental process successfully.

We appreciate the support of our partner agencies, FHWA and Caltrans, in moving this project forward.

The draft environmental document is now scheduled to be released for public comment in mid-2008, with a final document anticipated in late 2008. We appreciate your understanding during this transition.

Study Website: Visit the Suicide Barrier Study website at www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org to learn more as the Study advances. Please direct all interested parties to the Study website.

From: Lou Judson [loujudson@mac.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 9:33 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Cc: bridgecomments

Subject: Safety comment

RE: We want to hear from you. Have the potential impacts been addressed? Is there additional information that should be considered?

- **Attend** one of the two public meetings
- **Complete comment form** at www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org/getinvolved.asp
- **Submit via email** to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org
- **Submit via fax:** 415-563-0809
- **Submit via U.S. Mail:** Suicide Deterrent Project, Golden Gate Bridge, P.O. Box 9000, San Francisco, CA 94129.

Technical documents can be reviewed at District Administration Building; submit requests by email to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org or call 415-923-2023 (TDD 711).

Disabled individuals who require special accommodations are required to contact the Office of the District Secretary at least three days before the meetings at 415-923-2223 (TDD 711).

Comments must be submitted by Monday, August 25, 2008 at 4:30 pm

Dear Golden Gate Bridge administrators,

I have lived in Marin since 1957, and have been aware of suicides and attempts since age 7. It is tragic and sad that people feel the need to take their own lives. I have also been aware of numerous head on collisions on the bridge as well.

The real and far greater tragedy is the head on collisions that happen in the middle of the Golden Gate bridge! When they happen, many more innocent lives are lost. Great damage is done to property and people's lives, and there is always at least one innocent victim.

I feel extremely strongly that there is a far greater need to put up a solid, immovable, concrete "Jersey Barrier" down the middle of the bridge to keep the north and southbound lanes safe from head on collisions.

When someone chooses to take their own life, they are the only death, and it is their own personal choice. When a driver accidentally veers only a few inches off the narrow lanes, many people can die, and much interference happens to people who are just trying to get to work or to home or on errands. This is a tragic and wasteful loss that can be completely and easily and economically prevented!

In years gone by, it seemed necessary to divert traffic to two or four lanes according to the load at rush hours - in recent years, the traffic patterns have changed and when there are two or four lanes, it never seems to be needed, and restoring the bridge to three lanes each way all the time only makes sense - after all, the people who choose to all go the same way all at the same time will find a greater incentive to carpool and use public transport if the traffic backup is slowed a bit by the three lane arrangement.

So, I say, stop wasting time, money and lives on a suicide barrier - people will find another way, another bridge, if they really want to end their lives, while untold costs, innocent lives, and costly delays occur by the unsafe design using little rubber toothpicks to keep traffic moving 90 miles an hour relative to each other from colliding.

We need a safety barrier not a suicide barrier!

Thanks,

Lou Judson
Novato CA415-883-2689

From: David Albrand [dalbrand@pacbell.net]

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 10:42 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Scuicide Barriers

Having been on the Bridge for many years, I feel that, although laudable, the project to protect people from themselves is doomed. The no build alternative is, for all purposes, the best. The divider, between lanes of traffic will be more valuable and should receive priority.

Also, I have a profound photo of the bridge, do you know who I should contact to see if it would be useful to you?

Thank you

David Albrand

From: Chazzzzzz@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 6:39 AM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: Suicide barrier for GG bridge

Gentlemen.

I find it hard to believe that people think a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge will stop people from committing suicide. All it will do is cost money and deface the bridge.

There are many ways to commit suicide. You take one way away from someone it will only be replaced by another. So for me a native born San Franciscan I find it offensive to build a barrier which in the end will not stop people from committing suicide.

Regards,
Charles E. Luchessa
329 Ellen Dr
San Rafael Ca

Looking for a car that's sporty, fun and fits in your budget? [Read reviews on AOL Autos.](#)

From: Susan leidy [justduckysuzee@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 9:23 AM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: suicide barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge
25 August 2008

Having spent 36 years with special need students (several years with teens), I am against the barrier for the GG Bridge - I do not feel it will prevent suicide as disturbed individuals will find alternative ways to end their life. The exorbitant cost of creating the barrier would be far better spent creating prevention programs addressing the cause of suicidal ideation in children, teens and adults.

Susan Leidy

From: lily subias [lilysubias@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2008 12:00 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: SUICIDE BARRIER PROPOSALS

When the country is in the worst economical disaster since the "Great Depression", It is totally insane to spend untold millions of taxpayers monies to save a few "lost souls". I totally oppose any kind of physical barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. Instead use a few thousand dollars to have members of the Suicide Prevention Organization (and publicize the fact), patrol the bridge for potential suicides. There are more insightful methods to prevent potential suicides on the bridge. Lily Subias, San Francisco, CA.

From: Ella Driscoll [ellad@sonic.net]
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 3:47 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: suicide barrier

I would like to comment on the proposed suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. Perhaps the group should consider alternate methods, rather than construct very costly barriers which would make the span look like a huge concentration camp. For instance, close pedestrian entrances and bicycle paths after dark. What about installing TV monitors connected to an office on the bridge where a trained person or persons would be dispatched to save people from tragedy for themselves and their families. Lastly, and as a last resort, install a safety netting over the sides of the bridge. These methods could save lives, as well as retain the structural beauty of the bridge, which is an international icon. Perhaps many lives could be preserved, as well as save money.

Yours truly,

Ella G Driscoll

From: Robin Rose [robinandroy@earthlink.net]

Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2008 9:01 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: The projected barrier

To The bridge Administration: The projected barrier, in any form is a waste of money and a visual disgrace. Many bridges have "suicide screens" that keep no one from killing themselves. There are many ways to die, if you want to kill yourself. I had a family member who tried 4 different times to kill herself. She was saved/prevented 3 times. The 4th time she was able to kill herself.

I feel for the parents and relatives who lost loved ones. Will we fence every bridge and cliff and high place? It will not do it. The cost in dollars and visually is not worth it. We may be being asked to assuage the guilt of people who feel guilty that they could not prevent the death of a loved one. There may be some deserved guilt, in that they did not recognize "danger" signs. But there should not be. The suicide is determined.

I was very upset by the "phony statistics" quoted in the article. The barrier advocate who quoted the rubber numbers for 'suicides prevented'. How was that fantasy arrived at? How does she know? Did someone ask people who appeared vulnerable? How many suicides will tell you that that is what they are going to do. Not many. They know why you are asking. You have prevention in mind. They do not need someone else in their way. They say "no, of course not".

I was once on a highway bridge. I was on the edge of the rail to take some measurements for my job. Someone stopped and ran up to me and yelled, "Don't do it, don't jump". I looked over and told him what I was doing and I was not going to jump. I went back to what I was doing. When I got through and got down, I saw him parked up the way. I am sure he believed he had kept me from hurting myself.

People believe what they want to believe. Always with the best of intentions. With the best of intentions, people who have not been tempted to kill themselves, believe that they can see into the minds of the potential suicide. You can't and you won't. The few who might be saved from an "impulse death", will either get over it or go elsewhere. Hysterical decisions do little.

Roy Rose -Robinandroy@earthlink. net

From: Jim Cauble [jcauble@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 4:04 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: the suicide barrier

The Golden Gate Bridge District is considering spending \$50 million of our dollars on a “suicide barrier” for our national landmark. This is about the stupidest idea I’ve ever heard. Problems include:

- You have already admitted they have no way of funding it. Can you say \$10-\$15 bridge tolls?
- It will adversely affect the beauty of one of our premiere tourist attractions. Can you imagine the bridge with netting dangling underneath?
- It will be a dismal failure at achieving its design goal. Netting can easily be cut, as can chain-link fence. A concrete barrier will add tons of weight, possibly affecting the strength and/or flexibility of the suspension bridge. And resourceful people will climb over it.

If someone really wants to kill himself, he will find a way. I predict if the bridge barrier does succeed, it will mean more deaths on the BART tracks, which then impacts the 400,000 riders who use it.

\$50 million will go a long way toward suicide prevention, from ANYWHERE. Isn’t that the real goal? If the district is only trying to eliminate the bridge as a launching site, it sounds like they are only either considering liability to the district or trying to justify their high-paying jobs.

The i’m Talkaton. Can 30-days of conversation change the world? [Find out now.](#)

From: Patricia Ter Heun [mailto:pterheun@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:22 PM
To: bridgesuicidedeterrent-bounces@lists.mcn.org
Subject: Suicide Barrier

Dear Bridge District Authority:

This is to share with you my view on the proposed suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

As a life long resident of Marin County, I am opposed to the Barrier, which I think would have a negative impact on the beauty of the bridge which is a global icon and one of the wonders of the world.

As tragic as suicide is, I do not think that the Barrier addresses the situation that would lead people to want to kill themselves. I believe that people who want to kill themselves will find a way to do it – ruining the grace and perfect symmetry of this magnificent creation is not the solution and everyone I know are vehemently opposed to the Barrier.

Thank you.

Patricia Ter Heun
510 Browning St.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

415-389-8939

From: P2on@aol.com

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 10:06 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: (no subject)

I am in favor of a suicide barrier, having known the parents of 4 teenagers who have jumped from the bridge. I believe that we can have a bridge that is both safe and beautiful.

Patricia O'Neil
172 San Carlos Avenue
Sausalito, CA 94965

It's only a deal if it's where *you* want to go. Find your travel deal [here](#).

From: Daren Wein [daren.wein@mlegalconsulting.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 2:12 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: A message in favor of an augmented safety system/barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge
Ms. Currie:

I write to voice my support for a barrier or netting system on the Golden Gate Bridge. As a Marin County resident and a Bay Area native, I cherish the majestic symbol that the Golden Gate Bridge represents to the world at large. I love the artistic silhouette it provides from land and the view of the Bay and beyond that it provides while I cross it. What I do not love is the fact that we as a society are putting these rather insignificant views above the value of human life.

I did not always feel this way. For a very long time I sided with people who argued that a barrier was a waste of money that would accomplish nothing and add an eyesore to the artistry of the Bridge. I no longer agree because the evidence I have seen refutes the contention.

We as a society go to great lengths to protect the population from itself- helmet laws, sin taxes on alcohol and tobacco, gun registration laws, etc. Constructing additional safety measures on the Bridge in my mind falls into this reasonable category of protections that a government provides to its citizens- its most vulnerable citizens.

As to the question of how to pay for it, I strongly support reinstating the pedestrian toll to cross the bridge because:

1. The protection sought is for pedestrians. The barriers, as I understand them, are not meant to augment safety for cars crossing the Bridge. They are to protect individuals who may fall over the rail either purposely or by accident. As such, I think those benefitting from the protection should shoulder the cost.
2. As we all know, the majority of the people who walk/bike across the Bridge are tourists. Charging a tourist \$1 to cross the bridge will not change their plans to walk across the bridge and the enormous estimate of the number of pedestrians crossing the bridge each year is not likely to suffer. However, if an additional fee was placed on cars, I think you would see a dramatic downturn in the number of commuters crossing the bridge each day. This in turn would impact the financial viability of the plan. Quite simply, the Bridge Authority cannot keep asking Marin county commuters to pay for everything (bridge barriers, Doyle Drive, Bridge retrofits, increased pension costs for Bridge workers, etc.).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daren G. Wein

Senior Consultant | Partner & General Counsel Division

Mlegal Consulting, Inc.

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information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

From: Donna Anderson [donna@photolee.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:49 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: A suicide barrier please

Mary, a family friend jumped off the GG Bridge last January, leaving us shocked and saddened. We think a suicide barrier is imperative, especially considering this fine bridge is the most deadly one in the world for suicides. I'm sure there's a way to do this that would leave the beauty of the bridge and the view intact so everyone's needs are met. Please count my vote for a suicide barrier, and those of my children, Ian and Audrey Anderson. --Donna Anderson

--

Donna Anderson

Studio Manager | Anderson Photography

2409 Brentwood Place | Alexandria, Virginia 22306

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www.photolee.com

From: Judy Moore [jm Moore@pacbell.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 7:46 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge

Since I also have lost my son to suicide. I feel that any prevention that can save a life is necessary. Please consider if it were your love one. Thank you, Judy Moore

From: PegA1950@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 8:26 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Barrier Support

Please put up a barrier...now before one more life is lost.

Peggy Andrews

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From: ashkenazys@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 7:31 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: barrier

Dear Mary Currie

I have been following the debate about the suicide barrier on the golden gate bridge, and just want to let you know that i am in favor of a barrier. I would be the right thing to do, save life and give the golden gate a new reputation around the world.

sincerely Bolette Ashkenazy

The Famous, the Infamous, the Lame - in your browser. [Get the TMZ Toolbar Now!](#)

From: garshah@juno.com

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 10:04 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Barrier

I am in favor of a suicide barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge as long as it doesn't impede the view of the Bay or the Pacific. I understand that plans for a net under the bridge meets these qualifications. I prefer that any barrier be paid for from tolls or other revenues of the Golden Gate Bridge District, and not the taxpayers in San Francisco.

M. G. Harris

From: Fleming, Anne [Anne.Fleming@ucsf.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 2:50 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: bridge barrier evidence - response to Glasgow
Attachments: barrier_evidence.doc

Dear Bridge Board of Directors,
I am a psychiatrist and an Assistant Professor at the University of California at San Francisco. I was forwarded the report written by Garrett Glasgow, and I had some significant concerns about that report. A colleague and I have written a response to the report and I wanted to submit it by the deadline today. I will also post it on the website, but I wanted to send it in complete form as well. Is it possible to forward it to those who have read Mr. Glasgow's report? Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you

Anne Fleming, M.D., M.S.
Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry University of California at San Francisco
1001 Potrero Ave Suite 7M
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-206-4528

From: DianeVallon@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 8:18 PM
To: Mary Currie
Cc: DianeVallon@aol.com
Subject: Bridge Barrier

Please let us know how we can help to see that this barrier is voted in. My dear friends, the Kaplans in Lafayette, lost their beloved son, Adam Kaplan, to the bridge December 28, 2007. We need to be a Society of Compassion. If this saves one life, then it is worth it!

Diane Vallon
Realtor since 1977, Broker

People & Properties
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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Cell: 925 998-7696
Fax: 925 215-2216
www.DianeVallon.com

From: noadkaplan@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 6:21 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Bridge barrier

Dear Ms. Currie

8/24/08

My son Adam jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge in the early morning of December 28, 2007. His body

was never recovered.

He had been diagnosed a year earlier with bipolar disorder. Bipolar refers to extremes in emotions, first being up, almost manic, which is then followed by severe depression. As is typical with this illness his understanding

and acceptance of it did not keep up with his day to day struggles. As is also typical, under a doctors supervision he tried medication to help him deal with his illness. Again as is typical the medication either

wired him up or downed him out. He never felt right on the medication and yearned to feel normal.

About 3 months prior to his death Adam stopped taking his medication. At first he felt great, the hyper stage of

the bipolar, but then he felt extremely down, the depressive stage of bipolar. It subsequently put him into a

psychotic state in which all he wanted to do was to stop the pain. I believe in this depressed, psychotic state

he impulsively used the bridge to end his pain.

I believe if the bridge had not been such an alluring and easily accessible site, he may not have jumped. I believe if a barrier had been on the bridge it may have presented enough of an obstacle that it may have forced him to think longer of the consequences of his actions..

Would a barrier have guaranteed he would not have taken his life in the future ? I do not know, but I feel the more difficult it is to jump, the more thought that goes into the decision to jump, the less apt an impulsive action may lead to trajedy.

I believe if Adam had more time to understand and the accept his illness, then he would have been less likely to end his life. Adam was not a violent person, the bridge was and is a magnet that presents a far too easy way to act on the impulsivity of the moment.

A barrier is to late for Adam, but I feel a barrier may prevent others from taking their lives. I feel the financial and aesthetic cost is well worth the countless lives that may be saved.

Thank you,

Kenneth M. Kaplan

From: Donald Brooks [dmkabrooks@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 8:14 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Bridge Rail Petition

Dear Ms. Currie:

Although I do not live in the San Francisco Bay area, I have been following the developments regarding the proposed suicide prevention barrier that is under consideration. I simply want to express my support for same as the moral course of action to take in order to prevent more tragedies from happening as befell my niece Casey Brooks. Yes, I am her uncle and god father. Without belaboring the arguments already noted, I see the daily pain and anguish my brother and his wife are going through as a result of this tragedy. I feel that I not only lost my niece, but my brother and sister-in-law, as well! My hope is that you and your colleagues can see past the financial aspect of this proposal and see it as I have from a family member's perspective that has lost one so dear. I find it impossible to put a price on preventing this tragedy from affecting one more family, as it has ours.

Please accept my support for the proposed barrier and let's stop the pain today.

Sincerely,

Donald Brooks

From: DICKNZOILA@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 8:53 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Bridge Suicide Barrier

Dear Mary,

I support a barrier for the GG Bridge to prevent further suicides. Sincerely,
The Reverend Zoila Schoenbrun, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Belvedere, California

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From: memichael3@comcast.net

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 8:37 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: comment re barrier

My guess is that most respondents don't want to mess with the view, at least until a loved one or friend becomes a statistic. Many years ago when I was attending Cal, there were regular jumps from the bell tower; then a glass barrier was erected, and lives were saved.

Suicide is most often an impulsive act, particularly when the means is the Golden Gate Bridge; folks with severe mental health diagnoses want to end the pain, but not necessarily their life. A barrier would provide another chance to find help --- some will commit suicide by other means, but studies have shown that most who are stopped before the jump do not later commit suicide.

If the barrier had been erected years ago, the \$ cost would have been less, but this is not a good basis for voting against the options now.

Maureen Michael
Lafayette, CA

From: Mary Currie [MCurrie@goldengate.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2008 7:48 AM
To: Sarah Sonn; Molly Graham
Cc: Jeffrey Y Lee; Danielle Borden
Subject: comment to upload

Comment is from: jboothmetwallyfund@sbcglobal.net on July 30, 2008

"The more obstacles you can throw up to potential suicides ... the more you move it away from being an impulsive act. And once you've done that, you take a lot of people out of the gam."

from article in the New York Times - *The Urge to End It All ...* By SCOTT ANDERSON.
Published: July 6, 2008 ... Scott Anderson is a frequent contributor to the magazine. ...
www.nytimes.com/2008/07/06/magazine/06suicide-t.html -

Anna-Marie Booth
July 30, 2008

JOSEPH BOOTH-METWALLY SCHOLARSHIP
P.O. Box 475158
San Francisco, CA 94147
<http://www.JosephBooth-MetwallyScholarship.org>

Mary Currie, Public Affairs Director
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129

415-923-2222

-----Original Message-----

From: shimshim@comcast.net [mailto:shimshim@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 2:07 PM

To: Steve Cohen
Subject: RE: BOSTONIAN: Public Hearing: How to work on WOBX Radio Boston's Next Development Decision

Dear Mr. Cohen: Thanks for the heads up! I'd be happy to meet with you and any other members of the board team. I would very much like to represent my views to the board in person.

Clearly the public has every right to express their views on the radio license. And you are right. What does not is that the decision process has taken on an "American Idol" type structure, with people invited to vote online, and without regard to what requires their votes to be made public. The violation of these rules may potentially constitute a conflict of interest in the decision as to whether or not to issue a license at all. According to the FCC ruling, FCC representatives have signed in their opinion to the board of which I'm a member. That I'm, as FCC representative, representing 100% of the over 1000 people who live in the Bay Area, does not shield me from being held up to a broader scrutiny. I'm in this property and have professional judgment company. My point is that this is a head - a very poor way to determine what "the public" wants. If the board wants to hold a public hearing, then the board must make a list of every date, time, and just plenty of discussion to maximize the participation level of each Bay Area

More importantly, it is unlikely that the radio license will ever take an "American Idol" format, and should it do. Clearly this is a matter of public safety and health, life and death. The radio license should be held because it is a PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE, not because it's profitable. I would be anything but if you in a room, some of those other radio license would have been. Can you imagine Politicians voting in favor of "holding" their usual "BOSTON Boston" and "The Golden Gate Bridge" in the only high school in the world of that radio high school last month. But I'm not a radio license. People are not to make the Bay Area an obstacle that it is a good possibility to bring down the bridge.

From the board of public safety, the "holding" on the licensing of the radio license will continue until an other hearing, and I don't have been anyone on the board could be with the board hearing.

And they are already doing it. I'm not.

Jan Tarantino

From: Dsga22@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 4:15 PM
To: Jan Tarantino
Cc: Dsga22@aol.com
Subject: SEIS on Suicide Physical Barrier
Attachments: Moylan GGBridge Dist.doc

Dear Ms Tarantino:

Please find attached and below my letter addressed to Mr. Moyan, President of the GG Bridge District, concerning the Bridge Barrier. Because I am asking for some additional work and information from the staff and consultants to be completed and made public before the end of the comment period, August 25th, I would appreciate your delivering my letter in the most expeditious manner. But I would also like them to receive a hard copy.

I enjoyed discussing these matters with Dennis Mulligan and Board Member Riley, Dr. Blaustien, as well as others

Thanks for you help.

Donald S Green
415 751 4992

Copy of letter attached.

John Moylan
President, Golden Gate Bridge H&T District
PO Box 9000
Presidio Station,
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

Dear Mr. Moylan:

I attended the recent workshop on the Suicide Physical Protection Device held at the SF Ferry Building. I would like to congratulate you, the Board, staff and consultants for an excellent display and making persons available to discuss the alternatives.

I have attended many SEIS meetings and workshops. This was the best.

I am a strong supporter of moving ahead with a barrier. I served for a period on the San Francisco Mental Health Advisory Board and am aware of the value of the barrier in reducing impulsive suicides.

I have served as a consultant to many organizations facing the kind of financial and non financial benefits and costs the Board is now considering. Reading through the criteria adopted for review, I see the need for additional information from staff and consultants prior to your decision to select one of the options, and moving into financing plans.

Please see if you can obtain the following information for your use and for the public to consider in making their comments on the SEIS.

1. Provide more refined estimates of capital costs and annual maintenance/operating costs for Alt 1, 2 and 3. The current estimates provide no basis for taking costs into account since they are all the same. Yet cost is an important criterion for your selection among alternatives.
2. Provide a ranking or qualitative assessment of the effectiveness of each alternative in achieving a likely reduction in the rate of successful suicide attempts. The Barriers present a physical barrier to surmount; the net

7/24/2008

presents a discouraging view to the jumper, as well as if attempted, the unlikely ability to successfully crawl out of the net.

To the extent one or more of the barriers is deemed physically less likely to prevent successful overcoming the barrier than others, this information would go a long way to help the Board select among alternatives.

3. The information on visual/aesthetic differences among the alternatives is clear. The net is least detrimental from virtually all view points, on and of the bridge, for the greatest number of viewers. Thus I am in favor of the net.

If it were at least as effective, and not less so, than the fence, I would vote for it. Only if it were reported to be less effective, would I move to choosing among the fence alternatives.

If the net is equally effective, visually less of a negative impact, then the only determinant left to consider is cost. If the costs are equal among alternatives, both capital and operating, then I would still choose the net.

If the net had lower combined costs of capital and operation, it would be the obvious choice for me and I presume the Board.

Please approach staff and consultants to review the design, manufacture, installation and operating costs of each alternative and report to the Board shortly on any results that would assist the Board to decide, considering cost differences, rather than taking cost out of the process.

To decide to move ahead with the "best" alternative would be a pig in a poke without better information on the two points raised:

1. Relative costs
2. Relative Effectiveness as a Physical Deterrent.

Thank you for the successful efforts made thus far, and good luck in your pursuit of additional information at this time.

I would appreciate it if you would send copies of my letter to the other Board members.

Yours Truly,

Donald S Green
555 Laurel St.
San Francisco, CA 94118.

tel: 415 751 4992

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John Moylan
President, Golden Gate Bridge H&T District
PO Box 9000
Presidio Station,
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

Dear Mr Mylan:

I attended the recent workshop on the Suicide Physical Protection Device held at the SF Ferry Building. I would like to congratulate you, the Board, staff and consultants for an excellent display and making persons available to discuss the alternatives.

I have attended many SEIS meetings and workshops. This was the best.

I am a strong supporter of moving ahead with a barrier. I served for a period on the San Francisco Mental Health Advisory Board and am aware of the value of the barrier in reducing impulsive suicides.

I have served as a consultant to many organizations facing the kind of financial and non financial benefits and costs the Board is now considering. Reading through the criteria adopted for review, I see the need for additional information from staff and consultants prior to your decision to select one of the options, and moving into financing plans.

Please see if you can obtain the following information for your use and for the public to consider in making their comments on the SEIS.

1. Provide more refined estimates of capital costs and annual maintenance/operating costs for Alt 1, 2 and 3. The current estimates provide no basis for taking costs into account since they are all the same.

Yet cost is an important criterion for your selection among alternatives.

2. Provide a ranking or qualitative assessment of the effectiveness of each alternative in achieving a likely reduction in the rate of successful suicide attempts. The Barriers present a physical barrier to surmount; the net presents a discouraging view to the jumper, as well as if attempted, the unlikely ability to successfully crawl out of the net.

To the extent one or more of the barriers is deemed physically less likely to prevent successful overcoming the barrier than others, this information would go a long way to help the Board select among alternatives.

3. The information on visual/aesthetic differences among the alternatives is clear. The net is least detrimental from virtually all view points, on and of the bridge, for the greatest number of viewers. Thus I am in favor of the net.

If it were at least as effective, and not less so, than the fence, I would vote for it. Only if it were reported to be less effective, would I move to choosing among the fence alternatives.

If the net is equally effective, visually less of a negative impact, then the only determinant left to consider is cost. If the costs are equal among alternatives, both capital and operating, then I would still choose the net.

If the net had lower combined costs of capital and operation, it would be the obvious choice for me and I presume the Board.

Please approach staff and consultants to review the design, manufacture, installation and operating costs of each alternative and report to the Board shortly on any results that would assist the Board to decide, considering cost differences, rather than taking cost out of the process.

To decide to move ahead with the "best" alternative would be a pig in a poke without better information on the two points raised:

1. Relative costs
2. Relative Effectiveness as a Physical Deterrent.

Thank you for the successful efforts made thus far, and good luck in your pursuit of additional information at this time.

I would appreciate it if you would send copies of my letter to the other Board members.

Yours Truly,

Donald S Green
555 Laurel St
San Francisco, CA 94118.

From: paul goercke [pfg26@webtv.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 10:23 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: Favor the Barrier

Kindly consider this a vote FOR an acceptable barrier to preclude the wasting of life from the Golden Gate Bridge. Just as fire escapes do not impose a negative look to buildings, neither should a prevention system affect the appearance of the bridge.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Paul F. Goercke, Ed. D.
174 Ellis St. #701,
San Francisco, CA
94102

From: James Ward [jimward@ststephenschurch.org]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:54 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: For Bridge Barrier

Friends,

It is time we addressed this issue and remove this death-trap.

The Rev. James S. Ward, Rector
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
3 Bayview Ave. Belvedere, CA 94920
jimward@ststephenschurch.org

From: Marilyn Nichols [mynic-sf@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 6:54 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Fw: Barrier designs

I meant the horizontal bars were nuts and the thin vertical ones are very acceptable. MN

Marilyn Nichols
150 Lombard St. #102
SF CA 94111
415-544-9158

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Marilyn Nichols <mynic-sf@sbcglobal.net>

To: suicidebarrier@goldengate.org

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 6:28:43 PM

Subject: Barrier designs

Having become more educated about the strange impulsiveness of the suicide-prone I'm in favor of a barrier but NOT in favor of the designs shown with vertical bars -- how nuts is that? It's a virtual ladder over the side. Is there anyway to make the horizontal bars thinner?

Marilyn Nichols
150 Lombard St. #102
SF CA 94111
415-544-9158

From: Jean Hull [mailto:broncosbooks@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 1:36 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Barrier on golden gate bridge YES

Perhaps you will recognize my name as my daughter, Kathy, impulsively went over your rail

October 26, 2003. Please raise the rail. I don't care which design is chosen, but please choose to erect an appropriate barrier to stop the killing off your bridge.

Jean Hull

-----Original Message-----

From: Alan Marcus [mailto:almarcus@pacbell.net]

Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 3:15 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: barrier

I am writing to support a barrier on the bridge. I think that if it saves one life(and I think it will save many) it is worth doing. All the designs seem attractive and, after a short time, will never be noticed. I love the bridge, but love life more.

Leila Marcus

Dear Ms. Currie, I'm writing from across the country in Madison, Connecticut BUT I'm as worried as many of you San Franciscans about the Golden Gate bridge barrier. I just lost my 17 year old granddaughter to the bridge in January and haven't gotten over the loss yet. I will be visiting my son in Tiburon the end of August and dread going over the bridge with all it's sad memories. Hopefully people will realize that a barrier may save a life - it could be your child or grandchild! Please help get that barrier build so we don't lose any more loved ones

Sincerely, Dorothy R. Brooks.

From: George Brown [mailto:george@notticpa.com]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 12:02 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Bridge Barrier

Dear Ms. Currie,

I want to let you know that I am strongly in favor of having a bridge barrier, preferably the net option. Once this is installed, hundreds and perhaps thousands of lives will be saved for as long as the bridge is in existence.

Please support a suicide barrier.

Thankyou,

George Brown
Notti & Company LLP
10 G Street
San Rafael, CA 94901
P (415)256-8301
F(415) 256-1103

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kim and Don Brooks [mailto:6105@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 8:47 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Bridge Rail

Dear Ms. Currie,

I am writing to implore you to support, as we do, a bridge barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge to prevent the many many suicides that occur off of that bridge. Saving lives is far more important than worrying about how the bridge will look aesthetically with a barrier. For those of us who have loved ones who took their lives off of this bridge, it is inconsequential for us to consider the aesthetic impact that a barrier will have if it will prevent further loss of life. And it will do just that.

Yours truly,
Kim and Don Brooks
2150 Parkview Ave
Abington, PA 19001
6105@comcast.net

From: Jim Downey [mailto:jdowney@pacmedcap.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 5:35 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Barrier

Dear Ms. Currie:

Please consider this email in support of Alternative 1a for the barrier. This option does not disturb the aesthetics of the bridge, and might deter some suicides.

Thank you.

Jim

James K. Downey
Pacific Media Capital
100 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1280
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Direct: 310-587-0070
Fax: 310-564-0416
Cell: 917-696-8145

jdowney@pacmedcap.com

From: Este Cantor [mailto:estecantor@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 10:51 AM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Golden Gate bridge barrier

Dear Mary,

I am an Episcopal priest in the Marin area and in the last few years we have had 5 teenage suicides, 2 of them from fatal jumps from the Golden Gate bridge.

I don't believe those who say that if the bridge was not an option people would just find another way. It is too easy, too dramatic, too available. This barrier will save lives, and there are few actions that would save so many lives so easily. Please do what you can to forward the installation of the suicide barrier. It will save the lives of uncounted young people in Marin county as well as adults all over the area.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Este Gardner Cantor

From: NOADKAPLAN@aol.com [mailto:NOADKAPLAN@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 03, 2008 1:30 PM
To: Mary Currie
Cc: kaplan721@yahoo.com; joanieboyle@earthlink.net
Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Barrier

Dear Mary Currie,

Last December 28, we lost our beloved son Adam at the bridge. He was diagnosed with Bi-polar disorder a year earlier and had stopped taking his prescribed medication. He was 24 years old.

We strongly believe he was in a psychotic mind state and that his thinking was most certainly delusional. He made an impulsive move to end the pain and torment he must have been experiencing in that moment. The bridge presented a far too easy, quick and sure method.

Adam was not a violent person in any way. Had there been a proper barrier on the bridge and not just the four foot railing that exists, it may have deterred him from jumping and could have bought us additional

time to further assist him. We don't believe that he would have sought another means to end his life, and that it was precisely the easy access that drew him to the bridge.

We deeply love our son and now must endure along with Adam's brother, extended family, friends and community, this unspeakable, unimaginable and unacceptable loss.

A barrier at the bridge will save lives and must be built. At other suicide magnets around the world, this has been done with great success... The Empire State Building, The Eiffel Tower, The Ellington Bridge in Washington State, to name a few.

To all of you who have a voice in this decision process, we implore you to consider the complete and utter devastation a suicide leaves in it's wake.

The Golden Gate Bridge is a magnet and building a barrier will add a significant impediment to the impulsivity of those contemplating suicide.

Sincerely,

Christine and Ken Kaplan
925-937-6072

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From: Ariell gross [mailto:arielldynamic@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 5:40 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: golden gate bridge rail

Mary,

I am fully supportive of a suicide prevention rail being built on the golden gate bridge. It is completely necessary for countless reasons. I graduated from high school last month. My senior year of high school was the hardest thing I have ever faced, and then in the middle of it I lost one of my closest friends. I lost her because she suffered from depression and attachment disorder, and she did not know how to handle life. She chose to end her life and jump off of the bridge. I am confident she would be sitting with me today if she didn't have such an easy and discrete option of jumping off of the golden gate bridge. Tears still come to my eyes every time I drive over the bridge or look at it from a close enough view like the marin headlands. Please, I am begging you, don't let anyone else have to go through what I have been through. Add a real railing to the bridge.

Ariell Gross
102 Harvard Dr.
Larkspur, CA 94939

I am easiest to reach through email.

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier

Dear Ms. Curry,

As a 25-year close friend of the Brooks family I wish to express my full support for the installation of the suicide barrier. I honestly find it heartless *not* to take an action now which, if taken when the bridge was originally constructed, would have already saved up to 2,000 lives.

Yes, the past is behind us, but my question to those who favor maintaining the view over investing a relatively-insignificant sum to prevent suicide is simple. What will pass through your mind the next time a life is lost, and the next, and the next, knowing full well that you, personally, are to some extent responsible?

Respectfully,

Wallace S. Hubbard
Hot Springs Village,
Arkansas
Phone: 501-922-0334

From: Richard E. Helmer [mailto:richard@helmerhome.com] **On Behalf Of** Richard E. Helmer
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2008 4:45 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier

Dear Ms. Currie,

My name is Richard Helmer, and I serve as a priest at Church of Our Saviour in Mill Valley. I also serve as coordinator of the Youth Addiction and Suicide Prevention Coalition, a network of churches, non-profits, and professionals working to overcome the many challenges our youth face today.

Over the past two years of ministry here, I have been witness to the terrible effects on families and the greater community when two youth in this area took their own lives by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge.

I have read the statistical background on the effectiveness of suicide barriers, particularly on national landmarks which have become “suicide magnets.” The evidence seems to me clear – a suicide barrier would not only reduce or eliminate jumps off the bridge, but it would also effectively lower the overall suicide rate in this area.

The economic cost alone of the many lives lost jumping off the bridge justifies the expense of a suicide barrier. The moral necessity for a barrier in light of the incalculable human cost of each of these tragedies seems to me absolutely clear.

We cannot equivocate on this matter any longer. Indeed, I feel we in the Bay Area never should have, and the barrier is long overdue. We owe it to all those who have suffered tragic loss, and to our children now and those of tomorrow.

I urge support of an effective suicide barrier on the bridge and will throw my passionate support with those who are advocating for this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

God's peace,

Richard Helmer

The Rev. Richard E. Helmer
Rector

The Episcopal
Church of Our Saviour

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Mill Valley, CA 94941

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<http://oursaviourmv.org/podcasts>

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge suicide prevention barrier

Ms. Currie,

I am in favor of a suicide deterrent of some kind at the Golden Gate Bridge. I find it unconscionable that nothing has been done for all these years. We have known for quite a while how frequently people are killing themselves and I cannot support standing by idly and allowing it to continue.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Lee Anderson
Lee@Photolee.com
www.photolee.com

2409 Brentwood Pl
Alexandria, VA 22306
703 765 8833

From: Mary Currie [MCurrie@goldengate.org]

From: Rob Leonard [mailto:rrsleonard@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 1:59 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: I support the suicide barrier

Dear Mary,

I am a Tiburon resident and father of two and would like to add my support to the initiative to construct a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate bridge. This is, in my opinion, a simple and obvious way to save lives.

Regards,

Rob Leonard
300 Cecilia Way
Tiburon, CA

From: Sarah Sonn
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 3:19 PM
To: Danielle Borden
Subject: FW: in support of a suicide barrier

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
More comment fun.

From: Gregg Johnson [mailto:gjohnson@bia.com]
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 2:52 PM
To: Mary Currie
Cc: Correspondence File
Subject: in support of a suicide barrier

Ms. Currie - Please recognize me as a strong supporter of a suicide barrier. I have a close friend who lost

a daughter to the bridge, as have many other loving families. This tragedy persists in all too large numbers of deaths. How in good conscience can anyone in authority allow this problem to continue, when the solution is so manageable.

Please act immediately to erect a barrier. Thank you.

Gregg Johnson
10849 Stanmore Drive
Potomac, MD 20854

Subject: In Support of Barrier on Golden Gate Bridge

Importance: High

Dear Mary

Please accept this email as a letter of support for the proposed barrier to help prevent suicides on the Golden Gate Bridge.

I am a concerned citizen of the United Kingdom, who spends a lot of time in San Francisco.

Very recently the documentary "The Bridge" aired in the UK and I cannot tell you how shocked both myself and all of my friends were at what we saw. We live in a civilized society where people who are vulnerable should be protected. The research shows that people who are prevented from jumping at the bridge do not go and try to commit suicide elsewhere. The Bridge is dangerous and not only for people who are vulnerable and about to take their own lives, I also hear that other innocent people have lost their lives as a result of the barrier being too low.

Please – do the right thing. Take responsibility and raise the barrier.

Kind Regards

Jo

Jo Critchley
Accenture Learning
Mobile: 07917 593 341

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From: Noah Kaplan [mailto:kaplan721@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:12 AM
To: Mary Currie
Cc: Ken Kaplan
Subject: My Advocation of Bridge Barrier

Hi Mary,

My brother took his life from the bridge in december. He was diagnosed with bipolar disorder a year prior and was off his medication. I know his decision was hardly a decision; It was an impulsive reaction made at the depths of his despair. He no doubt had the bridge in the back of his mind as an easy, accessible, and sure-thing option. I don't believe he would have gone on to find other means to end his suffering, as he understood in right mind how devastating this would be for us.

Please consider my support and let me know if you would like any additional information.

Thank you,

Noah

(925) 708-4014

July 30, 2008

Dear Ms. Currie,

I lost my 24 year old nephew, Adam Kaplan, at the Golden Gate Bridge last December. Adam was in an early phase of awareness about his mood disorder, which can take years to fully understand, accept and manage. We strongly feel that his suicide was an impulsive act, and that a barrier would have deterred him, giving us more time to help him.

To those who suffer from depression and other mood disorders, the GG Bridge is like a loaded gun, but both more accessible and lethal. As difficult as it was to watch, the documentary film "The Bridge", it clearly shows how very easy it is to climb over the railing.

Mood disorders and mental illness are unfortunately not commonly understood by the general population, which is evident in the objections to building a barrier. Yet, other cities with structures that were also suicide magnets were able to build barriers, and thus dramatically reduce or eliminate suicides from them. If we viewed suicides as accidents (mistakes), there would be no objection to measures needed to prevent them, not unlike common safety barriers on roads and highways. Unfortunately, a jump from the bridge -- an irrational act made during a severe mood state -- is a final mistake. There is no turning back, no chance to learn from this mistake. A critically relevant study, mentioned in a recent article in the New York Times ("The Urge to End it All", July 6, 2008), showed that over 90% of those who intended to jump from the bridge, but were saved through intervention, did not subsequently take their lives. Their episode at the bridge was a life-changing, and fortunately for them, a life-saving one.

I personally feel that raising the height of the railing would be the best suicide deterrent, and I have expressed my choice and submitted comments at www.ggsuicidebarrier.com. I am writing to you personally to share my nephew Adam's story with you, which I feel he would want me to do.

Although Adam was struggling in the weeks prior to his death, he had recently graduated from SF State University and was hoping to pursue a master's degree. When he drove to the bridge, he was in a state of depression and unfortunately made a desperate act before his mood shifted or help could be offered. From what I have learned since Adam's death, I know that loved ones of others who took their lives from the bridge would tell you similar stories.

Adam's obituary and guestbook are posted on <http://www.sfgate.com/c/obituaries/>. If you search for KAPLAN, you will see Adam Kaplan. I hope you will take a few moments to read his obituary and perhaps open his guest book to read some of the many loving notes and poems.

Please share this letter with the GG Bridge Board of Directors and others as needed, to help them understand the personal side of this issue.

Sincerely,

Jeanie Boyle

774 Joost Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127; daytime phone: 415.343.7257

-----Original Message-----

From: Gregory Claw [mailto:gregory@claw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 4:53 PM
To: Mary Carrie
Subject: Suicide Barrier - Solution

Hi Mary,

I enjoyed reading an article about the Golden Gate Bridge suicide barrier by Rachel Gordon in this morning's Chronicle.

A suicide barrier need not be obtrusive or overly expensive. There is a cannon currently in use by the military, and some police gang control units, which shoots a net out at high velocity. I would think that it could be updated to marry a motion detector and a swiveling directional cannon to shoot a large net around a falling body, and then secure the captured person with a rope suspended from the unit itself. The victim could then be safely rescued. This device could be totally self contained, and mass produced to cover the entire length of the bridge.

Once a system like this existed and worked in San Francisco, just the knowledge of its deployment could cut potential jumpers in half. The system could be used on any bridge, and have a significant impact on suicides from jumping.

I am not a developer or seller of any devices like this, so I am not trying to hock a product to you. But I do think something like this would be visually unobtrusive, yet effective.

Let me know what you think.

Greg Claw
Larkspur, CA

From: nettrotter@aim.com [mailto:nettrotter@aim.com]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 7:19 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: suicide barrier

Sorry, I remembered the cut-off date of 25 August but did not realize there was a time limit of 430pm (seems rather silly for email). I hope someone reads this.

I have already sent a letter with my comments on the draft proposals but I have some general comments. Having experienced a family member's suicide (during the latest two year environmental study), I have to say it is very depressing watching nothing being done year after year (and suicide after suicide). I heard that some poll says that a majority of people are against any suicide barrier (mainly to preserve current look of bridge) but I would point out to you that a majority of Americans were against seat belts when they were first introduced but it was decided that public safety required it, despite everyone's objections. Similarly, many people didn't want suicide fencing on the Empire State Building but public safety required it. So what stops us from enforcing public safety on the Golden Gate Bridge?

I believe city officials, bridge officials, etc. have been adequately warned that there is a public danger here. Having been warned, it is your duty to do something about it: either construct a suicide barrier or prohibit pedestrian/bike traffic on the bridge. Sorry but those are your choices. Failing to do anything makes you morally and legally at fault for future suicides.

It is your responsibility as a city official to take action.

--Laurie Lew-McCrigler

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-----Original Message-----

From: The Wards [mailto:wardlings@earthlink.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 7:58 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: suicide barrier

Please include me in your count of those in favor of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Janet Ward

From: Nora Turner [mailto:NTurner@allcalifornia.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 10:56 AM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Suicide Barrier

I am very much in favor of a suicide barrier. Seeing the statistics, and knowing that the bridge makes it "too easy" to commit suicide is reason enough to provide a barrier. I will leave it to the experts to decide which design is best. If everyone else in the bay area had the suicide death of a friend or loved one, they would all be in agreement that a suicide barrier is an absolutely necessary.

I also do not think this should get down to being an issue of majority rules. The civilized thing to do is erect a barrier.

Thank you for attention to my opinion.

Nora Turner
Kentfield

From: Chlebus, Andrew [mailto:ACHlebus@eapdlaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 6:43 AM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Support for Suicide Barrier

Dear Ms. Currie,

I urge you to support the construction of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. I commute daily over a tall bridge in Massachusetts (the Braga Bridge in Fall River) that has had a barrier for as long as I can remember. It has been many years since I can recall a report of a suicide from that bridge. I have to believe that a similar approach in your case would save so many lives and help countless families.

Respectfully,

Andrew J. Chlebus
Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP
2800 Financial Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Direct: 401.276.6473
General: 401.274.9200
Direct Fax: 888.325.9010
Office Fax: 401.276.6611

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From: Lynn Barr [mailto:lynnwbarr@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 8:35 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Yes on Suicide Barrier

Dear Ms. Currie,

We MUST have a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Please do the right thing and get that barrier up soon. The Golden Gate Bridge is too glamorous a landmark not to be protected from people jumping off. I believe there are people who would be alive today if it weren't so easy to jump off that bridge. There are so many other places a person could jump into the ocean or onto the rocks and commit suicide, and yet very rarely do we hear of that happening.

It truly is because the Golden Gate Bridge is famous and so very accessible that there are so many suicides. Please stop wasting time and build a barrier today.

Sincerely,
Lynn Barr
4 Via Capistrano
Tiburon, CA 94920

With Windows Live for mobile, your contacts travel with you. [Connect on the go.](#)

From: Beverly Nadler [beverlynadler@optonline.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 3:43 PM

To: Mary Currie

Cc: joycebarrie@aol.com

Subject: golden gate bridge barrier

Dear Mary:

I support the suicide barrier for the golden gate bridge.

If people are so miserably unhappy with their lives and want to kill themselves, I suppose its their right. But considering the heartbreak it causes their family and friends, we certainly don't have to make it easy for them.

With Appreciation for your efforts.

Beverly Nadler

=====

Beverly Nadler

Speaker, Author, Reprogramming Coach

Book "Vibrational Harmony": http://www.beverlynadler.com/html/vibrational_harmony_book.html

Newsletter: blank email to liveyourvisionnewsletter-subscribe@topica.com

Website: www.beverlynadler.com

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: beverly@beverlynadler.com

203-373-1943

From: Jill Turner [jillebeany@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 7:21 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: golden gate bridge suicide barrier

Hi, my name is Jill Turner and I wanted to express my support for the suicide barrier. I think it is more important than anything else that the bridge authority could otherwise spend money on. There would be nothing more helpful in saving lives on the golden gate bridge and preventing suicide all over the bay area than this suicide barrier. Yeah..that's about it.

Jill Turner

From: Mnorthny@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2008 4:22 PM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier
Dear Ms. Currie,

In the abstract, it may seem that a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is unnecessary. But when you have witnessed the agony and pain that the absence of a suicide barrier can cause a family who has lost a child, the choice is clear. Please install a suicide barrier. The cost is insignificant in relation to the lives that will be saved.

Mike North
69 Beach Rd
Belvedere, CA 94920

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From: KR5133@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 6:47 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: golden gate bridge suicide barrier

I think it is imperative that you build this barrier now, before more lives are lost. Please!

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From: Mary Currie [MCurrie@goldengate.org]

From: John.Brooks@wellsfargo.com [mailto:John.Brooks@wellsfargo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 1:22 PM

To: Mary Currie; evem@sfsuicide.org; melblausteinmd@yahoo.com; jtagart@pfnc.org; pmuller@mullerandsmith.com; kholmes@co.marin.ca.us; davyhull@gmail.com; pk057@yahoo.com

Subject: RE: FYI....we had an error in the cost of the net alternative and I wanted you to know that we are working on correcting this, we are sorry for this error!

So take \$50MM divided by 2,000 (closer to the real number of lives lost, including my daughter Casey whose body washed out to sea) and we get \$25,000 per life lost. If there was a way to hit up the survivors of the deceased for their pro rata share I bet we get to the \$50MM. My daughter's life was worth 25 large.

But all sarcasm aside, if the issue really comes down to just money, why can't we fix this? I mean over a half dozen MORE deaths since Casey died?? How can we live with ourselves? I can't.

John R. Brooks
Managing Director, Media Originations
Wells Fargo Foothill
601 California Street, Suite 704
San Francisco, CA 94108
Office: 415.392.9309
Cell: 415.516.7199
ëFax: 415.520.0439
email: john.brooks@wellsfargo.com

From: Mary Currie [mailto:MCurrie@goldengate.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 1:02 PM
To: Eve Meyer; Mel Blaustein MD; jtagart@pfnc.org; Paul Muller; Ken Holmes; dave hull; Patrick Hines; Brooks, John
Subject: FYI....we had an error in the cost of the net alternative and I wanted you to know that we are working on correcting this, we are sorry for this error!

This correction has been provided to the media, and I wanted you to also know about this error

Yesterday afternoon, I reported that the four (4) railing-oriented build alternatives were estimated to cost \$40 to \$50 million and the net was estimated to cost \$25 million. In fact all five build alternatives, including the net, cost \$40 to \$50 million.

The cost for the net, as reported yesterday was inaccurate and reflects an earlier, older estimate, made by the consultants working with us in the preparation of the DIER. Unfortunately, the figure of \$25 was published in error in the DEIR, in lieu of the updated total cost number.

The updated estimate reflects the total cost of the alternative, including design, and construction management costs as well as the anticipated construction cost plus contingencies. It also reflects the material costs, since the netting as proposed is marine grade stainless steel with an international orange colored protective coating. It also includes the "snooper truck" cost.

We will be working with the consultants today to correct this error in the DEIR.

Mary Currie, Public Affairs Director
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129

415-923-2222

From: john hines [jkevin057@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 10:15 AM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Kevin Hines Bridge Rail Foundation
Hello Mary,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing to express my opinion as to the bridge rail issue.

I pray that this is the year when the Golden Gate Bridge District and board members make the right decision to end death at the GGB by way of suicide. It's already been 7 decades too late.

I am for the barrier as you already know.

This time I think it is more important than ever that we show unity and raise the rail.

I realize that you and the board have a tough job ahead of you and have for quite some time. I also realize that the numbers against the rail are far greater than the numbers for.

I hope you realize the damage these unnecessary deaths cause the the families left behind.

The families never get over the horrible loss of their loved one.

My family will never forget what happened to me and how it shaped me years following my jump. I have been blessed with a second chance at life.

Give the rest of the people out their thinking of suicide off of the GGB a second chance by raising the rail. Show them that you know what happens when you reduce access to lethal means of suicide. Show the world that San Franciscans are as progressive as Paris France, or Toronto Canada when it comes to prevention of suicide.

Show the world that you the bridge board care about the lively-hood of those suffering from mental illnesses or mental health issues.

Remember Mary,

I jumped from the bridge in 2000, when I was at my most vulnerable. I was hearing voices (auditory hallucinations) telling me I had to die, screaming in my head that there was no other option. I could not see the phones, I was in what psychologists call a tunnel vision. All I saw was death, I believed that there was no hope.

Give those who go to the GGB to die by suicide a glimmer of hope. Show them there are better options, show them you value there lives even if they seem to have lost value for themselves.

I wish you good luck and I thank you for all of the work you've done so far with the EIR. This is a step on the tall stairway to healing for this city's black sheep.

An old Jewish proverb once said, "If You Save One Life, You Save The World!"

I am an optomist at heart I believe that this time the outcome will be different, that you and the board won't just decide by numbers, but you will look into your hearts and find the strength to Save the World, by sparing lives, by giving people the second chance they need to find hope and a want to live.

Best,

Kevin Hines

415.407.9624

jkevin057@yahoo.com

Speaker, National Mental Health Awareness Campaign

Board Member, Nor Cal Chapter American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Board Member/Speaker, The Bridge Rail Foundation

Board Member/Speaker, Mental Health Board of San Francisco

Patsy Whala

From: Jan Tarantino
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 7:13 AM
To: Patsy Whala
Subject: FW: Suicide Barrier Proposal

From: Ron Henggeler [mailto:sfbison@pacbell.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 11:48 PM
To: Jan Tarantino
Subject: re: Suicide Barrier Proposal

Please do NOT build a suicide barrier of any sort on the Golden Gate Bridge. The experience of walking on the bridge AS IT IS is simply MUCH TOO PRECIOUS! To create a barrier of any sort is to imprison forever the exhilarating, spiritually-uplifting, nearly religious feeling that one has when walking on the bridge.

Consider this:

If one goes to any state or national park in the USA, (take Muir Woods as an example), one encounters friendly and informed park service personnel who are on site to give directions, give tours, answer questions, and even be handed a camera to snap photos of the visitors who want pictures to take home for remembrance.

For the 48 to 50 million dollars that it would cost to create a physical barrier, why not better spend money creating a new job description. During hours when the bridge is open to pedestrians, have two or three people, dressed in easily recognized uniforms, walking the walkway, being friendly and informed ambassadors for the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco. As part of their job, they would also be well-trained in spotting a potential suicide, and well-versed in dealing with the possible crisis. I believe that if such personnel were on the bridge (and imagine. . . had been on the bridge for the past 10 or 20 years), and EVERYONE knew that such personnel were present, potential suicides would have second thoughts about using the bridge as an easy access for their tragic way of ending their own life.

Suicide is a terrible event that cannot be taken back once it has occurred. The family and friends who lose a loved one to suicide,

never get over their horrible loss. But building a suicide barrier is another type of terrible event that will not be able to be turned back once it's up. The loss of an enormous 'only in San Francisco' experience, that is, of the amazing unfettered freedom of 'Walking the Golden Gate' is too much to lose. The sacrifice is too great. It too would be the unbearable loss of a loved one

Please, find another way to solve this dilemma. Consider some friendly faces in uniforms who would be there to help everyone.

Ron Henggeler
915 Fulton St.
San Francisco, Ca.
94117

[Http://www.ronhenggeler.com](http://www.ronhenggeler.com)

From: JosephBoothMetwally Scholarship [jboothmetwallyfund@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 8:29 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Life, first; aesthetics, second - My son might have been saved by a barrier

This is the first of several comments in support of the urgent need for a barrier.

Note that a wonderful 17 year old boy was lost to the world and our family because of a lack of a barrier on the lovely Golden Gate Bridge.

Don't let this happen again!

Life first; aesthetics, second.

Anna-Marie Booth

Mother

<http://www.JosephBooth-Metwally.info>

JOSEPH BOOTH-METWALLY SCHOLARSHIP

P.O. Box 475158

San Francisco, CA 94147

<http://www.JosephBooth-MetwallyScholarship.org>

From: CHERIE PINSKY [cherie.pinsky@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 11:45 AM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: my comment regarding the suicide barrier

Hello and thank you for allowing me to comment.

I am in favor of ANY suicide barrier. The question of which design I prefer doesn't really interest me. The issue that needs to be decided is the construction of a suicide barrier.

It astounds me that this so-called liberal (i.e. compassionate) Bay Area population is 75 percent opposed to a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate bridge.

The lure of the Golden Gate bridge to a sensitive, romantic soul (often a teenager) is troubling. One has the young man who jumped and survived as testimony to the impulsive nature of such a final act.

I've long viewed Marin-ites as egocentric, selfish consumers. Please don't listen to their whining that a suicide barrier would "mar their view" ... please. If I chose to be mean, I would send all those smug, over-indulgent "nay-sayers to a suicide barrier" to life in Sadr City.

Please take the high road that cities all over the world with similar suicide magnets have taken, with the result that many lives that might have been destroyed (including families and friends) have been restored to health and family and happiness.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Cherie Pinsky
1925 Leavenworth Street #12
San Francisco, CA 94133

From: rengob@comcast.net

Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 2:22 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: physical deterrent

I am a long time volunteer on the SF suicide prevention telephone line. Many people who think about suicide but don't act on it go on to live happy and productive lives. It is important to go ahead with the physical deterrents planned for the Golden Gate Bridge to prevent avoidable deaths.

Helen Bogner

e-mail: rengob@comcast.net

From: Maximilian R Buck [mrb408@nyu.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:44 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Pro-Barrier

Ms. Currie,

As a young San Franciscan, please note my support of the Suicide Barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. I lost one of my best friends, Casey Brooks, to the bridge. As one of her closest friends, I can attest that her suicide was based on an impulse. In all the 13 years I knew Casey, I hadn't seen her as happy as she had been in the six months before her suicide. The golden gate is and will continue to be the perfect location for suicides such as Casey's.

I have heard arguments arguing that the sole concern of the Bridge Authorities is the traffic crossing the bridge. They say, the suicides are not their responsibility. The truth is, however, that the Golden Gate is so much more than a Bridge. It is an icon. Just as we have preserved the peaceful and accepting icon of San Francisco, it is our and their responsibility to control the icon of the Golden Gate Bridge. The landmark has largely been tainted by its reputation as a suicide destination. It IS the bridge authorities responsibility to fix this bittersweet reputation.

Sincerely,

Max Buck

From: mary.cronin@earthlink.net

Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 9:37 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Re: Barrier

Please install the net barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. My brother used the bridge to commit suicide.
Mary T. Cronin, MFT

From: johnneenan@att.net

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:06 PM

To: Henry McKenzie

Subject: Re: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier

Please make every effort to correct a long overdue problem -find the money somewhere !!!
Erect a barrier on Golden Gate Bridge to prevent people from jumping off the b ridge. I knew
a man who jumped to his death some years ago

John F Neenan

----- Original message from Henry McKenzie <sfhank@sbcglobal.net> :

Note: forwarded message attached.

From: Kate Gillespie [gillespie@3DVisions.biz]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 12:37 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Response to the Environmental Impact Report for the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier

Attachments: MMHB Letter to Bridge District EIR 2.pdf

Dear members of the Bridge District and the EIR consulting team:

Enclosed please find a letter from the Marin Mental Health Board responding to the Draft EIR. Please note our support of a physical barrier, and our requests for modifications to the draft EIR.

Suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge of great concern to us, as we believe that most of the victims jump due to various mental illnesses. We advocate for additional resources to minimize further loss of life.

We have collected additional information which may be helpful as the Bridge District explores alternatives to reduce bridge suicides. I invite you to contact me.

Kate Gillespie, Co-Chair

Marin Mental Health Board

415.896.2622 office voice

415.786.8698 cell

415.891.8338 after hours

From: DICKNZOILA@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 8:56 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Suicide Barrier for the GG Bridge

Dear Mary Curry,

I want to register my strong support for the building of a suicide barrier for the GG Bridge. I am a psychiatrist and have lost several patients by suicide from the GG Bridge. Sincerely,
Richard Schoenbrun, MD
Psychiatrist, Private Practice and Community Mental Health Services. City and County of San Francisco

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From: Bob McCaskill [bob@mccaskill.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:08 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Suicide Barrier

To the GG Bridge Board:

I think the time has come when the bridge board needs to make a decision to install a suicide barrier of some type on the bridge.

Bob McCaskill

9 Crest Road, Belvedere

From: Chris Rankin-Williams [crw@stjohnsross.org]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 10:40 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Suicide barrier

I am writing to express my strong support for the Golden Gate Bridge suicide barrier. Suicides on the bridge have an enormous impact on local faith communities. Since the opportunity exists, I think we have a moral responsibility to deter suicide on the bridge. I urge you to take every step possible to ensure this suicide barrier is put in place.

Thank you,

The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams

The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams

St. John's Episcopal Church

Ross, CA

crw@stjohnsross.org

415-456-1102 x103 (w)

415-250-7439 (c)

From: JulBH@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 10:39 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: suicide barrier

I think we need a suicide barrier..and a net under the bridge would be my choice. Julia Heimerle
resident of Larkspur,CA

Get the scoop on last night's hottest shows and the live music scene in your area - [Check out TourTracker.com!](#)

From: Henry McKenzie [sfhank@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2008 9:42 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Suicide Barrier

I support a barrier. I prefer a net for cost and aesthetics. Henry McKenzie

From: Ralph & Ludmila Brott [rlbrott@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 10:38 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

Subject: Suicide barriers

Certainly the cost of putting up barriers is worth it even if it saves only one life! But it will save many more. Emotions are volatile, they do not stay the same. I have seen "suicidal" people who have been somehow restrained, resume their lives and never try again. Removing the opportunity for a seemingly quick "out" can very often give the few minutes needed for hope to resume.

From: cvdoctah@comcast.net

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:56 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: SuicideBarrier

Dear Mary, I am definately in favor of a suicide barrier. Thanks, Rikkii Andrews (Tiburon)

From: Joe Nation [joe@joenation.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 7:15 AM
To: Mary Currie
Cc: John Brooks; Lexi Nation
Subject: Support barrier

Dear Mary,

It is time for the Bridge District to install a suicide barrier. I understand the concerns from the opposition, but they pale in comparison to the losses that occur almost every week and the devastation that families suffer. Also count me as one who will commit to raise the \$25-\$50m needed. Please forward this email to Board Members.

Thank you.

Joe Nation

Joe Nation
joe@joenation.com
Mobile: +1.415.602.2973

From: amyr-w@comcast.net

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 10:47 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: support for GG Bridge suicide barrier

Dear Ms. Currie,

I am writing to express support for the construction of a Golden Gate bridge suicide barrier.

Amy Rankin-Williams

136 Terrace Avenue

Kentfield, CA 94904

(Marin County)

From: COACHJOYCE@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 7:41 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: SUPPORT FOR THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SUICIDE BARRIER

SUPPORT FOR THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SUICIDE BARRIER

What is more important--An attractive bridege or saving lives??? I suspect one need not be a rocket scientist to answer this question!

Any human being would vote to SUPPORT THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SUICIDE BARRIER. Shouldn't saving lives be far more important than an attractive bridge that has lost so many lives and will continue to lose countless more if something isn't being done NOW to STOP this!!!

I URGE YOU TO GET THIS SUICIDE BARRIER UP NOW BEFORE YOU LOSE SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU, OR SOMEONE CLOSE TO THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT!!!

PLEASE honor Casey Brooks, a 17 year YOUNG youth who jumped off the bridge in January '08. PLEASE do not let her death mean nothing, like those before her who leapt to their deaths and those after her! PLEASE deal with this now before it happens to even one more person. PLEASE!!!

***Respectfully,
Joyce Barrie***

From: LoryEvns@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 8:30 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

Cc: nathaliepierce@yahoo.com

Subject: THE BRIDGE BARRIER

i have just read the Sunday morning paper seeing john brooks holding a picture of his daughter who committed suicide. i am shocked that 56 percent voted for a no barrier. what is wrong with our society?? have we lost our compassion for lives??? are we dead inside to not care about this issue??? i agree there should be a barrier, even if is is a icon or whatever excuse people use to support not to have one. this is an important issue. i believe strongly that the bridge is a very easy way out for people. it is a one shot deal. i believe that it is harder to get a gun, or take a ton of pills or slash your wrist to commit suicide. the bridge is too easy for people and we should want to protect others who may not be in their right minds for a time in their life when all is overwhelming. i hope the 56 percent will reconsider their decision and think about lives that could be lost. we have to think. what if it was a loved one of ours, how would we feel. i am sorry to john and his wife for their loss and hope that their message stirs the hearts of all of us to support a barrier for the golden gate bridge.

It's only a deal if it's where *you* want to go. Find your travel deal [here](#).

From: Yvonne Frazier [yvonne_frazier@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 10:27 AM

To: Suicidebarrier

the net

Did you know that the Golden Gate Bridge District has posted the five designs for the suicide deterrants with an e mail address for public comment. It only takes a minute to make your choice of the deterrants be known.

www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org

suicidebarrier@goldengate.org

Yvonne Frazier

(Yvonne Frazier Consulting)

Mailing Address: 601 Van Ness Avenue

(PMB) E3-748

San Francisco, California 94102

(415) 424-3122 Cell

(415) 379-4185 Home Based Office (8-5 M-F)

yvonne_frazier@sbcglobal.net

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From: Yvonne Frazier [yvonne_frazier@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 3:51 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

I like the nets below that would catch people. But what is most important is saving life. I could live with any of the choices that would save people who want to jump. I have worked for thirty years in the field of alcohol and drug addiction and I've seen many people who felt like they could not face another day, but it can change and life can be meaningful again.

Yvonne Frazier

(Yvonne Frazier Consulting)

Mailing Address: 601 Van Ness Avenue

(PMB) E3-748

San Francisco, California 94102

(415) 424-3122 Cell

(415) 379-4185 Home Based Office (8-5 M-F)

yvonne_frazier@sbcglobal.net

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From: Bren Frowick [bren.frowick@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 4:23 PM

To: Mary Currie

July 22, 2008

I have thought a great deal about the issue of a suicide barrier over the years, weighing the possible impact on the aesthetics of the bridge versus the potential for saving human lives, and even phrasing it in that way leads me to the belief that we, as a society, should question our preconceptions about the inevitability of the status quo. "Because we've always done it that way" is the philosophy of the simple-minded; a rigorous and constant examination of issues that affect us is the path to a better world, and it is with that precept in mind that I add my voice to those who feel a suicide barrier is a moral imperative.

I am aware that challenging the status quo will forever be an uphill battle, an open invitation to impassioned debate, with many competing viewpoints fighting to be heard and acted upon. Change comes slowly, like the proverbial supertanker going through its course corrections, but the fact that a challenge is daunting does not make it less compelling, in fact it is more so, and when the barrier that is eventually built saves its first life, those who fought to make it happen will take a satisfaction from it few people ever get to savor. Please be one of those people.

Sincerely, R. Bren Frowick

-----Original Message-----

From: Margo Komenar [mailto:komenar@komenar.com]

Sent: Friday, July 25, 2008 1:45 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Barrier

I would like to cast my voice and vote for a suicide barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge to help discourage impulsive decisions to jump, due to the symbolic draw of this particular bridge. Anything that we can do to stop preventable loss of life is our moral obligation. Money is the excuse. Ethics, humanity and responsibility are the issues. Those who are entrusted with positions of power to make decisions for the greater good are being asked to address the issues.

Millions of dollars are spent every day on lesser causes. Money is never the real reason something does not get done. One suicide is not just about losing one life. It has a permanent and devastating impact not only on the immediate family and close circle of friends, but ripples out to affect hundreds beyond that more intimate group.

Studies have shown that one suicide often inspires others who are ill to follow suit. It is my hope that my one voice will add strength to all the others asking that politics be put aside, and the value of life itself be acknowledged and protected.

Margo Komenar Donovan
Novato, CA

We must stop the deaths!

From: Phil Hoffman [Philbe@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2008 3:09 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: We must stop the deaths!

Dear Ms Currie,

I support the proposed physical suicide deterrent project for the Golden Gate Bridge. It is a shame that such a spectacular landmark and achievement has such a deadly reputation. This must be changed so we don't lose anymore lives.

Thanks,
Phillip Hoffman

From: Elizabeth Well [elizabethwell@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:51 AM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: YES - for a physical deterrent

Dear Golden Gate Transportation District Directors,

We need a physical deterrent on the Golden Gate Bridge as soon as possible.

Your website says that the study for this began in 2005. While you have been conducting this study, I have known three people who have jumped to their deaths from that bridge. Three people!! I realize that many, many more people than that have jumped, but I cannot tell you how absurd it is that as a Marin County resident I should actually know three people!

Before I was "personally" involved, I didn't care about a deterrent. I figured that if people were going to commit suicide, they would do it anyway. But my views have drastically changed. When I realized how EASY it is to jump, when I realized how world-famous the bridge is, and when I saw how these deaths were affecting our community and could have been prevented, I changed my mind. If there had been a physical suicide deterrent, I truly believe those three people would still be alive today. Having to find another, less glamorous way to die would definitely have prevented those people from ending their lives.

Please do the right thing here. Please realize that much of the public (like myself at one time) is not really informed, and please spend the time and the money to bring back the beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge to our community. Right now, when I look at it, I see a place where people go to die. You can change this. You can save lives.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wellman
4 Via Capistrano
Tiburon, CA 94920

Keep your kids safer online with Windows Live Family Safety. [Help protect your kids.](#)

From: Tiffany Vasilik [tavasilik@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 9:55 PM

To: Mary Currie

Subject: YES on the bridge barrier

Hi Marie,

I want to pledge my support for the barrier. When hearing about the other worldwide icons and their barriers, it makes more sense that we too provide a barrier to prevent suicides. Based on the architectural options, it appears to me that they will still preserve the beauty of the bridge while guarding against those who are suffering enough to want to jump off. Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,

Tiffany Dunn

From: bayfinns@comcast.net [mailto:bayfinns@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:44 AM
To: Mary Currie
Subject: Yes to- Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier

Dear Ms. Currie,

I am writing in support of the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier project. I do believe it would save lives.

Thank you very much!
Kevin Finn
Tiburon, Ca.

From: Mark Lampert [lampert@bvflp.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2008 10:41 PM

To: Jeffrey Y Lee

Subject: Barrier comment

Mr. Lee,

I am surprised that there is no alternative which employs a translucent material for the the majority of the barrier, thereby minimizing the visual, aesthetic impact. Has this been considered?

Thanks you.

Mark Lampert

San Francisco

From: Greco, Elizabeth M [elizabeth.greco@va.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 15, 2008 4:02 PM

To: Suicidebarrier

I heard about possible closure of ggb for pedestrians because of high rate of suicide, is that factual and when will it be closed off?

Elizabeth Greco, MA., RTC, CTRS

Recreation Therapy Service

Spinal Cord Injury/D

562.826.8000 x2012

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LETTERS AND EMAILS

Agency Comments



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



CYNTHIA BRYANT
DIRECTOR

August 22, 2008

Jeffrey Lee
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
Presidio Station
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System
SCH#: 2007062078

Dear Jeffrey Lee:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Joint Document to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on August 21, 2008, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Director, State Clearinghouse

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2007062078
Project Title Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System
Lead Agency Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District

Type JD Joint Document

Description NOTE: Joint Document consists of Draft EIR & EA

The Golden Gate Bridge (Bridge) is owned and operated by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District. It is located within the San Francisco Bay Area. The proposed project is located in the City and County of San Francisco and Marin County. The project proposes to construct a physical suicide deterrent system along both sides of the Golden Gate Bridge (Bridge). The project limits are from the San Francisco Abutment to the Marin Abutment of the Bridge.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Jeffrey Lee
Agency Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
Phone (415) 923-2023 **Fax**
email
Address Presidio Station
P.O. Box 9000
City San Francisco **State** CA **Zip** 94129

Project Location

County San Francisco
City San Francisco
Region
Lat / Long 37° 49' 11" N / 122° 28' 20" W
Cross Streets Doyle Drive, Merchant Road, Alexander Avenue
Parcel No.
Township **Range** **Section** **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways 101
Airports
Railways
Waterways San Francisco Bay
Schools
Land Use

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Recreation/Parks; Vegetation; Wildlife; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Game, Region 3; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Department of Water Resources; Office of Emergency Services; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 4; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2; Native American Heritage Commission; Other Agency(ies)

Date Received 07/08/2008 **Start of Review** 07/08/2008 **End of Review** 08/21/2008

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P. O. Box 4186, San Rafael, CA 94913-4186 • 415/499-6528 • FAX 415/499-3799

COUNTY OF MARIN

www.co.marin.ca.us/pw

ADMINISTRATION

499-6570

ACCOUNTING

499-7877

AIRPORT

451-A AIRPORT ROAD
NOVATO, CA 94945

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE

499-6576 • FAX 499-3250

CAPITAL PROJECTS

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DISABILITY ACCESS

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ENGINEERING & SURVEY

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**LAND DEVELOPMENT &
FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT**

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AGENT**

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TRANSIT DISTRICT

499-6099 • FAX 499-6939

WASTE MANAGEMENT

499-6647 • FAX 446-7373

Farhad Mansourian, RCE
Director

August 18, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000, San Francisco, CA 94129


Dear Directors:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIR/EA for the Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project on the Golden Gate Bridge. In addition to the Bridge paths being an element of the Coastal Trail, as noted in the Draft EIR/EA, both bridge sidewalks are identified in the "Marin County Unincorporated Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan" latest update adopted March 25, 2008 as 'Existing & Proposed Class 1 Bikeway or Multi-Use Paths' on Figures 3.2 and 5.2.

The Draft EIR/EA indicates (page 2-141) that pedestrian and bicycle access would be maintained during construction of the project, including the night time access for bicyclist. As a significant bike/pedestrian corridor, we strongly support maintaining pedestrian and bicycle access during construction.

Please feel free to contact me at 507-2754 should you have any questions about these comments.

Very truly yours,



Eric Steger
Senior Civil Engineer

C: Farhad Mansourian, Director

RECEIVED
AUG 19 2008
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

53 San Clemente Drive
Corte Madera, Ca 94925
(415) 924-1100
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



File No.: 350.A12865

August 22, 2008

Golden Gate Bridge
Highway and Transportation District
Box 9000
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA, 94129

2008 AUG 22 PM 2:56
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

Dear Mr. Witt,

The Marin Area Office of the California Highway Patrol has had an opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) concerning the development and evaluation of alternative designs for a physical suicide deterrent system for the Golden Gate Bridge, dated July 2008 (State Clearing House #2007062078).

After reviewing the six alternative proposals considered in the EIR/EA, we have significant concern with Alternative 3, the construction and installation of a horizontal net system. The basis of our concern is the well-being of the persons who may descend into the net, the safety of their rescuers, and the adverse effect on the flow of traffic on the bridge, its sidewalks, and adjacent highways, resulting from any incident involving the net.

The EIR/EA suggests that an individual who falls from the equivalent height of a two-story building and lands into the stainless steel net would survive the 20 foot fall (EIR/EA page 1-33). We believe it is likely that the individual could sustain serious injury requiring immediate medical care. In any event, the individual would require immediate rescue due to their precarious position.

Rescuers performing a recovery would need specialized repelling training and equipment or the use of a truck equipped with an inverted "cherry picker" mechanism and basket, operated by trained and skilled specialists. To ensure the safety of the rescuers and the subject, closure of the sidewalk would be necessary. In the case of the use of a truck equipped with a "cherry picker" mechanism, closure of at least one lane and likely an additional buffer lane would also be necessary. The lane closures would have to take place for the duration of the rescue and continue until the equipment and scene could be cleared. The impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the bridge and the surrounding highways could be catastrophic in terms of the length of the delay.

Golden Gate Bridge

August 22, 2008

Page 2 of 2

Worse, the traffic impact would not be simply limited to the closures, but would be exacerbated by the attention drawn to the subject, the rescue attempt, as well as the response time by bridge workers to the incident. Since the California Highway Patrol does not train its personnel in the skills needed nor maintain the sort of vehicles and equipment to accomplish a rescue, other emergency personnel or bridge workers and special vehicles would need to be called to the scene.

The success of the either rescue method supposes, in large measure, that the person to be retrieved from the net wants to be rescued or is at least cooperative. Unfortunately, some persons may resist, assault, or otherwise complicate and delay the efforts of bridge or rescue workers.

We fully support the concept of taking appropriate measures to make the bridge safer for all of its users. And, we are pleased that four alternatives would create a barrier that would serve to inhibit the ability of pedestrians to climb, descend, or trespass upon the structure from the sidewalk. These alternatives would apparently do so without impacting the safe and efficient flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

We strongly believe and are committed to improving public safety. Therefore, we believe that any decision concerning the selection of a physical suicide deterrent system should consider the safety of persons at risk of doing harm to themselves, as well as the safety of bridge employees, public safety personnel, and the vast majority of pedestrians and motorists who use and depend on the bridge for its intended transportation purpose.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact us at the address or telephone number above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Morehen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

ROBERT J. MOREHEN, Captain
Commander



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 25, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

1650 Mission St.
Suite 400
San Francisco,
CA 94103-2479

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Planning Department of the City and County of San Francisco, I am pleased to submit comments on the Environmental Impact Report for the Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project.

The comments in this letter were informed by the input of an Advisory Panel assembled by the Planning Department at the request of Mayor Newsom. The Mayor has expressed strong interest in this project and requested that the department carefully analyze the alternatives and provide comments to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District.

The Advisory Panel was made of five members with expertise in architecture, engineering, preservation and the arts. Members were:

Boris Dramov, Architect, ROMA; John Eddy, Principal and bridge engineer, ARUP; John Kriken, Architect, SOM; Amy Trachtenberg, Artist; and Andrew Wolfram, Preservation Architect, SMWM. City staff included Kyri McClellan from the Mayors Office of Economic and Workforce Development; Mark Luellen, Preservation Program Manager for the Planning Department; Craig Nikitas, Urban Designer for the Planning Department; and John Rahaim, Planning Director.

On August 13, we heard a detailed presentation by Denis Mulligan, Golden Gate Bridge District Engineer, and John Eberle, Supervising Civil Engineer. The presentation

covered the five alternatives currently under consideration in the EIR, the results of the wind analysis, and information about current suicide prevention methods on the bridge. We complimented Mr. Mulligan and Mr. Eberle on the thorough, detailed analysis and expertise that they have developed on this topic. We were also impressed by the efforts currently underway on the Bridge to deter suicides through training of staff and direct intervention.

The Panel and staff again convened on August 23, with Mr. Mulligan in attendance, to finalize our comments found in this letter.

We agreed that the current situation presents a continuing tragedy for the region that should be addressed. We also agreed that the bridge is a world class icon and one of the most important examples of 20th century design in the world. Given the iconic nature of the bridge, the most important principle of the project should be to minimize the visual impact of any alterations. Further, we believe that this principle should apply both to views from the bridge, seen as a pedestrian or from a vehicle, and the views of the bridge from surrounding areas.

We believe that the bridge design and location are fundamental to its iconic nature. Specifically, as noted in your report, Historic Property Survey Report, May 2008, the primary character defining elements and decorative features of the bridge and the contributing elements are the major structural elements (the suspension bridge anchorages, pylons, piers, towers, main span and side spans), the plate girder bridge, arch bridge, and truss bridges approaches and the southern approach roadway (Doyle Drive), main suspension cables, Round House, and Toll Plaza Undercrossing. The Art Deco/Moderne design is a character-defining feature of all of these structures and their use within the overall bridge. The railings from the original construction and railings replicated to match original, as well as the layout of the sidewalks – width and construction around piers and pylons -- that allow pedestrian use of the bridge are essential character defining features of the property. Although the sidewalks have been extended and widened, they continue to serve as important, human scale features of the bridge that make it readily accessible to the commuting and visiting public.

Other character defining features that are important in conveying the artistic value of the bridge are the electroliers, or light standards, the International Orange paint color, and remaining concrete railings.

Further, the location of the bridge, at one of the most dramatic natural locations in the US contributes to its important status. The Golden Gate is one of the most spectacular “entrances” to any urban location the world.

In total, the design, color and specific location of the bridge form a unified ensemble with the environment, and a melding of the natural and man-made that is found almost nowhere else. The visual aspects of all components of this ensemble are critically important to maintain.

To be most sensitive to the bridge design, we suggest that the District should first consider non-physical alternatives beyond those currently employed. We recognize the current, successful efforts in place that indeed prevent a number of suicides, and we commend the District on these important efforts. Further, we fully recognize that the mission of the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District does not necessarily include a social service component.

Nonetheless, we suggest that the revenues that would be spent on a physical barrier could be derived from a source other than that which could fund a physical alternative. Such revenues could theoretically be invested to provide a more robust, ongoing prevention program. Given the visibility of the bridge and the current public health issue, this program could attract volunteers to the effort. Specifically, and to be most successful, the patrols should be quite visible and be trained in suicide prevention techniques, much like the current staff is so trained. In sum, the program could result in the bridge being known not only for its design and location, but as an international symbol of the humanity of this region.

While we prefer a non-physical solution, we also recognize that the environment review underway is necessary should the District choose to construct a physical barrier or other physical solution. If such a solution is to proceed, we unanimously recommend Alternative 3, the Horizontal Net System. We believe this alternative would have the least visual impact on both the view of the bridge and the experience of the view from the bridge.

With this alternative, we recommend a detailed study of the color of the net. While the netting structure should match the International Orange color of the bridge, we believe that the net itself may be more appropriately a darker color such as the color of the water, so as to be less visible. If painted International Orange, we believe that the net

would become more visually opaque, and may be seen as an “orange haze” over the water.

In addition, the net and the struts should be placed in different planes to the greatest extent possible. This would avoid the creation of a solid visual platform when seen at a distance, especially from the observation areas on the north and south sides of the bridge.

Further, we recommend that the netting material be as lightweight as possible and immediately usable after an event. We agree with the District staff that a material and design involving minimal maintenance is preferred.

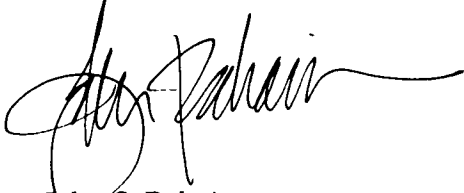
The Panel and staff carefully considered the other four alternatives in our analysis. In all cases with Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B, we believe the additional height of a railing would cause a tunnel-like effect when viewed from the bridge, both as a pedestrian and auto occupant. A railing above normal eye level would eliminate the open, unobstructed views that are a hallmark of the experience of being on the bridge. Further, alternatives 2A and 2B present a more drastic solution with the removal of the original railing. These alternatives would seriously undermine the integrity of the original design.

We also recommend that the transparent panels proposed for the belvederes and other locations not be used anywhere on the bridge. We believe that these would become scratched or discolored, and would cause reflections that are distracting from the design of the bridge and the views. In addition, they would likely require continual maintenance on both surfaces, creating additional costs.

In sum, the Advisory Panel and San Francisco Planning Department first recommend a non-physical solution to deter suicides on the Golden Gate Bridge, and secondarily, Alternative 3 with the recommendations noted above.

We strongly commend the District Board and staff for addressing this important public health issue and for your current program to address this regional tragedy. We hope that our comments aid your efforts to develop a successful solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Rahaim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John S. Rahaim

Planning Director

Presented on behalf of the Planning Department of the City and County of San Francisco, and the Department's Advisory Panel on the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent Project

Cc: Mayor Gavin Newsom
Kyri McClellan
Boris Dramov
John Eddy
John Kriken
Amy Trachtenberg
Andrew Wolfram
Denis Mulligan
John Elberle
Crain Nikitas
Mark Luellen

From: Lisa Chau [Lisa.Chau@sfgov.org] on behalf of John Rahaim
[John.Rahaim@sfgov.org]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 2:49 PM
To: Suicidebarrier
Cc: Gavin Newsom; amytrachtenberg@comcast.net; awolfram@smwm.com;
borisd@roma.com; Craig Nikitas; john.eddy@arup.com; john.kriken@som.com;
Kyri McClellan; Mark Luellen; Michael Cohen; Denis Mulligan;
jelberle@goldengate.org
Subject: Golden Gate Bridge EIR letter

Attachments: Golden Gate Bridge EIR letter.PDF

Attached is the Golden Gate Bridge EIR letter.
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John Rahaim
Planning Director
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street
San Francisco CA 94103

415-558-6411
fax 415-558-6409

(See attached file: Golden Gate Bridge EIR letter.PDF)



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

2008 AUG 26 PM 2:17

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

August 22, 2008

Suicide Deterrent Project
Golden Gate Bridge
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

Subject: Draft EIR for Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bay Trail Project is a nonprofit organization administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) that plans, promotes and advocates for the implementation of a continuous 500-mile bicycling and hiking path around San Francisco Bay. When complete, the trail will pass through 47 cities, all nine Bay Area counties, and cross seven toll bridges. To date, slightly more than half the length of the Bay Trail alignment has been developed.

The San Francisco Bay Trail crosses the Golden Gate Bridge connecting Marin County to San Francisco and represents one of the most traveled segments of trail in the entire 500-mile regional system. The proposed project would have a substantial adverse impact on the Bay Trail and the ten million cyclists and pedestrians that cross the bridge every year. Our specific comments on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) are listed below.

Bay Trail Plan

While the presence of San Francisco Bay Trail on the Golden Gate Bridge is acknowledged several times in the DEIR, a discussion of the Bay Trail Plan and its policies regarding views and aesthetics are not addressed. It is also important to note that, as a regional trail system connecting all nine Bay Area counties, the Bay Trail has both proposed and currently existing segments at Fort Baker in Marin County. These portions of the Bay Trail are not referenced in the document. Please see the attached map of the Bay Trail in the project vicinity and ensure that a thorough and comprehensive discussion of the Bay Trail Plan, and of segments on both sides of the Bridge is included in the Final EIR.

Impacts of the Proposed Project

All of the alternatives with the exception of the No Build Alternative have negative impacts on the Bay Trail. **Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B have serious,**

unmitigateable visual, cultural, and recreational impacts and should not be allowed to move forward. Impacts to views and aesthetics will in no way be mitigated by documenting the existing conditions through photography or other means as part of a Section 106 Consultation as suggested in the DEIR.

Of the 5 proposed options, Alternative 3 appears to have the least egregious impacts to views and aesthetics from the Bay Trail on the Golden Gate Bridge. However, this alternative still blocks important downward views of San Francisco Bay from all points along both north and south sidewalks. It is unclear why table 2.2-13 on page 2-100 of the DEIR states that from Viewpoints 12 and 13, visual impacts would be "negligible". From any point along the north or south sidewalk, views looking downward will be impeded by the presence of the net.

Construction Impacts

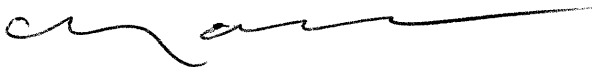
Page 2-141 of the document states that "There is no continuous system of sidewalks, bike trails or bike lands..." on the roads within the project vicinity that would be impacted by the construction staging areas. There are three regional trail systems within the vicinity of the project: the San Francisco Bay Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and the Coastal Trail. For the Final EIR, please review the attached map showing proposed and existing Bay Trail in the project vicinity and describe in detail the impacts that will result from construction equipment that will be operating in the area. The Final EIR should include mitigations for these impacts.

BCDC Jurisdiction

Page 2-8 of the DEIR states that "A portion of the project (construction staging areas) may be located within BCDC's jurisdiction and could, therefore, require a permit from BCDC." It is our understanding that the entirety of the bridge is within BCDC jurisdiction, and that changes of this magnitude would require a permit for the entire project, not solely the construction staging areas.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding the Bay Trail Project or our alignment in San Francisco or Marin Counties, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 464-7909 or via e-mail at maureeng@abag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Maureen Gaffney
Bay Trail Planner

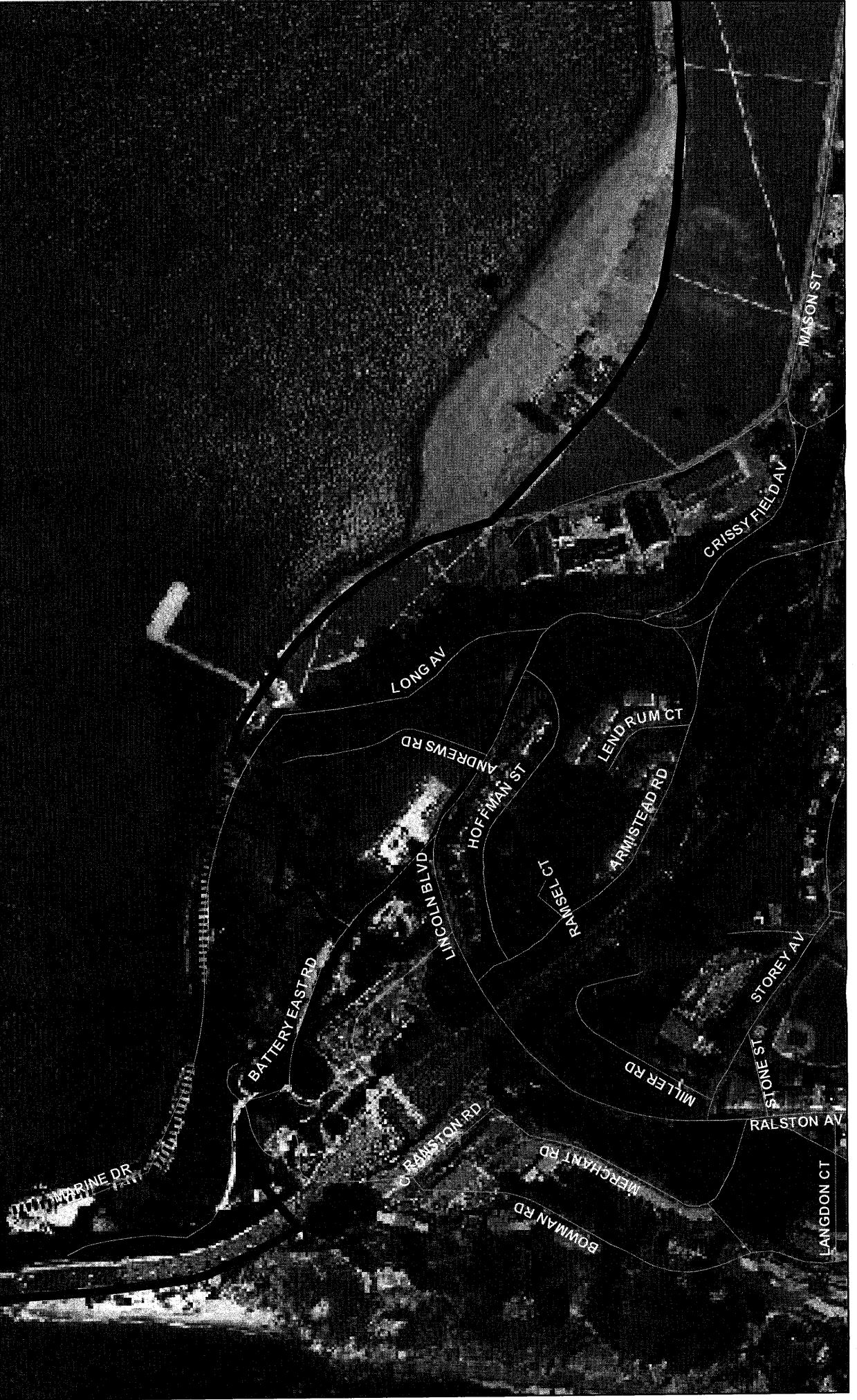
Encl: 1

Bay Trail at Fort Baker, GGNRA



Bay Trail at the Presidio, GGNRA

— Existing
..... Proposed





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

*Sent by fax
3:00 PM 8.25.2008*

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L30 (GOGA-PLAN)

August 25, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Highway Bridge and Transportation District
Box 9000 Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

2008 AUG 27 PM 1:47
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for providing the Golden Gate National Recreation Area with the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Barrier Project dated July 2008.

As an adjacent land managing agency we work in partnership to ensure the safety of our visitors. The attempted and actual suicide by individuals at the Golden Gate Bridge is a serious concern to the park. We encourage you in your efforts to effectively deter suicides in such a way that will suit the diverse needs of visitors and users that experience the bridge each day.

The National Park Service Mission is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. In support of the National Park Service (NPS) Mission, the NPS provides the following comments.

We agree with the Bridge District's finding that the Build Alternatives will have *substantial adverse effects* on 1) the Scenic Vistas from the bridge and from the surrounding GGNRA lands, 2) on the Historic Property, historic design integrity and physical material of the bridge structure, and 3) on Biological Resources including migratory birds, Mission Blue Butterfly habitat, and Peregrine Falcon nesting.

Visitor experience and scenic vistas: Of the Build Alternatives, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) believes that Alternative 3, the horizontal net, as having the least impact to visitor and user experience, and to the scenic and historic vistas from the bridge.

Cultural Resources: Acknowledging that all of the action alternatives will have an adverse effect on the Golden Gate Bridge due to the addition of a conspicuous new element, GGNRA

finds that Alternative 1B of the Build Alternatives is the most sensitive to, and compatible with, the historic character of the Bridge.

Natural Resources: For all Build Alternatives, GGNRA supports the need for further research on potential bird impacts and will work with the District and US Fish and Wildlife to ensure protection of the Peregrine Falcon, Mission Blue Butterfly and their respective habitats. We will coordinate with the District to support Best Management Practices to protect the environment.

Considering all factors, cultural, scenic and biological, the GGNRA supports Alternative 3, the Net System. The Golden Gate Bridge is recognized as a significant international icon. Visitors come to view and experience the thrilling environs and views of the San Francisco Bay and to marvel at the engineering beauty of the bridge itself.

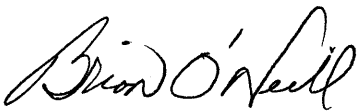
On balance, and looking at all components, what stands out is the key importance of the unobstructed views, the soaring heights of the towers, the exhilaration for visitors leaning on the railing, feeling the wind, experiencing open vistas of water, the City, Alcatraz, and the Marin Headlands.

Alternative 3, the Net System, contributes less impact to these key aspects of the bridge than do the vertical railing extensions. With the net, the view is maintained unobstructed, and the original experience is kept unspoiled by avoiding looking out through bars or glass windows. The look, view and design of the Golden Gate Bridge would continue uninterrupted as it has been since the conception and construction over 70 years ago.

Please keep us informed about measures that might be included to reduce the substantial impacts consistent with a finding of no significant impact. Additional detailed comments are included as an attachment below.

Thank you for inviting our agency to comment and for continuing to provide information on the project to the NPS at the Golden Gate Recreation Area. For review and coordination issues, please contact Andrea Lucas, Landscape Architect, GGNRA at andrea_lucas@nps.gov or 415/561-2878.

Sincerely,



Brian O'Neill
General Superintendent

[attachment]

ATTACHMENT:

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
SPECIFIC COMMENTS from Golden Gate National Recreation Area
August 25, 2008

1. NPS concerns about the potential suicide deterrent system include potential physical impacts to the historic bridge, and the visual and experiential impacts to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians on the bridge,
2. The NPS is concerned about potential construction impacts that should be addressed include physical danger, such as from falling objects at Fort Point; continuous visitor access; visitor experience relative to noise, construction barriers, particulate matter; and issues concerning the control and effects of lead paint removal. Staging areas and construction access, parking and materials storage and movement need to be coordinated with the NPS.
3. The alternatives that best achieve compatibility and meet historic preservation objectives are Alternatives 1A and 1B which preserve the historic railing while adding to it compatibly.
4. Alternative 1B is preferred over 1A as it is consistent in design with the safety railing added to the bridge between the promenade and roadway in the recent past and achieves a better balance between compatibility and distinction from the original bridge design. It is less visually intrusive, and maintains panoramic views in its open spaces while the vertical alternative breaks up all views.
5. For historic preservation we do not recommend employment of Alternatives 2A and 2B, as they remove the original railing, destroy historic fabric and completely change the promenade's design and appearance.
6. For historic character we do not recommend Alternative 3, Netting, as it introduces a new design element to the bridge.
7. The District should construct a mock-up of the chosen alternative to be painted both in international orange and in a receding color to be able to judge mitigation of visual impacts. Consider leaving the constructed deterrent in unpainted stainless steel.
8. The DEIR states that the Golden Gate Bridge is a contributing feature of the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark (NHL). While certain features of the Bridge, such as Doyle Drive, contribute to the Presidio NHL, the span of the Bridge itself is not a contributing feature of the Presidio NHL.

9. Figure 2.1-1 Correct the GGNRA boundary to include all of Presidio Area A (Crissy Field area is not shown as GGNRA on current version; Lobos Creek is not shown as GGNRA on current version). City property along the Marina is shown as GGNRA. Show the true boundary of GGNRA including waters under state lands lease.
10. Figure 2.1-2 Correct GGNRA offshore boundary. Show Fort Baker as part of GGNRA.
11. Show Construction Staging Areas (item 4) in a separate color and symbol.
12. Table 2.1-1 Add certain land uses which are missing for various properties: Golden Gate Bridge = Public Road; Marine Drive = Historic Resource; Fort Point and Battery Spencer = Recreational Resources; Much of the GGNRA lands and San Francisco Bay surrounding the project are also Natural Resources, open space, and habitat.
13. Table 2.1-2 Update information on this table.
14. p. 2-6 The description of the development at Fort Baker needs to be edited.
15. p. 2-6 Update the Doyle Drive project status.
16. p. 2-10 Project Consistency. 2nd paragraph states that the project would not affect the natural environment. Add wind impacts and potential bird impacts to this section.
17. Table 2.1-3 Show Fort Baker as part of GGNRA
18. p. 2-13 Fort Baker is open now.
19. p. 2-13 and 2-14 Clarify that the Merchant Road staging area is also within GGNRA. Confirm that alternative public parking will be available during project construction. Coordination with GGNRA remediation and trail construction would occur.
20. Table 2.2-1 The Presidio landscape unit also includes expanses of coastal scrub (much of the bluff area previously covered with cypress is being converted to scrub, and views have been substantially opened). The Marin Headlands landscape includes historic military elements.
21. The transparent panels; Alternatives 1 and 2 should incorporate an alternative treatment that is entirely cables or bars, including at the belvederes to modify potential impacts caused by the transparent panels.
22. p. 2-130 Affected Environment. See comment above regarding the staging area on Merchant Road (in GGNRA, Presidio Area A).
23. p. 2-138 Energy – The increased energy and resource use required for frequent cleaning of the transparent panels (e.g., the increased demand for fresh water or cleaning products) should be described and included in this analysis.

24. 2.6.8 Measure 1: Clarify that the Biological ECM would work in consultation with GGNRA Natural Resources Staff. Any chemical weed control must be approved by the GGNRA IPM Specialist.
25. 2.6.8. Measure 2: Erosion and dust control plan will be reviewed and approved by GGNRA Natural Resources.
26. p. 3-15 Potential Impacts to Climate Change. The final sentence states that "...the project...would contribute to cumulative increases in the sources of greenhouse gases." It appears that this was intended to state "...would *not* contribute..."
27. p. 3-15 Potential Impacts to Climate Change. It would be appropriate to evaluate the difference in maintenance among alternatives that could affect the amount of greenhouse gases contributed over the life of the project.
28. 3.3.3 and Appendix F (NES report) See comments on 2.6.8.



*Kate Gillespie, Co-Chair
Daniel Leach, Co-Chair
Wendy Todd, Vice-Chair
Gary Scheppke, Secretary
Judy Arnold, Board of
Supervisors
Alan Carr
Kim Denn
Jonathon Gurish
Jacqueline Janssen
Hilarie Kane
Beverlee Kell
Molly Light
Robin Mullin*

July 22, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, California 94129

Dear Members of the Golden Gate Bridge District:

At the July 21, 2008 meeting of the Marin Mental Health Board, we discussed the Environmental Impact Report for the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project. After a long discussion, they asked me through a unanimous vote to deliver the following message to you.

Please know that the Marin Mental Health Board is tasked with representing and advocating for the mental health needs of the people of Marin by being fully informed on all related issues in order to promote a creative, comprehensive and dynamic mental health system of care. Our role is to inform and advise the Community Mental Health Services Director and Marin Board of Supervisors on mental health issues, and to promote education, prevention and early intervention to meet the needs of the mentally ill.

During the last year, our board has had many discussions about the sobering topic of suicide and the Bridge. Together, we watched *The Bridge*, the movie produced by Eric Steel. We held a joint meeting with the San Francisco Mental Health Board, and listened to comments by families and friends of people who had fallen to their deaths from the bridge. We have talked with Kevin Hines, one of the survivors of the 250 foot plunge. We adopted a resolution in February which we sent to our Board of Supervisors where we found the absence of a suicide barrier on the bridge to be a hazard to public safety and urged that the Bridge District undertake the detailed design of a suicide barrier. Some of our members have walked the Bridge, and catalogued the location of cameras, emergency phones, and signs.

Regarding this EIR, we offer these comments:

1. The EIR fails to provide enough information about the current suicide prevention protocols. It should address the current coverage by cameras of the bridge walkways and rails, how these cameras are monitored, profiles and techniques used to identify potential jumpers and steps used to refer these individuals to mental health services, action plans



1. to prevent jumps, response times of bridge workers, procedures used to refer these individuals to mental health services, distances between emergency phones (especially over water) and time required for pedestrians to traverse these distances on foot, daily coverage of bridge patrols, and suicide prevention training of staff assigned to answer phones or respond to those in crisis.
2. The EIR does not consider a viable alternative: use of a transparent material (glass or a synthetic polymer) as a barrier. This technology is successfully employed on bridges in New Zealand, including long-span suspension bridges over water.
3. The EIR fails to identify the true cost of the no-build alternative, including the cost of bridge and public employees in San Francisco and Marin counties responding to suicides and suicide attempts, recovery, transfer/transport of persons or bodies, helicopter and boat searches, hospitalizations of survivors, staff or volunteer training, suicide prevention and outreach activities, equipment (cameras and phones), and monitoring of cameras and phones.
4. Of the design alternatives currently presented in the draft EIR, we find the netting alternative to be the most promising. Yet, we have concerns about the functional aspects of this system in preventing use as a launch for a further journey to the water, the impact of a fall of a distance of 20 to 24 feet into the net, maintenance of the netting (including the cycle for repainting), and the protocols for responding when the net is engaged by a jumper.

Furthermore, we support the introduction of a toll to offset the cost of suicide prevention. It is common to charge fees for access to architectural icons. There are other bridges that require pedestrians and bicyclists to pay a fee to use the bridge. A pedestrian/biker toll for costs of construction and maintenance of the suicide prevention system is similar in principle to the current collection of auto tolls. We therefore urge the bridge district to undertake a study and public education effort about this potential means of raising funds for suicide prevention improvements.

Sincerely,

Kate Gillespie

Marin Mental Health Board

Resolution Regarding Construction of a Suicide Barrier on the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge

WHEREAS, suicide is the ninth leading cause of death in the United States Claiming over 31,000 lives each year; and,

WHEREAS, Research indicates that most people who commit suicide have an untreated but treatable mental illness, clinical depression or heavy alcohol use, or both; and,

WHEREAS, In Marin County suicide is a leading cause of death claiming over 500 lives since 1997; and,

WHEREAS, The Golden Gate Bridge has been the site of more than 1300 known suicides in the 70 years since its construction, more than any other site in the entire world; and,

WHEREAS, There were more suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge in 1997 than there were traffic fatalities on the bridge during the last quarter century; and,

WHEREAS, Available research indicates that over 90 percent of the individuals prevented from committing suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge do not make another suicide attempt; and,

WHEREAS, It is now possible to design and construct an aesthetically acceptable barrier that will prevent suicides from occurring on the Golden Gate Bridge without detracting from the view or grandeur of this magnificent architectural wonder; and,

WHEREAS, Other architecturally significant structures such as the Empire State Building and the Eiffel Tower have eliminated suicides by constructing a suicide barrier; and,

WHEREAS, Marin County has a long established commitment to establish and enforce public policies that protect the health, well-being and safety of its residents, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby declare that the absence of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is a hazard to the public's health and safety; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby support a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Marin Mental Health Board pledges to work with the San Francisco Mental Health Board to work toward reducing incidences of suicide in our communities; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby support and encourage the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors to complete a design and consultation contract on the suicide barrier; and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Marin Mental Health Board does hereby urge the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors to proceed with haste to eliminate this public hazard.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Mental Health Board of the County of Marin held on this 25th day of February 2008.



CHAIR, MARIN MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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LETTERS AND EMAILS

Organization Comments



SAN
FRANCISCO
MEDICAL
SOCIETY

July 29, 2008

Suicide Deterrent Project
Golden Gate Bridge
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

RE: Anti-Suicide Barrier on Bridge

To whom it may concern:

San Francisco Medical Society Board of Directors is in support of an effective and appropriately-designed barrier to deter attempted suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge. Our board, which represents many medical specialties from all around our city, heard arguments from various perspectives and collectively agreed with the strong evidence that many if not most of such suicides are impulsive and can be prevented by making jumping from the bridge more difficult. We also believe that an effective barrier need not be unduly expensive nor pose too much of an impact on the visual beauty of the bridge.

The SFMS therefore urges the Golden Gate Bridge District to begin to implement an effective physical barrier to those who would consider jumping from the bridge.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Fugaro, MD
President

SHF:pl

1003A O'Reilly Ave.
San Francisco
California
94129
415-561-0850
FAX 415-561-0833

2008 JUL 31 PM 4: 18
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

From: Posi Lyon [plyon@sfms.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 11:27 AM
To: Suicidebarrier
Subject: Anti-Suicide Barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge

Attachments: Golden Gate Bridge ltr.pdf

Attached is a letter expressing the San Francisco Medical Society's support for an anti-suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Posi Lyon
Administrative Director
San Francisco Medical Society
1003A O'Reilly Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94129
415-561-0850 x260 Ph
415-561-0833 Fax
plyon@sfms.org

Check out our website at www.sfms.org

STATEMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT TO THE
GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

From: Kita S. Curry, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center
July 23, 2008

Suicide is a Preventable Public Health Crisis
- Bridge Barriers are Key to Preventing Suicides -

Each year, more people die by suicide than homicide in the U.S. Suicide is a national public health threat—yet, one that is preventable. Each year more than 20 individuals take their lives by leaping from the Golden Gate Bridge.

In partnership with other leaders in suicide prevention, the Board of Directors of Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center in Los Angeles strongly endorses raising the rail on the Golden Gate Bridge to reduce access to one of the most lethal means of killing oneself.

Recent research by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline demonstrates that barriers are the most effective solution for preventing suicide from bridges. We can, and must, do more. While crisis lines help millions of Americans every year, putting crisis line telephones on the bridge clearly is not enough. Once someone is standing at the edge, they are unlikely to reach for the phone. Yet, 75% of those who attempt suicide are happy they survived. In fact, Dr. Richard Seiden of UC Berkeley's School of Public Health studied more than 500 people who had been prevented from jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge over a 40 year period. He found that 94% were either alive or had died of natural causes.

The first suicide prevention crisis line in the nation, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center offers key suicide prevention and support services:

24-Hour Suicide Prevention Crisis Line

Didi Hirsch operates Los Angeles County's only 24-hour suicide prevention crisis line, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The crisis line is also a resource for callers who are worried someone they know may be suicidal, as well as for law enforcement agencies, who receive crisis response training from our suicide prevention experts.

Suicide Prevention Outreach and Education

Didi Hirsch brings suicide education, awareness, and prevention to schools, churches, and community groups in greater Los Angeles and beyond. It also trains staff in hospitals, counseling centers, and other clinical settings. Some of its most interesting partners include FBI agents, SWAT teams and South Korean Army Chaplains.



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Los Angeles County Departments of:
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Mental Health
Public Health
California Dept. of Rehabilitation
United Hostesses' Charities

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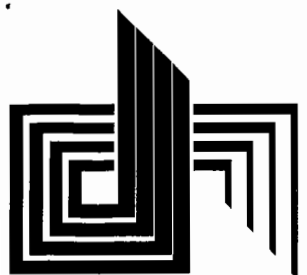
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DIDI HIRSCH

COMMUNITY
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Medical Director

In Memoriam
MRS. I KINGDON (DIDI) HIRSCH
Vice President

Page 2

Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center

Survivors After Suicide Program

This program serves those who have lost a loved one to suicide, including 8-week support groups, monthly drop-in groups, and telephone counseling. In addition, the program's Suicide Response Team works closely with the Crisis Response Team of the Los Angeles City Mayor's Office to offer immediate crisis counseling at the scene of a suicide. These trained volunteers comfort families and connect them to community resources that will help them when loneliness and despair seem overwhelming.

AVAILABLE SPOKESPERSON

Dr. Kita Curry, Didi Hirsch's President/CEO, is available for phone interviews to discuss:

- The importance of the state's establishment of the Office of Suicide Prevention;
- Didi Hirsch's Suicide Prevention Center and its programs; and
- Warning signs that someone may be in crisis and considering suicide, and what friends and family members can do to help.

Kita S. Curry, PhD, President/CEO
Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center
(310) 751-5423
kcurry@didihirsch.org

QUOTE FROM DR. CURRY

"Each year, more people die by suicide than homicide in the U.S. Someone dies every 16 minutes." says Didi Hirsch President/CEO Kita Curry, Ph.D. "Yet few people are aware of the Suicide Prevention Center's lifesaving services. Didi Hirsch operates Los Angeles County's only 24-hour suicide prevention crisis line. The number is 877-7-CRISIS."

"Didi Hirsch's crisis line is also a resource for callers who are worried that someone they know may be suicidal, as well as for law enforcement agencies, who receive crisis response training from our suicide prevention experts," Dr. Curry adds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lyn Morris, MFT, Director Suicide Prevention Center
(310) 895-2305 (work) or (310) 780-2795 (cell)
lmorris@didihirsch.org
Didi Community Mental Health Center: <http://www.didihirsch.org>



July 23, 2008

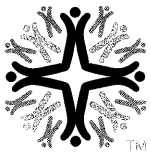
**To: Directors, Golden Gate Bridge District
From: Joan Lisetor, Bridge Rail Foundation**

Directors:

In the 10 or so years I was a crisis intervention counselors on the phones for Marin Suicide Prevention Center I heard many stories. Although all humans are different, suicidal people have many, many things in common. Most of all, once they have made a decision how they would kill themselves, there are no other methods.

A person who is attracted to the Golden Gate Bridge will not attempt another method. The other important thing I learned, both from the people I counseled on the phone and stories told by the students I trained, is that, if you can get the suicidal person through a night or a few days or sometimes only a few hours, you can often get them past a crisis. People kill themselves because they are in pain, whether physically or mentally. They don't want to die. They just want the pain to go away.

Raising the railing on the bridge will save countless lives and save many, many people the pain of losing a loved one.



Catholic Charities CYO

Tel 415 972-1200 Fax 415 972-1201
180 Howard Street, Suite 100
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

2008 AUG -6 AM 10:13

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

August 5, 2008

Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

Dear Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities CYO for the third time regarding the need for a physical suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.

With 700 employees and an operating budget of \$37 million, Catholic Charities CYO operates more than 30 programs to meet the needs of the poor, the sick, families, children, youth and senior citizens in San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo Counties. We have a long track record in providing behavioral healthcare services and specifically, grief care and counseling for those who have lost family members.

I want to restate that we consider the absence of an effective physical suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge to be a clear and present danger to the public, and we feel a special responsibility for the well being of those whom we serve as well as their families. We are aware that suicides shatter a universe of people well beyond their immediate families, and because of that we feel we are speaking for those without a voice as well as many of our colleague agencies.

We appreciate the great efforts and expense you have gone to in order to review different forms of barriers, however we still urge you to proceed with all speed possible to construct an effective physical suicide barrier on the bridge. We have recently become aware of the significant cost of any of the proposed barriers, but we have always been aware of the far more significant cost of the loss of human lives in the absence of a barrier.

Sincerely,

Brian Cahill
Executive Director

Cc: Paul Muller
Eve Myer

Westminster Presbyterian Church

(415) 383-5272 ▪ Fax (415) 389-9834 ▪ www.wpctiburon.org
240 Tiburon Boulevard ▪ Tiburon, California 94920-2220

Douglas K. Huneke, Pastor

Barbara D. Rowe, Pastor

President John J. Moylan
Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

Re: Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Barrier

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT
2008 AUG 22 AM 10:05
SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

August 21, 2008

Dear President Moylan and District Board Members,

Thank you for the work you have done to take so seriously the deaths from our Golden Gate Bridge and to solicit options for the suicide barrier from DMFM Harris Inc. This letter is to strongly encourage you to choose a design and move forward to determine the source of funds and proceed with this extremely important project. The lives you save could be one of your own loved ones or those of our families in Marin and San Francisco.

The Judeo-Christian tradition in Scripture teaches that life is sacred. I have served on the Board of the Marin Interfaith Council. As I work with the leaders and members of many faith traditions in Marin County I have learned that they all cherish life as an ultimate value. It is critically important, our responsibility in fact, to do all that we can possibly do to preserve life.

Approximately eighteen months ago, a Tamalpais High School student who had grown up within our congregation and community, took his life at the Bridge. The impact on his family and community was and continues to be devastating. We have heard it said that someone intent on suicide will find a way to commit the act. I do not believe it and the study of 515 people, "Where Are They Now?" by Dr. Richard Seiden, of the University of California at Berkeley (<http://www.pfnc.org/pfnc-ggbseidenarticle4.pdf>) disproves it. The young student in January 2008 raised warning signals three or four years before but did not get the counseling he needed. The ease and availability of the bridge as he was living with growing emotional pain was as dangerous as having a loaded gun in his house. Both invite a spontaneous solution to the pain from which there is no turning back. It leaves a life, a family, and a community coping with grief, guilt, and loss – many for the rest of their lives.

The Rev. Mr. Ted Scott
Parish Associate

Marilyn Brown
Christian Educator

Alla Artemova
Organist

Bethany Nelson
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Sally Pasternack
Financial Secretary

It is hard to understand the argument of aesthetics and beauty of the bridge against the installation of a barrier over the value of even one life. Every life is precious! As you are aware, other cities that have erected barriers on suicide magnets have seen a proportional drop in suicides. However, there has been no drop in the number of people who enjoy the sites that have erected barriers – such as the Eiffel Tower or the Empire State Building.

I strongly urge you to choose a barrier from the recommended designs and move forward. I prefer the Net System because it appears to be the least obtrusive and most likely to be a satisfactory compromise. Thank you for your important work and please move quickly. The life you save maybe someone you know and love.

Very Sincerely,


Dr. Barbara Rowe, Pastor

cc Supervisor Charles McGlashen

Citizens For a Safe Golden Gate Bridge



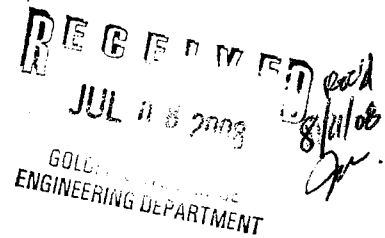
Director John P. Ehlen, P.E.
Director Frank Schweiger
Director Eric J. Schmidt

Robert M. Guernsey
Founder/Chairman of the Board

Director Alexandra F. Ehlen
Director Danna Kirkbride
Director Lucille Dandeleit

Monday, July 7, 2008

**Golden Gate Bridge
Highway & Transportation District
Mr. Denis J. Mulligan, District Engineer
Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA. 94129-0601**



Subject: Suicide Deterrent Barrier System.

Dear Mr. Mulligan:

Back in February 24, 2005 you laid-out a "project plan" during a Building & Operation meeting for the suicide deterrent barrier system.

You called it the 106 process! You called for a various plan involving the State and or federal participation, as well as public involvement in raising the funds needed for this suicide deterrent barrier system. You also suggested that CEQA and NEPA reports by ordered. Enclosed a letter sent to you, requesting information on the CEQA and NEPA reports ordered, as well as the wind tunnel test of both systems. "Pedestrian/Bicycle Hand Rail, which you never sent to us.

Where do we stand on the 106 process that you very in a classy manner back in February of 2005 for both the suicide deterrent system as well as the movable median traffic barrier as well as the wind tunnel test of both systems – with or with out the barriers? I would think by after defer operating costs, and off setting other projects that now this 106 process would be complete.

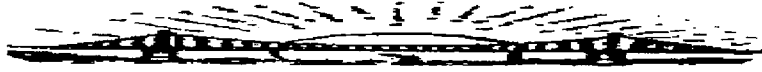
Please response to our request for the information at your earliest time.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Guernsey
Founder/Chairman of the Board

CD
ED
W.M.P.

Citizens for a Safe Golden Gate Bridge



Robert M. Guernsey
Founder & Board Chairman

Director John P. Ehlen, PE
Director Frank Schweiger

Director Alexandra F. Ehlen
Director Danna Kirkbride

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Denis J. Mulligan, District Engineer
Box 9000 Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA. 94129

RE: Feasibility Study and Report, CEQA and NEPA reports for the Pedestrian/Bicycle Hand Rail

Dear Mr. Mulligan;

I was pleased to see you at the Building and Operating meeting of February 24, 2005. As always, it is a pleasure to listen to your informative reports of engineering safety issues as the 'Suicide and Movable Median Barriers.

If you would not mind sending me a copy of the feasibility study & report, CEQA and NEPA reports for the pedestrian/bicycle hand rail installed on the east and west sides of the span.

Thank you for your time and effort in making the Golden Gate Bridge the world's safest bridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Guernsey



Creogan + D'Angelo
INFRASTRUCTURE
ENGINEERS

ENGINEERING YOUR SUCCESS

August 21, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

Attn: Jeffery Lee, Project Manager

Subject: Golden Gate Bridge - Suicide Barrier

Dear Jeff,

The Golden Gate Bridge is a landmark bridge structure that is recognized around the world. The engineering and design of the bridge in the 1930's created a monument, a sculpture, a piece of art that demonstrates the vision and pinnacle achievement of bridge engineering in America. As I told Denis Mulligan, I think the bridge is the best design of a suspension bridge in the world, and it is a shame and crime to change it unless necessary to protect it. Any changes and additions to the bridge structure diminish the value and do not respect this icon of man's technical and aesthetic capability. I support the no-build alternative.

I understand the serious and devastating impact of suicide on family and society. I believe that the solution to suicide is not building physical barriers. The solution for suicide prevention is mental health intervention by family and professionals. Why not build cars that will survive impacts?, put locks on all guns?, and make drug overdose impossible by dispensing one tablet at a time? – cars, guns, and drugs result in many more deaths than jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge.

Adding tall barriers to the bridge is another example of a minority issue, bridge suicides generating a "solution" that is a major impact on everybody. A comprehensive suicide prevention study should be performed that includes other non-physical barrier solutions, given that there is \$50 million dollars to combat the problem. There are better solutions, that help more people, for suicide prevention and mental health counseling.

Respectfully yours,
Creogan + D'Angelo Engineers



Reinhard Ludke, S.E.
Principal Structural Engineer

John J Moylan, President
Golden Gate Bridge District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

August 22, 2008

Dear Mr. Moylan,

We are responding to a report sent to you by Mr. Garrett Glasgow regarding the evidence for the effectiveness of a physical suicide deterrent system on the Golden Gate Bridge. We have significant concerns about this report as we feel it paints an inaccurate picture of the evidence and does not reflect the view of the majority of researchers on this subject. Mr. Glasgow asserts, "To date, every study on the effectiveness of suicide barriers has been inconclusive." However, the authors of these studies would disagree with him. Every author of all published studies on the effectiveness of suicide barriers has concluded that his or her study supports the effectiveness of bridge barriers to save lives. The evidence for the effectiveness of suicide barriers is similar to the evidence for the health dangers of smoking (which were long disputed as not conclusively proven): no single study can conclusively prove the case, but the collected results of study after study point to a clear answer.

The medical literature is clear that reducing access to lethal means (such as building bridge barriers) is an effective method in preventing suicide. In the largest review to date (published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*), Mann et al. concluded "these studies demonstrate the life-saving potential of restricting lethal means."¹ In addition, the three other scientific reviews, including one that specifically looked at suicide by jumping, concluded that means restriction is an effective method of suicide prevention.^{2, 3, 4} Finally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has concluded that means restriction is effective and includes it as one of its National Goals for Suicide Prevention (Goal 5: Promote Efforts to Reduce Access to Lethal Means and Methods to Self-Harm)⁵

The overwhelming evidence that reducing access to lethal means is an effective method of suicide prevention strongly supports the effectiveness of bridge barriers, particularly one easily accessible and as close to a large population center such as the Golden Gate Bridge. However, there are several studies on bridge barriers in particular, and all authors conclude that their study supports the efficacy of suicide prevention barriers. Glasgow quotes these studies out of context or otherwise minimizes their findings. In the end, Glasgow ignores the large collection of evidence and instead focuses on the fact that no single study can prove the case (which would be unusual in such an area of public health research).

A striking example of Glasgow quoting a study out of context comes from the study by Riesch et al. Glasgow writes, "Reisch et al. (2007) test the relationship between suicide by jumping and the accessibility of bridges and conclude '[b]arriers on bridges may prevent suicides but also may lead to a substitution of jumping site or method' (p681)."⁶ However, the sentence is not from the conclusion of the paper. It is on the first page as part of the introduction. In fact, it is the very question that authors are attempting to answer – how many suicides would be prevented and how many suicides would still occur with a substitution of method. The authors report, "Regions with high rates of bridge suicides were identified and compared with regions with low rates, and the analysis revealed that only about one third of the individuals would be expected to jump from building or other structures if no bridge was available."⁷ Their report suggests that only one third of people would substitute a new jumping site. The authors' actual conclusion is "The results support the notion that securing bridges may save lives."⁸

In addition, Glasgow minimizes the findings of the other studies on suicide barriers. He states that Pelletier and Bennenwith's studies do not support efficacy of bridge barrier, when both authors conclude that their studies do, in fact, support this efficacy. Pelletier's study at the Aurora River bridge in Augusta, Maine did find a 9% decrease in the suicide rate in Augusta after the construction of the barrier (which was greater than the 3% decrease seen in the surrounding area).⁹ While this decrease did not achieve statistical

significance (i.e. there is still the possibility that the decrease was due to chance), it is another piece of evidence supporting the effectiveness of barriers. Pelletier's reported his conclusion, "On the basis of this study, the safety fence seemed to be effective in preventing suicides."¹⁰ Bennewith et al. found a statistically significant reduction in the rate of male suicide by jumping after the construction of the Clifton River Bridge. In addition, there was an overall reduction in the suicide rate by jumping, though it did not reach statistical significance.¹¹ Bennewith concludes, "This study provides evidence for the preventive role of barriers on bridges."¹² Reisch and Michel looked at suicides off the Bern Meunster Terrace after the installation of a safety net and found a significant decrease in the number of suicides by jumping. They concluded, "The number of people jumping from all high places in Bern was significantly lower compared to the years before, indicating that no immediate shift to other nearby jumping sites took place."¹³ They had an additional interesting point, "An installation of a physical barrier has an effect which reaches beyond physical obstruction ... It may be perceived as a sign of care."¹⁴

Similarly, Glasgow states that O'Carroll and Silverman's paper does not unequivocally prove that the Ellington suicide barrier saved lives. Of course, no single paper can offer unequivocal proof, and the authors would be imprudent to claim that theirs did. However, the authors did find that constructing a suicide barrier on the Ellington bridge eliminated suicides at that bridge while there was no increase in suicides at the nearby Taft bridge (which is easily visible to from the Ellington bridge). In addition, the suicide rate in the Washington D.C. area fell after construction of the barrier.¹⁵ The authors did not feel that their study could offer unequivocal proof but did again feel that their study supported the effectiveness of suicide barriers.¹⁶

In addition to the above studies, studies by Beautrais¹⁷, Rosen¹⁸ and Seiden¹⁹ all looked at the question of preventability and suicide by jumping and concluded that their study supported the efficacy of barriers. All told, there are eight separate studies looking at the question of whether bridge barriers could be effective, and all of the authors feel that their studies support this efficacy. There are no published studies of bridge barriers that do not support this efficacy. This is in addition to the huge body of literature on the efficacy of means reduction in general. Glasgow states "no existing research has been able to rule out the possibility that suicide barriers simply lead people to commit suicide in another place or way."²⁰ Again, the picture is similar to the case for the health dangers of smoking or the existence of global warming. No single study can prove the case, and it is impossible to completely rule out the possibility of the opposite scenario. However, the collection of a large body of evidence clearly points to the answer that smoking does cause cancer, global warming does exist, and a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge would save many, many lives.

Anne Fleming, M.D., M.S.
Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA 94110

David Elkin, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA 94110

¹ Mann JJ, Apter A, Bertolote J, Beautrais A, Currier D, Haas A, Hegerl U, Lonnqvist J, Malone K, Marusic A, Mehlum L, Patton G, Phillips M, Rutz W, Rihmer Z, Schmidtke A, Shaffer D, Silverman M, Takahashi Y, Varnik A, Wasserman D, Yip P, Hendin H. Suicide prevention strategies: a systematic review. *JAMA*. 2005 Oct 26;294(16):2064-74.

² Gunnell D, Nowers M. Suicide by jumping. *Acta Psychiatr Scand*. 1997 Jul;96(1):1-6.

³ Daigle MS. Suicide prevention through means restriction: assessing the risk of substitution.

A critical review and synthesis. *Accid Anal Prev.* 2005 Jul;37(4):625-32.

⁴ Hawton K. Restricting access to methods of suicide. *Crisis.* 2007 (Suppl 1): 4-9.

⁵ Summary of National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action. SAMHSA <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/suicideprevention/strategy.asp>

⁶ Glasgow, G. Report on the proposed Cold Spring Canyon Bridge Suicide Barrier. Feb 5, 2008.

⁷ Reisch T, Schuster U, Michel K. Suicide by jumping and accessibility of bridges: results from a national survey in Switzerland. *Suicide Life Threat Behav.* 2007 Dec;37(6):681-7.

⁸ Reisch et al. 2007

⁹ Pelletier AR. Preventing suicide by jumping: the effect of a bridge safety fence. *Inj Prev.* 2007 Feb;13(1):57-9.

¹⁰ Pelletier 2007.

¹¹ Bennewith O, Nowers M, Gunnell D. Effect of barriers on the Clifton suspension bridge, England, on local patterns of suicide: implications for prevention. *Br J Psychiatry.* 2007 Mar;190:266-7.

¹² Bennewith 2007.

¹³ Reisch T, Michel K. Securing a suicide hot spot: effects of a safety net at the Bern Muenster Terrace. *Suicide Life Threat Behav.* 2005 Aug;35(4):460-7.

¹⁴ Reisch and Michel 2005.

¹⁵ O'Carroll, PW, & Silverman, MM. (1994). Community suicide prevention: the effectiveness of bridge barriers. *Suicide Life Threat Behav.* 24(1), 89-91; discussion 91.

¹⁶ O'Carroll and Silverman 1994.

¹⁷ Beautrais AL. Effectiveness of barriers at suicide jumping sites: a case study. *Aust N Z J Psychiatry.* 2001 Oct;35(5):557-62.

¹⁸ Rosen DH. Suicide survivors. A follow-up study of persons who survived jumping from the Golden Gate and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridges. *West J Med.* 1975 Apr;122(4):289-94.

¹⁹ Seiden RH. Where are they now? A follow-up study of suicide attempters from the Golden Gate Bridge. *Suicide Life Threat Behav.* 1978 Winter;8(4):203-16.

²⁰ Glasgow 2008.

do.co.mo.mo_us

documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the
modern movement

Northern California Chapter
PO Box 29226
San Francisco CA
Docomomo.noca@gmail.com

August 25, 2008

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project
Golden Gate Bridge
Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 9000
San Francisco, CA 94129

To Whom It May Concern:

Docomomo is an international organization dedicated to the documentation and conservation of the architecture and engineering works of the modern movement. The Northern California chapter of Docomomo was established in 1996 as a non profit 501(c)3 organization, and its mission has been to promote education and awareness of the modern movement in the Bay Area.

The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most iconic engineering structures of the Modern Movement, and has invaluable historic, cultural and architectural significance. Its significance is due in large part to the cohesive characters of its design and siting. One of its principal character defining features is the design of the existing railing system and the open feeling one experiences on the bridge itself, as either a pedestrian or when viewed from a vehicle. The approach to the bridge from the Marin side is one of the most breathtaking experiences anywhere in the world of a bridge passage – starting from the feeling of compression in the Waldo tunnel, the sighting of the bridge towers as one exits the tunnel, the rapid and curved descent to the bridge and the sudden expansive feeling of openness, with amazing views of the bridge and the bay that one experiences on the bridge itself.

The Northern California chapter of Docomomo strongly recommends that physical changes not be made to the bridge that impact its character defining features, and are not related to required seismic or transportation improvements. We believe that the funds used for creating a physical suicide barrier could be better spent on non-physical suicide prevention means, such as more mental health treatment programs and increased bridge patrols.

If the Bridge District were to move forward with a physical suicide barrier, we believe the only alternative that does not negatively impact the character of the bridge deck and the experience for most visitors to the bridge is Alternative 3, the net solution. If this solution were to be chosen significant attention should be paid to the design of the netting to minimize its visual impact. We do not believe International Orange would be the appropriate color of the netting, but that a darker color would have less impact.

In summary, Docomomo Noca recommends that no physical suicide barrier be built. If the Bridge District were to proceed with a physical barrier, we recommend that a solution be selected, such as Alternative 3, which has minimal impact on the character of the railings and minimal visual impact for pedestrians and those in vehicles on the bridge deck.

Sincerely Yours,



Andrew Wolfram
President, Docomomo Noca

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE
HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORT DISTRICT

2008 AUG 25 PM 4: 02

SECRETARY OF
THE DISTRICT

By Hand

The Bridge Rail Foundation

3701 Sacramento Street #466 San Francisco, CA 94118

www.bridgerail.org

August 24, 2008

In my remarks to the board Friday, I had insufficient time to address the EIR. These remarks follow. Thank you for your thoughtful attention.

“Now we approach the end of this \$2 million study. I understand that the prescribed EIR format is the required process. But there are two monumental problems in this case. The first problem is that the EIR format is not designed to address the value of public safety alongside environmental values such as view, birds, and access.

“In the absence of bridge district policy regarding the value of public safety, I quote from an agency that does have such a policy. The BCDC letter of July 23, 2007 to the bridge district declares that its “policies state that ‘...maximum feasible public access <including visual access>...should be provided...*except in cases where public access would be clearly inconsistent..because of public safety considerations...*” (italics mine)

“Ladies and gentlemen, a life-safety danger is a public safety consideration.

“In other words, the first decision properly to be made would have been whether to address this public safety consideration—whether to build a barrier. Once the decision is made to do so, then an EIR is appropriate to address environmental concerns. This *is* the process under way in Washington State, where the governor has declared that a barrier will be built on the Aurora Bridge, which has an average of five suicides per year. Next comes the EIR in Washington State.

“Our process has not taken that route, which brings us to the second monumental problem with our EIR. It stacks the deck against saving lives because its “no-build” option contains propaganda.

“There is always a no-build alternative in every EIR. But typically it is defined as the alternative that fails to address the problem that is motivating the change. In this case the description of the no-build alternative would clearly state that the status-quo fails adequately to address the overriding public safety concern.

“Instead, the description declares that four suicide prevention deterrents are “already” in operation: telephones, patrols, cameras and training. The “already” of course implies that 4 deterrents are enough.

“What the description does **not** report is the *effectiveness* of those four deterrents. According to the Marin County Coroner, they have not changed the suicide rate AT ALL.

“In fact, the EIR takes the entire body of information that undergirds a decision to build a barrier, strips it down to a bald statement of 4 facts and repurposes the state of knowledge to imply that 4 suicide deterrent systems are sufficient. Not so, ladies and gentlemen—not when the suicide rate on this bridge is five (!) times that of its nearest ‘competitor,’ the Aurora Bridge. We can do better than continue the deaths.

“Finally, let me note that in the 70 years of suicide at this bridge, for the first time, Survivors—we who have lost loved ones--have found our voice.

“And until this ongoing tragedy is arrested, every ten days the constituency of Survivors increases.

“Survivors’ grief after years may subside from every-moment suffering, but the pain is never erased. Likewise this ever-growing constituency will never stop speaking out but will persevere along with the growing general public constituency until a barrier is built, the suicides stopped, these lives saved.

“Ladies and gentlemen, you can surmount the problems with our EIR. Please do the right thing—select as our ‘locally preferred alternative’ one of the five ‘build’ options.

“Thank you.”

Sincerely,



David Hull,
President

Garrett Glasgow
Political Science 9420
UC Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9420
August 7, 2008

Mr. Jeffrey Lee, PE, Project Manager
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
Administration Building, Bridge Toll Plaza
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, California 94129-0601

Via e-mail attachment (JYLee@goldengate.org)

RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report, Golden Gate Bridge Physical
Suicide Deterrent Project,

Dear Mr. Lee:

Thank you for the chance to review and comment on this draft environmental impact document. As my area of expertise is in social science statistics and research design, I will limit my comments to that topic, in particular the “purpose and need” section of the document.

Section S3 and pg. 1-5, Purpose and Need. The purpose of the proposed project as stated is ambiguous. For instance, Section S3 states “[t]he purpose of the proposed project is to consider a physical suicide deterrent system on the Bridge that reduces the number of injuries and deaths associated with individuals jumping off the Bridge.” As stated, the ultimate goal of the project is unclear – is it designed to save the lives of suicidal people, or simply to keep suicidal people off of the Golden Gate Bridge? There is a difference between preventing suicides at a particular location and saving lives, and this document should state explicitly which of these goals the project is intended to achieve.

A. One interpretation of the purpose of the project as stated is that it is meant to save the lives of suicidal individuals. If this is in fact the goal of the project, then it should be noted that to date no scientific study has been able to demonstrate that physical suicide deterrent systems save lives.

It is true that means restriction (limiting the availability of lethal means to suicidal individuals) has proven effective at reducing suicides by some methods. This evidence of the effectiveness of means restriction as a suicide prevention strategy comes from studies of lethal agents people keep in their homes and might use in an impulsive suicide, such as firearms and prescription medications.

While some have argued that the concept of means restriction might also extend to suicides by jumping from bridges, this is purely conjecture. To date every study on the effectiveness of physical suicide deterrent systems on bridges has been inconclusive – nobody knows whether such systems save lives, or just divert suicides to other locations.

The fact that means restriction works for some methods of suicide but is unproven in the case of bridges is well known among researchers and public health officials. For instance, after endorsing means restriction strategies for firearms, domestic gas, and toxic substances, on the topic of suicide barriers the World Health Organization states:

In addition to the measures described, whose efficacy is attested to by the scientific literature, it is thought that other measures, such as the use of fencing on high buildings and bridges, could also contribute to a reduction in suicide rates, although there is no definitive evidence to support this idea. (p. 87)

In more than 30 years of research, not one study has found evidence that suicide barriers save lives. For instance, in the most recent study on the topic (published in December 2007), Reisch et al. conclude “[b]arriers on bridges may prevent suicides but also may lead to a substitution of jumping site or method” (p.681). In sum, there is no scientific evidence that suicide barriers on bridges save lives. For more detailed information on this point see: <http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/glasgow/Caltrans.pdf>

Thus, the ability of a physical suicide deterrent system to accomplish this interpretation of the project goal is unknown.

B. Another interpretation of the purpose of the project as stated is that it is meant to simply to keep suicidal people from using the Golden Gate Bridge as their means to suicide. A physical suicide deterrent system is likely to accomplish this goal – numerous studies have demonstrated that the suicide rate on bridges and other tall structures declines when suicide barriers are constructed. Again, this is not proof that lives have been saved – it could be that suicidal individuals simply go elsewhere to end their lives. However, if the goal of the project is narrowly defined as preventing suicide at a particular location (the Golden Gate Bridge), the physical suicide deterrent system is likely to work.

There are two caveats here. First, it should be noted that while physical deterrent systems are generally effective at reducing suicides from bridges, this is not always the case. For instance, the Colorado Street Bridge in Pasadena has seen four suicides in the last 2 years despite having suicide barriers in place (*Pasadena Star-News*, various dates). This is a higher rate of suicide than the average rate of suicide from this bridge in the period before the barrier was installed (based on newspaper reports, approximately 1.25 per year). In the event a physical deterrent system is installed on the Golden Gate Bridge this case should be studied to determine if the recent failure to reduce the suicide rate at this bridge is due to a design flaw or an unforeseen maintenance issue with the system.

However, this case may simply be an indication that physical deterrent systems are unable to prevent determined individuals from committing suicide.

Second, this narrow definition of the goal of the project is at odds with the public understanding of the goal of this project. Most existing public support for this project is based on the belief that the ultimate goal of the project is to save lives. If the actual goal of the project is simply to move suicidal behavior away from the bridge, without regard for the ultimate fate of the suicidal individuals, this must be made clear in the document.

C. In conclusion, this document is unclear about what the actual purpose of the project is (keeping suicidal people away from the bridge or saving lives). If the actual goal of the project is to save the lives of suicidal individuals, the document must note that there is no scientific evidence that a physical suicide deterrent system will accomplish this goal. If the actual goal of the project is simply to keep suicidal people away from the Golden Gate Bridge without regard for saving lives, this must be made clear in the document so the public can make an informed decision about whether to support what amounts to a \$50 million suicide diversion project.

Sincerely,
Garrett Glasgow

References:

Reisch, T, U Schuster, K Michel. 2007. "Suicide by Jumping and Accessibility of Bridges: Results from a National Survey in Switzerland." *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 37:681-687.

World Health Organization. 1998. "Primary Prevention of Mental, Neurological, and Psychosocial Disorders." Accessed online at <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/924154516X.pdf>.

ALL COMMENTS RECIEVED

HAND WRITTEN COMMENT CARDS



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM PROJECT COMMENT CARD

Thank you for your interest in the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). Your feedback is an important part of this process. All comments received will be part of the EIR/EA public record. (Personal contact information is optional)

Name: ROBERT CLUTTON Date: JULY 23, 08

Address: 901 1/2 NORTH POINT STREET.

SF CA 94109-1111

City State Zip

E-Mail: NONE Affiliation: RETIRED

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
- Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

2. Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:

- No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
- Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

I THINK IF YOU WANT TO JUMP OFF THE BRIDGE - GO TO IT -
AND LET THE SHARKS GET A FEED. IF THE SHARKS DON'T LIKE
THE FLAVOR LET THE CARCASS FLOAT AWAY. IF PEOPLE WANT
TO COMMIT SCUI CIDE THEREARE SEVERAL LESS EXPENSES WAYS
TO DO SO. I AM LIVID ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF ALL THESE
BARRIERS OR ANY KIND OF PYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM
PROJECT AT GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE OR ANY BRIDGE IN OUR STATE.
GO TO ANY OTHER STATE TO DISPOSE OF YOUR LIFE AND SAVE
US THE EXPENSE IN TAXES !!!!!

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008.

Comments can also be e-mailed to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org, submitted on the comment page of the website: www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org/getinvolved.asp or mailed to Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project at Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129.



P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129

www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org
(415) 351-3800

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Name: PAUL J. MILLER Date: JULY 22, 2008

Address: 210 MONTEREY BLVD

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94131

City State Zip

E-Mail: _____ Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
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Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MENTAL
HEALTH ASSISTANCE NOT PAYING TENS
OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO CONTRACTORS
WHO ARE JUST TRYING TO MILK MONEY FROM
CITIZENS.

[Handwritten signature]

CONTINUE ON BACK

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail: _____ Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge |

2. Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:

- | | |
|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge |

3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

Use barbed wire as someone one suggested
 The cost might be under \$5000. Have
 people go in groups only, with a fee.
 Closing the bridge to pedestrians may also
 be OK.

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008.

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Name: MARY GAYNOR Date: JUL 23 '08

Address: 25 Berkeley way

SF CA 94131

City State Zip

E-Mail: star33@aweber.com Affiliation: N/A

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge |

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- | | |
|--|--|
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Resource Areas: *visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources*

Appalling that NO Barrier has been erected to date. More appalling that "snapshot" availability trumps opportunity to save 2 lives a month.

A net seems NO SOLUTION - rather could lead to very problematic "rescues" and falls from the net.

A barrier needs to be installed ASAP - there could be "cut-out" sections - too small for a person to leap through but large enough to provide the apparently required "photo op."

CONTINUE ON BACK

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Name: JEANINE FETERLY Date: 7-22-08
Address: 6121 SKAINLAND RD
OAKLAND CA 94611
City State Zip
E-Mail: jfeterly@SOLCALOAK.NET Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
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Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

as a close relative of someone who impulsively committed suicide, I still vehemently oppose a suicide barrier. it is not the responsibility of S9 Bridge district to save people from themselves - at the expense of millions of people whose enjoyment of the Bridge would be greatly diminished!

Jeanine Feterly

CONTINUE ON BACK

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Name: DANIEL CANADA Date: 7-23-09

Address: 650 CHESTNUT #103

SF CA 94133
City State Zip

E-Mail: _____ Affiliation: _____

- Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge
- Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).
 Resource Areas: *visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources*

WE NEED NO MECHANICAL DETERRENT TO STOP BRIDGE JUMPERS.

HIRE PEOPLE, TRAINED IN SUICIDE PREVENTION TO STOP JUMPERS.

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008.
 Comments can also be e-mailed to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org, submitted on the comment page of the website: www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org/getinvolved.asp or mailed to Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project at Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129.



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM PROJECT COMMENT CARD

Thank you for your interest in the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA). Your feedback is an important part of this process. All comments received will be part of the EIR/EA public record. (Personal contact information is optional)

Name: KEITH JACOBSEN M.D. Date: 7.23.08

Address: P.O. BOX 461

THE SEA RANCH City CA State 95497 Zip

E-Mail: BIFFBONKY @ EARTHUNK.NET Affiliation: Retired psychiatrist

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
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- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
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- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
- Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

I lived in San Francisco for 16 years (1984-2000) and continue to come to the City once a month.

I practiced psychiatry for 30 years (1974-2004). Most of my patients were clinically depressed. Three of my patients committed suicide.

My reasons for opposing the building a suicide barrier are as follows.

① The magnitude of the "suicide problem" is small. According to your figures: In the nine bay area counties, in 2005, there were 622 known suicides. Twenty-three were estimated to occur at the Bridge. That is 3.7%.

② Prevention measures work. Two-thirds of those attempting suicide at the Bridge are prevented from doing so.

③ Public education programs, hot-lines, and Bridge surveillance programs work. From a public health point of view, how much non-build alternatives can you buy with \$40 million?

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008. Keith Jacobsen, M.D.
Comments can also be e-mailed to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org, submitted on the comment page of the website: www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org/getinvolved.asp or mailed to Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project at Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129.



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Name: Kevin Goess Date: July 23, 2008

Address: 904 Cornell Ave

Albany CA 94706

City State Zip

E-Mail: KNETJGOESS.ORG Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:
- No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
 - Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
 - Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
 - Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
 - Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
 - Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

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- No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
 - Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
 - Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
 - Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
 - Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
 - Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: *visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources*

Please don't put anything on the bridge that we have to look through. Our whole country is covered with fences and safety gates and railings. We have so few places where you can just open up, relax, and enjoy the view. It's part thrill and it's part religious, and it's part a reaction to living in crowded cities where you're lucky to get a couple square feet of personal space. I'm sorry that some people have lost loved ones, but it is not an absolute duty of society to protect every American from themselves. The limits on a paternalistic government have to be drawn somewhere. Personally, I vote on drawing them on this side of boarding up the Golden Gate Bridge because some individual might make the wrong decision.

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008.
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Transcribed from above for readability.

July 23, 2008

Kevin Goess

904 Carmel Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

knet@goess.org

First preference for an Alternative: No Build

Second preference for an Alternative: No Build

Comments on the Draft EIR/EA:

“Please don’t put anything on the bridge that we have to look through. Our whole country is covered with fences and safety gates and railings. We have so few places where you can just open up, relax, and enjoy the view. It’s part thrill, and it’s part religious, and it’s part a reaction to living in crowded cities where you’re lucky to get a couple square feet of personal space. I’m sorry that some people have lost loved ones, but it is not an absolute duty of society to protect every American from themselves. The limits on a maternalistic government have to be drawn somewhere. Personally, I vote on drawing them on this site of boarding up the Golden Gate Bridge because some individual might make the wrong decision.”



P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129

www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org
(415) 351-3800

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Name: SUDI SCULL MET Date: JUL 24 08

Address: 78 Perata St

City: San Francisco State: CA Zip: 94102

E-Mail: 415-282-5185 phone Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
- Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

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3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

Hi - I am a marriage & family therapist. Suicide is a
medical condition that I feel is a medical condition for
people. I am not a doctor but I feel that people who
are suicidal + then killed her 5 yr. old brother through a
gun. Putting up a barrier is NOT going to stop
suicide. There are many reasons why people are suicidal - a client
recently told me of a friend who jumped off the
edge of the Grand Canyon. Putting up a barrier is like erecting a
barrier between Mexico & the US - it does not solve the deep
problems that are causing the suicidal thoughts. There were mental health
services + educational programs that should have been in

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008.

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OVER

a similar, depressed loved one is getting the help they
-to desperately need. It is an outward + deeply empathic
-to be controlled by someone with suicidal ideation to
-to find out their thoughts, feelings + plans. Learning how
-to do so would be similar to learning ~~emotional~~
-to avoid communication. So as much as I am against
-erecting any barriers, this proposed project knows the
-topic of suicide "out of the closet", making a ~~topic~~
-subject matter safe + approachable. This is positive. ^{As an example} I have one teacher
-who had acute chronic physical pain + considered
-suicide to be ~~an option~~ in her case. Her plan was to
-jump the Golden Gate Bridge but she ~~wasn't~~ -
-she had a teacher who intervened + non client support
-interventions ~~helped~~. She has found ways to make her
-life more enjoyable + leads a happy productive
-life

The Golden Gate bridge is a visual icon, a
"Seven Wonders of the World". It has a spiritual
-purpose to us as a symbol of hope.

Additionally we are in an economic crisis + the
-funds can be spent more wisely on all sorts of
-public socially minded projects.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share
-my views.

Sincerely,
-Mindy Smith

July 23, 2008
Sudi Scull MFT
78 Peralta Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 282-8185

First preference for an Alternative: No Build
Second preference for an Alternative: Alternative 3 – Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge

Comments on the Draft EIR/EA:

“Hi – I am a Marriage & Family Therapist. Suicide is a needless & horrendous act that negatively impacts families for generations. I am now working with a client whose favorite Aunt committed suicide & then killed her 5 yr. old daughter through a GUN. Unfortunately putting up a barrier is NOT going to stop suicides – there is always jumping in front of Bart – a client recently told me of a friend of a friend who jumped off the North rim of the Grand Canyon. Putting up a barrier is akin to erecting a border fence between Mexico & U.S.A. – it does not solve the deep economic disparity between the nations that force immigrants north. Why not take the \$30-\$50 million & have more mental health clinics & education programs to alert friends & family in assisting depressed loved ones in getting the help they so desperately need. It is an awkward & deeply empathic (sic) task in confronting someone with suicidal ideas – to find out their thoughts, feelings & plans. Learning how to do so would be similiar (sic) to learning First-Aid & artificial resuscitation. So as much as I am against erecting any barriers, this proposed project brings the topic of suicide “out of the closet” – making a taboo subject matter overt & approachable. This is positive. As an example I have one client who had acute chronic physical pain & considered suicide to be euthanasia in her case. Her plan was to jump the Golden Gate Bridge but she was fortunate – she had a teacher who intervened & my client sought counseling with me – she has learned how to make her pain manageable & leads a happy productive life.

The Golden Gate bridge is a visual icon, a ‘Seven Wonder of the World.’ It has a spiritual presence of its own & should be left intact. Additionally we are in an economic crisis & the funds can be spent more wisely on all sorts of public socially minded projects.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my views.

Sincerely,
Sudi Scull MFT”



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM PROJECT COMMENT CARD

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Name: Linda Chapman Date: 7/24/08
 Address: 630 Mason 301
 City: SF State: _____ Zip: 94108
 E-Mail: _____ Affiliation: Many

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 2A – Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System
- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
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2. Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:

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3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: *visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources*

Leave the structure alone. No need to read and comment on draft EIR when no change is appropriate. The bridge is perfect in architectural design, and perfect for its setting. To alter it risks spoiling one of the wonders of the modern world. Note that the first bridge built at the Tacoma Narrows blew down in the first severe windstorm. This is a similarly windy passage. People intent on suicide will consider alternatives and choose one; if that the first choice is foreclosed, then an alternative. I speak from experience here. You will not prevent suicides by altering the bridge. Address the causes. Provide support to victims from the legal or medical system, instead of leaving them in situations where death is a better alternative to continued suffering. See attached submission I brought to submit and discuss. (DO NOT ~~please~~ incorporate

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008. the attachment in published EIR),
 Comments can also be e-mailed to suicidebarrier@goldengate.org, submitted on the comment page of the website: www.ggbsuicidebarrier.org/getinvolved.asp or mailed to Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project at Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129.

CONTINUE ON BACK



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Name: Bruce Gurganus Date: 7-22-08
Address: 20 N. San Pedro Rd. #2021
San Rafael CA 94903
City State Zip
E-Mail: bgurganus@co.marin.ca.us Affiliation: Marin Community Mental Health Services

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
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3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

The alternatives 2A and 1A are handsome it
and appears they would be effective
in dissuading potential jumpers.

CONTINUE ON BACK

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Name: KATHY DUBY Date: 7/22/08
Address: 266 MILLER AVE
MILL VALLEY CA 94941
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: KDUBY1@YAHOO.COM Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1B - Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge |

2. Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Build - Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2A - Replace Outside Handrail with Vertical System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1A - Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2B - Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System |
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3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: *visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources*

CLOSE THE BRIDGE TO PEDESTRIANS

PROVIDE SHUTTLE FOR BIKES AND CYCLISTS

SAVE MILLIONS!

PEDESTRIANS DO NOT NEED TO BE ON THE BRIDGE

HAVE A VIDEO AVAILABLE IN THE VISITOR CENTER

OF WALKING ACROSS THE BRIDGE. PEOPLE LOVE

TO WATCH VIDEOS

THE BRIDGE IS FOR TRANSPORTATION (!)

NOT ENTERTAINMENT

THANK YOU

CONTINUE ON BACK

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Name: JANET R WILLIAMS Date: 22 JUL 08
Address: 211 SOUTH
SAUSALITO City CA State 94965 Zip
E-Mail: N.A. Affiliation: N.A.
PHONE: 415-352-2886

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
- Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
- Alternative 1B – Add Horizontal System to Outside Handrail
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2. Please let us know if you have a second preference for an Alternative:

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- Alternative 2B – Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System
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THIS 2ND CHOICE IS WAY BELOW 1ST CHOICE!

3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

- ALTHOUGH DONE NEARLY, I AM STILL DISPLEASED WITH THE "HANDRAIL BARRIER" ADDED BETWEEN SIDEWALK AND ROAD SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

- I HAD A FRIEND JUMP FROM THE BRIDGE MANY YEARS AGO (1960S), SO I AM NOT UNAWARE OF HOW SUICIDE AFFECTS SURVIVORS.

- AT ANGOR WAT (CAMBODIA) IN 2001, I ASKED IF PEOPLE EVER FELL OR JUMPED. THE GUIDE SAID, "OH YES." I THOUGHT HOW LUCKY IT WAS THAT ANGOR WAT IS IN CAMBODIA- IF IT WERE IN THE U.S. IT WOULD BE RUINED WITH RAILINGS AND BEWARE SIGNS, IF ANYONE WAS ALLOWED ON IT AT ALL.

CONTINUE ON BACK

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 25, 2008.

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(COVER)

- I AM MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE VISUAL,
HISTORIC, AND BIRD IMPACT

- I HAVE CROSSED THE BRIDGE 5X A WEEK
FOR 40 YEARS AND AT LEAST 3X A WEEK
FOR 10 YEARS

- THANK YOU FOR THIS EXCELLENT PRESENTA-
TION.



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM PROJECT COMMENT CARD

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Name: S. Payne Date: _____

Address: 2021 Benton Ln

Novato 7/22/08

City State Zip

E-Mail: NPRINCESS400 @ AOL Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:

- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
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3. Please provide your comments on the Draft EIR/EA; comment on the alternatives (listed above) and/or resource area impact analyses (listed below).

Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

Where in the Hell are we going to get 40-50 mill.!??

Do you really believe these 2 dozen poor souls are going to skip taking their lives because of the barricade -- they'll most likely just choose another venue!

Since most of these suicide victims are Bay Area residents, let's take about \$10,000,000 and set up some psychiatric counseling centers and meetings for these despondent souls.

Let's use the G.G. roundhouse for one of the psy. centers — its a beautiful setting!!

CONTINUE ON BACK

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Name: FREDERICK WARDENBURG Date: 7/22/08

Address: 29 COAST OAK WAY

SAN RAFAEL CA 94903
City State Zip

E-Mail: _____ Affiliation: _____

1. Please let us know if you have a first preference for an Alternative:
- No Build – Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs
 - Alternative 1A – Add Vertical System to Outside Handrail
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Resource Areas: visual/aesthetic, cultural resources/historic preservation, land use, parks and recreation and biological resources

BRIDGE DISTRICT SHOULD SPEND MONEY ON DIVIDER
TO PROTECT HUNDRED T THOUSANDS OF COMMUTERS WHO
WANT TO LIVE

CONTINUE ON BACK

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ALL COMMENTS RECIEVED

WEBSITE COMMENT FORM

(SUBMITTED ONLINE)

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)		
First	Last	Comment
Joe	A	On one hand let them fall. Natural selection in process. If you really want to save them and not make the bridge look bad there is a easy fix. Construct a net below the bridge that you can not jump over. The net will have wight sensors on each mounting point notifying the proper authorities that some one is in the net. The net should be construct of a material that is difficult to cut and difficult to crawl across. Bridge personnel could then hit the suicide with tranquilizer dart(like a wild animal) and remove the safely at there leisure. Let them fall, save the money. Our roads are in bad shape, our schools are in bad shape and the tax money is better spent else where. Let them fall. Do not waste the money. T'hanks Joe
Dennis	Aaron	I do not believe a suicide barrier will reduce suicides, it will only change the location and form of suicide. While I feel deeply for the families and friends affected by an individuals actions, barrier intervention will not make a difference to a person committed to suicide. Rather, I am more concerned about the deaths on the bridge and approach due to accidents. And that any bridge funding should go to preventing these deaths rather than for a 'prevention' barrier.
Ann	Abbruzzese	If someone jumps from the bridge & lands in the net & survives, that person's life will be dramatically changed. If someone is unable to jump because of bars or whatever.....they'll try something else.
Willie	Ablao	why is it our responsibility to keep people from committing suicide?
Phil	Able	It's time this happen. I don't really care which one you choose, just as long as you install it soon.
Rachael	Ablog	Erect a Barrier or Physical Suicide Deterrent to avoid and prevent all possible suicide Many thanks
cherlyn	acasio	I am sure if it was someone in your family that died you would want somthing to stop the next person from hurting themseelves.
Susan	Acker	2A would IMPROVE views from cars

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First	Last	Comment
Susan	Acker	Consider the reduced cost of Coast Guard/HwyPatrol search, rescue & body recovery. (To say nothing of reduced trauma & anguish of all seeing someone jump) How much will we save? Let's stop having to associate the Golden Gate with suicide - it's a cultural disgrace.
Susan	Acker	As a bicyclist, I'd fee safer with a taller barrier.
Susan	Acker	The draft could include the costs & financial loss created by allowing the suicides to continue.
		1. Build a barrier and not even one generation will pass before all the whooha will be forgotten and people will be asking why we didn't do it sooner before so many died. 2. Someone told me the other day about the comment going around that if golden retrievers were jumping off the Golden Gate, there would be a great hue & cry for building a barrier.
Susan	Acker	
		I beleive the money can be much better spent saving the lives of our familes needing food and housing. For people that want to commit suicide, it only stops them from using this bridge.
Wendy	Ackerman	
		The funds for this would be better allocated for more humanitarian work in the area of mental health care, food and shelter for people who are desperate and some of the more underlying factors that lead to suicide.
Wendy	Ackerman	

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First	Last	Comment
Tom	Acree	<p>To the residents of San Francisco:</p> <p>My column concerns the proposed suicide barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge. To put it bluntly, I have doubts that it will save even a single life, and could possibly even lead to an increased suicide rate in the city. Who am I to make such a claim, and what are my credentials? The answer may surprise you-I am not a leading psychologist; in fact I have no background in the field whatsoever. I hail from Arkansas, and I sell auto parts for a living, but I am well-qualified to make this observation. Many people move to San Francisco each year to to live-homosexuals tired of being in the closet, financial wizards who would rather live here than New York, and aging hippies hoping to recapture a taste of the sixties, among others. What makes me unique is that I didn't move here to live, I moved here to die, and being suicidal is what qualifies me to make this observation from a "bird's-eye view", so to speak.</p> <p>I won't go into great depth on the subject, but in this next paragraph, I will share my personal tragedy with you, in order that you may see things from my point of view. I was happily married to the love of my life for twenty-one years, and in April of 2007, I awoke one Saturday morning to find her dead beside me in bed. She was only forty-seven, and had evidently suffered a massive heart attack during the night. I loved her very deeply, and after the initial shock wore off, I went into a state unlike any other I have ever experienced. Her life was over, and therefore so was mine; she was half of what we had become together, and I had no desire to continue living without her. My reason for moving to California instead of killing myself in Arkansas, was so that my aging mother would have relatives nearby for support. (I talked her into making the move with me; most of our family lives in California).</p> <p>I gradually regained my will to live, but when the barrier issue first came up, I had not yet found it. That caused me to consider taking my life in a manner that would address this issue directly, and hopefully keep the city government from defiling one of the country's most beautiful and well-known landmarks. I would buy a pistol, and during rush-hour traffic one day, I would drive out onto the Golden Gate Bridge, put the car in park, and climb out onto the roof and shoot myself before anyone realized what was happening; thereby proving that you cannot stop someone from committing suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge. Fortunately, that is behind me now, but it brings me to the focus of my letter. Suicide has long been romanticized in our culture; from Romeo and Juliet, to Patrick Henry to Jimmy Stewart's character in "It's a Wonderful Life", but the fact is, there is nothing "romantic" about it. It is an agonizing personal decision, and methods are an afterthought. (At least they were for me). If the barriers are erected, it will not stop anyone from committing suicide; jumping of the bridge will simply become irrelevant as a method to consider. No one will be sitting around thinking to himself/herself "Gee, I'd kill myself if only I could jump off the Golden Gate Bridge". Which brings me back to one of the points of my opening statement; that the barriers may actually increase the number of suicides. As it is now, there are telephones on both sides of the bridge, so that a person who is considering the jump can call the suicide hotline free of charge. If the barriers are erected and the potential suicide victim decides to use a gun or sleeping pills, the gun shop or pharmacist is not likely to offer counseling or hand them a card containing the number of the hotline. It pays to think before you act, and that goes for the city government as well as people who are considering suicide.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Tom Acree</p> <p style="text-align: right;">859 45th Ave</p> <p style="text-align: right;">San Francisco, CA 94121</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(415) 750-3960</p>

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)		
First	Last	Comment
		scootertrash42@hotmail.com do not have fax#
Christopher	Adams	All proposed designs mar the perfect aesthetics of the Bridge. DO NOT detroy the current design.
Christopher	Adams	All proposed designs mar the perfect aesthetics of the Bridge. DO NOT detroy the current design.
Christopher	Adams	Leave the Bridge alone.
Christopher	Adams	Leave the Bridge alone.
Christopher	Adams	Leave the Bridge alone. It's not the Bridge's fault that people choose to commit suicide there. If they want sucha beautiful spot as their final moment, that is their choice. All proposed changes are complete waste of money, and attempts to change the bridge MUST BE STOPPED.
elizabeth	adams	Just do SOMETHING to eliminate the temptation teens are especially susceptible to, sometimes,in their emotional angst of growing up. They are far far more important than whatever aesthetic concerns people have. Whatever you do people will get used to -- Parisians at first HATED the Eiffel Tower, and now they love it.
Karen	Adams	Leave the beautiful bridge and its gorgeous views as they are now with NO changes or modifications. This GG bridge is a famous landmark known around the world and should not be spoiled in any way.
Karen	Adams	Sadly, desperate people do commit suicide and they will find another means to do it if the GG bridge is not available to them. Perhaps by choosing the bridge, it is a way for these people to appreciate its beauty and their choice should be left to them.

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Karen	Adams	25-50 million dollars is a huge amount of money that should be spent on those of us who choose to live (and visit) in this beautiful area of the world. Perhaps spending this money on the Dole Drive earthquake retrofit would be more beneficial and it would definitely affect many more people.
		Why spend millions to prevent someone from doing something they are going to accomplish anyway? If they want to kill themselves, they will find a way. It is unintelligent and senseless to think that you can prevent someone from taking their own life if that's what they want to do. You can't afford it anyway! Put in a freeway barrier!! Get your priorities straight. Accidents happen. Suicides are planned. Make sense? Don't subsidize personal problems and inadequacies. Thanks.....
William	Adams	
William	Adams	It has been great for all these decades. Why change it because of a small fraction unbalanced individuals?
		Again, by changing the bridge in this manner, you are saying, anytime someone comes up with a new problem, it is your responsibility to accommodate it. This just isn't true. Pay your bills and fix the bridge responsibly and see what happens.
William	Adams	
William	Adams	I have no further comment
William	Adams	None
William	Adams	None
William	Adams	None
William	Adams	None
William	Adams	None
William	Adams	None
William	Adams	None
Sheila	Addison	This money should be spent on mental health counseling and treatment for people in the Bay Area, not on preventing just a few from suicide.
Judith	Adison	The Golden Gate Bridge is a delight for visitors from the world. any barrier will impede its beauty. I am opposed to any barrier. This will not save lives.
		It's a bridge and that is it's purpose. From afar, the visual aesthetics will still be appealing. I think the orange color is the most iconic visual element to the average eye.
Jennie-Marie	Adler	

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Jennie-Marie	Adler	Sorry if this is the wrong box. But here's my comment: The Golden Gate bridge will soon surpass being known for anything but its horrific disasters--that including the numerous suicides. There should be a draft proposal like this for every bridge, not just the Golden Gate. There should be no questions or aesthetics or biological resources when lives are at stake. A friend came to visit me in the city last week and said, I couldn't go on the Golden Gate Bridge after I saw that movie "Bridge." San Francisco has created a icon that symbolizes death and now we have the chance to do something about it. Vertical, horizontal, nets....you ask me to vote for one? I vote for them all.
david	aguilar	this would be a negative visual impact on the traditional tourist draw. Why do we have to always cater to the few instead of the majority? This fence is a bad idea, pour the money into prevention and programs for these poor souls.
david Kymba	aguilar AHearn	More paint, more upkeep, and more money. This can't be the direction we have to go to. Why don't we ban handguns so people don't shoot themselves? Stop meddling in the lives of people.
Kymba	AHearn	Really bad, any changes look tacked on and obscure view of people walking for pleasure.
Kymba	AHearn	NO alternative is acceptable.
Kymba	AHearn	It's disgusting the amount of money, time, and effort being wasted because a FEW morons go suicidal in this way; ALL of us pay, all of us suffer and you're taking time and money away from other things the parks could benefit from.
Dan	Ahern	Replace outside handrail with vertical systems seems the most aesthetically pleasing.
Donovan	Ahlquist	No barrier can reduce the impact of making a National Landmark ugly.
Donovan	Ahlquist	Any funding spent on the barrier would delay an accident prevention barrier to prevent head on accidents on the bridge.
Donovan	Ahlquist	NO bridge barrier would have prevented our friend from committing suicide in the sixties when she jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge. Perhaps she would have jumped off the Bay Bridge instead or ran off the cliff at Lands End or maybe ran into them head on on the bridge and taken innocent bystanders with her. You can't stop it.
Donovan	Ahlquist	Any barrier would make the Golden Gate Bridge something other than it is right now. No matter how pretty or ugly it is the Golden Gate Bridge District wins as they love to spend our money.

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Theo	Albers	We should not visually impact the bridge. I prefer no barrier at all, it would be an impossible task to prevent people from killing themselves in the city. Bridge now, what is next? The rocks along the ocean, other bridges, Coit tower, whatever. Dont waste tax payers money, or is this going to be yet another toll increase.
Theo	Albers	IF, and this is a very big IF, we need to build a barrier. Do not impact the view of our city from the bridge or how the bridge looks like. Keep the same color.
Theo	Albers	There is no way that you can prevent suicides to happen in the entire city. If not here, it will happen somewhere else. So probably better to have a place that impacts us less than a splat on the sidewalk somewhere.
Adam	Albert	This won't stop suicides, just maybe the suicides at the bridge, so a barrier is a waste of money.
Rick	Albiero	I'd rather have the City invest the money in programs that help people wishing to commit suicide rather than spend the money to have them go somewhere else. And then what, we spend \$200 million on the Bay Bridge?
Rick	Albiero	Leave it alone in any case. Changing the experience for 100,000's of visitors and those of us who live here for a short-term deterrence that, once known, will have little or no effect. These people aren't going to jump into a net, or they'll see the barriers and go somewhere else. Just help them. Stop the reduced spending on alternative programs. You just want something visible (and expensive) for political reasons.
Rick	Albiero	Same as above. The bridge isn't causing suicides, it's the lack of help before they get to the bridge.
Rick	Albiero	An everyday, visible aspect on our culture.
Rick	Albiero	After a few years of wind and weight impacts I have little doubt you'll need to raise tolls to fix the problems this short-sighted, politically driven solution will result in.
Rick	Albiero	Same as above.
Rick	Albiero	Maybe a little less trash will make its way into the Bay. How much will it cost for the extra people to clean it up? The painters won't do it. How about taking a level of middle-management in the bloated infrastructure to do it?
Rick	Albiero	Same
Rick	Albiero	Waste of our taxpayers money while the City goes bankrupt at the same time more money is coming in than ever. How inept do you think most of us are?
Rick	Albiero	Can I work at a really high consulting rate for the company(s) that drafted these alternatives???

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John	Alden	I don't think there would be ANY aesthetic impact or negative effect of the Net System. And the Net System is the significantly cheaper alternative. I think all the railing systems would produce a very negative aesthetic impact and would also not allow people to photograph the bay from the bridge (no type of glass will allow people to take photographs b/c of the glare and dirt etc.
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		Alts. 1A and 1B. Keeping existing handrail gives pedestrians a better SENSE of safety, I think. My preference for Alts 1B and 2B would be to eliminate the "winglet" which seems oppressive being overhead.
David	Alexander	
Loren	Alexander	I'm not sure which one course of action to vote on. It's a very important matter and something should definitely be done. Something that can save lives but also preserve the architectural beauty of the bridge. But also something more than a crisis time because that seems to not be doing enough good.
Jens	Alfke	I value human life more than aesthetics.
Jens	Alfke	Thank you for trying again to move this issue forward.
Lisa	Aliferis	I like the net because it seems to have the least visual/aesthetic impact on the bridge.

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Lisa	Aliferis	I do think a barrier is a necessity. A jump off the GG Bridge is a virtual guarantee of death. Few survive. Yet most who attempt suicide, from any other method, survive. Most of those ultimately recover from whatever drove them to attempt suicide in the first place. I say this as a very close friend of two people who have attempted suicide and gone on to live productive and happy lives. A barrier will definitively save lives and our beloved Golden Gate Bridge will no longer be synonymous with suicide.
Emily	Allen	Suicide barriers have proven effective at other famous suicide-attracting landmarks.
Emily	Allen	Thoughts of suicide can be a mental disorder for some, a "contagious" idea for others. These people are not determined to kill themselves and would be prevented by further barriers on one of the most famous landmarks for suicides.
James	Allen	I do not support any change in the Golden Gate Bridge design including adding a suicide barrier. This view is based on the changes in the aesthetics of the bridge that would be necessary to support such a barrier.
James	Allen	I definitely think more public comment should be solicited and the proposed changes should be voted on by the City/County of San Francisco and Marin.
John	Allen	There is no evidence that a barrier will reduce suicides overall. It would, however, reduce suicides from the GGB. More resources should be directed to suicide prevention. John and Erika Brooks actions are rooted in their guilt as failed parents. They feel that joining in the campaign to erect a barrier will somehow absolve them of their failure as parents in averting their daughters tragic end. Perhaps the barrier question should be put before the voters. It is wrong to allow the desires of a relative few of a vocal special interest group have preference over the desires of the many. Taxpayer dollars can be better utilized on infrastructure, or maybe reducing my taxes.
Linda	Allen	I am not in favor of the net alternative, and "no build" is not acceptable!
Linda	Allen	I am strongly in favor of a physical suicide deterrent. Impulsive suicide off the bridge must be stopped. The toll on family members and others is extreme. Research shows such deterrents are indeed successful in stopping suicides.
Ross	Allen	In my opinion, it is not the responsibility of the GG Bridge Authorities to prevent suicides. This is a social issue, not a transportation issue. Burdening the public with an unaesthetic solution on a national icon costing 10's of millions of dollars is not the answer. This is social engineering at its worst. Invest in non-physical suicide deterrent systems.
Steve	Allen	Any of the alternatives is preferable to doing nothing!
Arthur	Allen, MD	20 - 30 people die each year many impulsively. Enough is enough! Take away this "loaded gun".

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Marolyn	Allred	Some system must be inplace to help prevent suicides.
Diane	Alper	I do not want to see any visual/aesthetic change to the Golden Gate Bridge. My belief is that if an individual has decided to commit suicide, they will do so "somewhere" and barriers on the bridge may stop it there, but will not still stop a determined person who wants to take his/her life.
Kurtis	Alphonse	It is delusional to think that a suicide barrier will stop suicides. The tolls keep increasing because of costs, and this is just another added expense that has no direct danger to public. All monies should be reserved to have a barrier between the autos to prevent head-on collisions for those who want to live. Did you think someone could jump in front of a car? Do you think that someone wouldn't just go the one of the many cliffs around and jump to their death? This is nothing more than a political statement and another abuse of tax payers money. How do you expect to pay for the upkeep of this even if you raised the donations? Suicide prevention is best left to the professionals and medication to treat their symptoms, definitely not the GG Bridge directors to make such decisions. When this bridge was built, it was done by the sacrifices of the people of the bay area that put a note against their houses to build one of the country's most spectacular bridges. Let's not be foolish or immature in our thinking to make people feel fuzzy about we care by defacing this national landmark. If you truly care about suicide prevention, then volunteer your time to helping those who have those tendencies. Otherwise, act in accordance to the professionalism of managing the bridge for the purpose of transportation and NOT political statements. If wholeheartedly am against the suicide barrier.
Kurtis	Alphonse	How many of you that have voted for the barrier volunteer at a suicide prevention center?
Lisa	Alvarez	I truly believe this barrier is a waste of money. It would be better spent on the movable center barrier to devide traffic. Suicidal people are going to find away to end their pain with or without a barrier on our beautiful bridge. With the 2 recent bridge closures due to head on collisions, and the constant driver distractions, I think the barrier is money well spent.
Therese	Alvillar	Absurd waste of money. Next the government will require that each person hire a body guard to protect themselves from themselves.
JACK	ALVORD	Fade in various solutions and observe the effects on preventing suicides with different measures accepting that saving lives is the highest priority.
JACK	ALVORD	Fade in various solutions and observe the effects on preventing suicides with different measures accepting that saving lives is the highest priority.

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john	amaro	<p>The idea of altering the lines of the graceful Golden Gate Bridge is just wrong.</p> <p>It will change the look completely.</p> <p>"Don't do It" signs with free call boxes to prevention hot lines would appesie many people.</p>
Ken	Amendola	<p>There should be no changes made to The Bridge for Suicide deterrents. If deterrents are to be built, then those attempting suicide from the bridge should be fined one million dollars, and when enough money has been collected from fines use those funds to build the deterrents. No taxpayer money should be used or monies from tolls.</p>
Tony	An	<p>There are an average 18 suicides by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge each year since it was built, much less than the at least two dozen pedestrian deaths each year in San Francisco, not counting hundreds of thousands of injured, some of them severely.</p>
Charlotte	Anderson	<p>Please work to save lives.</p>

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Derek	Anderson	<p>1) The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few; if there is \$50 millions to spend on the bridge, then that money should go to on-going maintenance, patrols and toll reductions, not to building a suicide barrier.</p> <p>2) Historic structures have more meaning as originals. What makes the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids, the Taj Mahal and the Golden Gate Bridge iconic structures is that they still stand as they were when they were created. This is the power of architecture and of history and this should be honored, not altered.</p> <p>3) The plans which call for plexiglass viewing areas are not well thought out: there is no way that these windows will remain clean in the salty air and car fumes. Hence visitors to the city will lose one of the most important features of the bridge: its incredible views.</p>
Mark	Anderson	<p>The money being proposed should be used in alternative treatment areas - to support mental health initiatives rather than placing a very small bandaid on a big problem. People will find a way to end their lives in some way - no matter what anyone does but we can help far more by offering mental health support services than by spending it on a physical barrier that only addresses a small portion of the population.</p>
Martin	Anderson	<p>From a cultural perspective I am troubled by the impact analysis that suggests the Build Alternatives would cause direct adverse effects to the Bridge, including the complete or partial removal of character-defining features. As a symbol of the city I believe the Bridge should remain untouched. All of the Build Alternatives include some kind of modification to the Bridge, therefore my preference is the No Build option.</p> <p>Similarly, all of the Build Alternatives have significant visual impacts which, in my opinion, are undesirable, especially given the iconic status of the bridge and its heavy tourist traffic.</p>

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Martin	Anderson	I sympathize and appreciate the anguish felt by those who have been impacted by suicides from the Bridge. However, when the cost of any Build Alternative (estimated to be \$40-\$50 million) is measured against the total number of suicides (1,300 since 1937) I feel there are less expensive alternatives that would be commensurate with the size of the problem. Additional funding can be applied to increase the effectiveness of non-physical deterrents. For example: 1) finance additional Public Safety Patrols, 2) investigate enhancements to the surveillance cameras such as the use of behavior profiling software similar to the kind employed by public surveillance cameras in countries such as Israel or 3) increased efforts to address the root causes of suicide attempts (e.g. more counseling at schools, funding for mental health clinics, drug rehabilitation, etc.). Any savings obtained by pursuing these non-physical deterrent enhancements could be used to address other areas that cause unwanted deaths (e.g. how many auto accident related deaths can be linked to poor road conditions or unclear signage? - I'm sure Caltrans would appreciate additional funds for road repair.)
Rick	Anderson	Horizontal system may be less distracting to a motorist/cyclist in motion. (less of a strobe effect)
Roberta	Anderson	This proposal suggests the most misdirected use of funds I have ever encountered. I suggest that the millions be redirected to improve highways or build a high speed train system. We have significant problems in California...stopping jumpers is not one of them.
Shea	Anderson	Why not add drop boxes for people to leave their wallets so people will know who jumped.

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Steve	Anderson	<p>A suicide barrier as proposed is too expensive relative to the potential benefit to the whole population. Since the actual number of people at risk to take their own lives is so small relative to the population who pay tolls, taxes and use the bridge on a daily/lifetime basis, to spend 50+ million for a any kind of barrier is irresponsible. I know all to well from past proposals and "estimates" relative to projects of this magnitude and complexity, that the proposed cost is conservative and would easily be exceeded. I wouldn't be at all surprised if the "actual" cost would be more like \$75-100 million. That's the reality of projects in CA these days!</p> <p>I'm not suggesting that suicide deaths are insignificant or not a tragedy, but the district could spend much less money and certainly be much more effective by supporting/funding suicide prevention programs, counseling, etc.</p> <p>A better use of these funds to benefit the largest number of people, who by the way "want to live", would be to get a movable median barrier on the GG bridge.</p> <p>All information I've read on suicide suggests that if any person is determined to take their own life, not having the GG Bridge to jump off will not stop them... they'll find another venue (Bay Bridge, tall building, medications, and on and on.</p> <p>Thank You, Steve Anderson San Anselmo</p>
David	Andre	<p>The Net System is a great idea. It will not impact the aesthetics of this beautiful bridge and definetly have an impact on preventing suicides. In addition to the net, could there be some type of detection system installed to indicate when someone lands on the net? This would enable a quick emergency team response.</p>
David	Andre	<p>I have lived my whole life in the Bay Area and have traveled across the bridge many times. It is a tourist attraction and icon for the state of California. However, this suicide legacy is disgusting. It's shocking how San Francisco and Bay Area residents have tolerated and allowed this bridge to become the suicide machine it has become. I will never walk or drive across the bridge again without a sick feeling. Is this the morbid and sad feeling you want visitors to the bridge to feel? Please built the net and give the Bay Area its bridge back.</p>

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Kevin	Andrews	<p>Suicide is not an act of opportunism. Those who suicide off the bridge now will find another option. I am for preventing suicide. I just don't believe this is the way to do it. The same money could be better spent on education, counseling and prevention programs. Such programs would not merely move people from one venue to another for suicide, but could actually impact them in a meaningful way. Moreover, such programs would impact those who are interested in suicide by other means. A barrier will not impact those people one bit. It is short sighted and wasteful.</p> <p>Of the barrier ideas proposed, the least objectionable is the net. This may have some impact, in that people who fall into the net would be referred to counseling, and may also be effected by the experience itself. However, I still oppose the idea in any form.</p>
Paul	Andronico	<p>This is a very difficult and troubling issue, especially for those families who have lost loved ones.</p> <p>However, the cost of the various alternatives (\$40-\$50 Million) is too high when you consider that Golden Gate Bridge suicides represent less than 4% of the suicides annually in the Bay Area (23 out of 622 in 2005), and that existing suicide prevention measures are successful more than 70% of the time (58 prevented out of 81 in 2005).</p> <p>In the end, there is an element of human choice here that is important. And while we may not understand or approve of a person "throwing their life away", we should not force taxpayers to foot such a high price to protect people from themselves. The existing measures are costly enough and should not be expanded to include a physical barrier.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Robin	Andronico	<p>A barrier would ruin the aesthetics of the GG Bridge.</p>

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Robin	Andronico	My heart goes out to the families who've lost loved ones from jumping, but a \$50 million barrier is not the answer. Increase mental health funding or have trained suicide prevention staff patrol the bridge. Stop passing legislation to control human behavior.
Rebecca	Angel	Build the barrier now
Rebecca	Angel	Build the barrier now
Suzanne	Angioli	Please do not ruin the bridge for the millions of people who come to walk across or stare at it from afar. While the bridge might be a tempting place for the few - 1500 since 1937- who have committed suicide, it has been a point of serenity for millions and millions of other people over the years. Please do not make a decision based on what has happened to a small amount of people. Put the decision in context. Spend the money on a barrier on the bridge for the cars.
Suzanne	Angioli	Public money could be better spent in better ways - food for the hungry, more mental health care workers, fixing dangerous streets in SF for pedestrians and cyclists. While suicides are very sad, many people want money for causes that effected one of their family members directly because they want to feel that their loved one did not die in vain. There are promotions for everything these days. Society cannot afford to operate like this. It has to spend money wisely and fund projects that help the most people.
Anonamous	Anonomous	I feel very strongly that the bridge should remain as is. It is my personal opinion that if a person has decided to end his or her life then they will, or at least attempt to do so. If physical systems are added to the bridge then that person will pursue alternative locations/methods. I do not believe this will reduce the number of suicides but only change where they occur. To spend up to \$50M for a -- if I can speak plainly -- a change of venue, is not defensible considering the other pressing needs of the city -- e.g. the homeless
Anonamous	Anonomous	I believe that any physical barriers will detract and negatively impact current uses and enjoyment of the bridge.
Ruth	Anthony	I prefer the No-Build Alternative because the beautiful and breathtaking view from the Golden Gate Bridge should not be diminished.
Rip	Anzalone	Saving lives is your most important project.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)		
First	Last	Comment
mary	appel	Leave it alone. Though it is sad, it is a fact that people who want to kill themselves will find a way -- and that is ultimately a personal choice. Maybe if millions were spent on treatment for depression, poverty, addiction, etc, rather than a barrier, fewer people would choose to jump.
Pamela	Aquilina	It's not the public's job to prevent people from committing suicide. I don't think we should spend millions of dollars trying to protect people from themselves. Jumping off of a bridge, where you have to climb over something is a deliberate act. I say, if they are that serious, they are going to find a way to accomplish their goal. If not this, jumping in front of a train, or driving off the road.
Naomi	Armenta	I would favor the net as long as it's effective, otherwise I think 1a goes best with current design.
Naomi	Armenta	I think a suicide barrier is very important and will save lives.
Alan	Arndt	Leave the bridge alone. Those that want to kill themselves will find a way. Those that are "only" attracted to kill themselves by the GGB are much more likely to find help than if had gone elsewhere. Building barriers isn't really going to solve anything.
Janice	Arnheiter	The money to be spent is absurd...one should weigh the good vs. the dollars spent. A suicide from a skyscraper does not mean "encase the building with nets to catch people." which is a silly idea but then so is putting suicide barriers on one of the loveliest structures in the world.
Stephen	Aron	Visual aesthetic concerns seem important. No good way to prevent people jumping physically.
Noah	Arribas	It would be a shame to spend so much money to alter a national monument! No physical barrier will detour a person in a mentally unstable situation!!!! Keep the suicide phone line!
Noah	Arribas	PLEASE LEAVE THE BRIDGE ALONE! No barrier will stop a determined suicidal person, only psychological help!
Rocky	Arroyo	Please leave the bridge as is.
beth	arvidson	The barrier should be as minimal as possible while still being effective.We must have a deterrent to suicides on the bridge!
David	Ashby	Actually I don't mind what method is used. There was no voting option for this. so I picked 1A and 1B more or less at random purely because they involve building a barrier.
David	Ashby	Please build a barrier.

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Diana	Ashkenasy	<p>For as many years as suicides have been occurring off the GG bridge, it's a CRIME on the part of the great city of SF not to have done something about this long ago. The fact that the City tries to keep these tragedies quiet, can't erase the fact that they DO happen.</p> <p>It's time SF puts some kind of system in place to deter people from ending their lives off the GG bridge.</p> <p>I'm in the City monthly, for years now, when I see the GG bridge it simply stands for a symbol of tragedy and sadness for me. Let's bring back the glory of The Bridge and build a Deterrent System!</p>
David	Ashton	<p>Its a waste of money to prevent suicides from this bridge when A) the people that want to commit suicide will do so in another location and may possibly hurt innocent people in doing so; and B) the bridge district shouldnt spend any money on this before they protect the lives of those people that commute on the bridge and want to stay alive through the use of a movable barrier.</p> <p>Lastly, the bridge district has no business operating ferries or busses. Those should be sold off to private enterprises. The bridge is the bridge only.</p>
Danielle	Askini	<p>I think this is so desperately needed to save lives. :(It's terrible that nearly 220 people have been allowed to take their own life on such a beautiful and historic place. :(A tragedy for the family, the people (who might otherwise been unsuccessful or gotten help if they had been properly deterred), and particularly the visitors who are now routinely marred by these deaths! Bravo for making this happen! It is worth a little bit of sacrifice to the original appearance to save the lives of those people who so desperately need saving.</p>
Neal	Atkins	<p>WASTE OF MONEY! If someone wants to off themselves, they WILL find a way. Maybe post a schedule of the tides so the prospective jumpers will be able to time their jump to when the tide is going out to sea. Then the relatives/friends won't be saddled with the cost of a funeral.</p>

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Binh	Au	There cannot be a price placed on a person's life. If the \$50 million it takes to build a suicide barrier saves one person's life, it is worth it. There is plenty of research that shows reduction of suicide means leads to a reduction of suicide rates. The Golden Gate Bridge is already known as the number one suicide magnet in the world. One of the greatest risk factors for suicide is impulsivity. Most people who are suicidal do not want to die. They want the pain to end. In their moment of crisis, suicidal people don't think clearly and may act without thinking through the consequences of their action. Suicide is a social responsibility and building a suicide barrier is fulfilling that responsibility.
Carrie	Austin	I oppose constructing any physical suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.
Robert	Austin	Let's worry less about aesthetics and more about saving lives.
Anonymous	Author	Spend the \$50 million on mental health programs for those who don't have or can't afford insurance, and outreach/education programs for those with insurance. Why treat the symptoms when you can tackle the cause?
Kimi	Avary	I think that our money should be spent on suicide prevention within the community. There are so many ways that people commit suicide that just spending money on this one is shameless. Let's prevent the desire for people to take their life. I don't see people saying that cars should not be used because the exhaust can be used to kill oneself or that pills should not be used because some people overdose. I'm sorry for the fact that people do want to take their own life, but I'm certain that this proposed barrier will not stop people from doing so. Let's treat the source of the problem, not the visual manifestation of it.
Doug	Avery	Suicide is an issue of personal responsibility, not public responsibility. No money should be spent; no modifications should be made
Adam	AvRuskin	I am strongly in favor of a suicide barrier. It is simply, the right thing to do. It does not necessarily have to be ugly, and while it may cost money, but it is worth it to prevent suicide and to save lives.

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BUZZ	AYOLA	<p>YOU GUYS ARE IDIOTS!!!! Placing a barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is just another moronic move by the city government to make itself look like they are doing something. If you are going to kill yourself you are going to find a way to kill yourself. Spending any money on this would be stupid.</p> <p>It is like the time that a young girl or boy fell through the sidewalk area. Now they didn't fall through to their death but you guys immediately went into action saying that there needs to be something to keep the young children from falling through the sidewalk. It is called parenting. This was the fault of the parents not the bridge. They should have been watching the kid better.</p> <p>40 million dollars could be spent on many other things that need to be tended to in the city of San Francisco and placing a barrier on the bridge is not one of them.</p>
Amin	Azzam	I believe alternative 3 is the best compromise between the pragmatic need and the nay-sayers who complain about the view.
Amin	Azzam	As a psychiatrist working at the San Francisco General Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Service, I am intimately knowledgeable about the allure of this bridge for committing suicide. I cannot more strongly endorse this effort, and applaud the systematic approach that has been made so far.
G	B	Options 2A and 1A preferred to Options 2B & 1B because of visual impact of vertical rods out the side windows of a moving car is minimal due to eye-brain coordination.
G	B	Options 2A and 1A preferred to Options 2B & 1B because of visual impact of vertical rods out the side windows of a moving car is minimal due to eye-brain coordination.
G	B	What prevents an person attempting suicide from jumping off the net in Alternative 3?

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G	B	Please do not ruin this landmark
G	B	Please do not ruin this landmark
G	B	The money would be better spend on other suicide prevention resources.
m	b	The fact that this is even a conversation is beyond stupid. What a waste of money to prevent someone from killing themselves on the bridge vs. another way. How can this even be an idea when there is more need for a lane divider so cars stop crashing into one another.
m	b	Beef up security and start charging people money to walk and bike on the bridge. Stop hammering commuters in cars who are your bread and butter for revenue. Look for new revenue. Get creative.
Karen	B.	I believe the "Horizontal extensions" could be used like steps and NOT a good idea. I think the Vertical System is best "1A" or "2A" but, should add the inward slanted WING part on top to further the complication of climbing
Karen	B.	I believe the "Horizontal extensions" could be used like STEPS and NOT a good idea. I think the Vertical System is best "1A" or "2A" but, should add the inward slanted WING part on top to further the complication of climbing
Nikki	B.	75% of the people asked , according to the Chronicle , R.Gordon on 7/29, are opposed to ANY barrier. Leave the Bridge,- and the people who want to jump off it,- alone!
Roy	Babb	To do nothing doesn't make sense.
Gigi	Babcock	Alternative 3 has the least visual impact, yet still creates a suicide barrier and that is why it is my first choice. I believe a suicide barrier is essential so needing to pick a 2nd choice, I felt that 1A was the next most visually pleasing, though in my mind it is far behind alternative 3 in my mind.
Sandeep	Babu	\$25 to \$50 million dollars on this? Are you joking? Why not spend this money on education? or to feed poor people? \$50 million dollars buys a lot of food! So you build a net here? So what? People find another spot to kill themselves...whats next? Suicide nets off every building in town? Sorry but this is a stupid idea....as much as I feel for the grieving families of the ones who died, they (and you guys) have to realize that if it hadn't happened here, it would have happened somewhere else and to really think of a more practical and more impacting way to spend this money.
Marian	Bacon	I think if we change the way we do things then individuals will be saved because they won't have any means of being able to hurt themselves.

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Janet and Lewis	Baer	WE cannot protect everyone from everything, including them(our)selves
Janet and Lewis	Baer	The bridge is a masterpiece and must not be defaced.
		<p>The suicide barrier impacts are well within the tolerable region and the benefits far outweigh any impacts.</p> <p>These minor modifications to the rail configuration are in keeping with the original design intent. I doubt if the original designers would have settled on this rail design if they had been able to foresee how many souls would be lost over the rail.</p> <p>This reconfiguration of the rail design corrects a regrettable design side effect that was unknown before construction.</p>
Bruce	Bagnoli	
		<p>This barrier is needed and will save many lives. The lives saved will benefit society, reduce impacts on family and friends. It will reduce emotional impacts to those of us using the bridge who see a jumper, and to bridge workers when suicides occur from the bridge.</p> <p>Often people who are saved from a suicide attempt or who survive an attempt are able to get help and rejoin our community. This barrier will reduce the impulsive suicides and give time for intervention.</p> <p>The minor visual impacts of 1b,2b, and 3 combined with the reasonable cost make this an important investment, an investment that makes an important statement about the values of our community.</p>
Bruce	Bagnoli	
Drew	Bailey	The historic nature of the bridge should not be augmented by such a wasteful and potentially ineffective modification.
Drew	Bailey	Both the impressive view and the dramatic effect of standing atop such a monumental man-made structure will be affected by the proposed modifications to the bridge.

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Drew	Bailey	From a cultural resources perspective, it is the responsibility of the people of San Francisco to maintain in as close to its original form as possible, such an important historic and cultural symbol.
Drew	Bailey	The Golden Gate Bridge was a symbol of the people of San Francisco's ability to overcome the hardships of The Great Depression. It is representative of all the things that once made this country great, and any such frivolous change lessens its importance to future generations of Americans.
Drew	Bailey	Tourism. Remember that great view? The feeling of standing right at the edge of such a tremendous, and man-made precipice will be gone.
Drew	Bailey	"Lets go see the Golden Gate Bridge!" "Yay" "Now lets walk across the Golden Gate Bridge!" "Whatever - maybe I would have before the put up that lame barrier..."
Drew	Bailey	None that I can think of. Less food for the fishies maybe...
Drew	Bailey	Even in terms of human biology I think the barrier is a terrible idea. It is unlikely to prevent any serious suicide attempts, and it is very likely to infuriate the people of San Francisco to such a degree that a rash of rage induced aneurisms and heart attacks may result.
James	Bailey	I fail to see how Alternative 3 would provide much of a means of protection. Presumably, one so inclined could jump into the net and then jump over the edge of the net into the water. It seems unlikely that such a system would deter one seriously driven to commit suicide. That being said, it is the least aesthetically displeasing of the Alternatives. I personally love the unobstructed view given by the current railing setup, and feel that non-physical deterrence is the best option for the majority of people. I would be curious to know if erecting a suicide barrier would cause people to use an alternative means, such as the Bay Bridge, or if it's simply a matter of "convenience" that the bridge is nearby and a barrier would prevent the suicide attempt altogether.
kevin	bailey	we need to spend money on people who want to live that are in need, or better spent on a divider for the bridge to prevent on coming accidents.

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Mark	Bailey	The Bridge is iconic. Its so inspirational to walk out on it and look, unobstructed at the sea so far below. It is a testament to the magnificence of engineering endeavors like this. A barrier of any sort would degrade this wonderful structure immeasurably.
Mark	Bailey	And \$40 to \$50 million??? This is insane to even consider such expenses for such small return. Let them jump if they need to. What a splendid way to go out!
William F.	Bailey	Absolutely UNACCEPTABLE by any aesthetic standard. ALL of the alternatives DESTROY the view that Bay Area residents - and vacationers - have been enjoying for 71 years.
William F.	Bailey	1A: The damned worst of the lot.
William F.	Bailey	The cultural damage caused by a visual barrier is incalculable. Looking at the Bay and the Pacific through prison bars, whether horizontal or vertical, is UNACCEPTABLE.
William F.	Bailey	The cultural damage caused by a visual barrier is incalculable. Looking at the Bay and the Pacific through prison bars, whether horizontal or vertical, is UNACCEPTABLE.
William F.	Bailey	The suicide barriers ruin land use and recreation aspects simply *because* they ruin the aesthetics of the bridge. BARS are what you will see whether you walk, job, bike or drive the Bridge.
William F.	Bailey	1A-3: The suicide barriers ruin land use and recreation aspects simply *because* they ruin the aesthetics of the bridge. BARS are what you will see whether you walk, job, bike or drive the Bridge.
William F.	Bailey	N/C
William F.	Bailey	N/C
William F.	Bailey	N/C
William F.	Bailey	N/C
Marilyn	Bair	Any distraction is a negative for the bridge
Marilyn	Bair	The money for a barrier of any kind would be ill spent. Instead use money for mental health services. Also money could be spent for life saving purposes that would save many more lives than the few who use the bridge for self destruction.

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Julian	Baird	<p>I have been detained on this bridge five times since 1993 and all I was doing was minding my business and trying to enjoy the ambiance of the city's views. It's one thing to be diligent in your duties about preventing suicide, it's all together something else when you're preventing one the freedom to enjoy the bridge and city. The ability of these folks who monitor bridge activity has become pathological at best. They need to revamp what behaviors constitute something problematic on the bridge rather than infringing on someone's freedom and building a ludicrous barrier which will seriously damage the aesthetics of the bridge itself. Upset</p>
Marie Jean	Baker	<p>As a psychologist my initial instinct is for a barrier. However, upon further thought I am against it for a variety of reasons. First and foremost is the argument that they will find another means. People use guns, cars, medication and other means to end their lives and yet all of those things are readily available - we do not restrict use due to a few people that might kill themselves with or via those items.</p> <p>My thought is that we don't need a barrier - we need better education - better mental health coverage - universal healthcare that includes mental health so that people can get help.</p> <p>Suicide has touched my life and it is tragic. In this case it was a friend's father who used a gun. Yet I don't believe all guns should be outlawed any more than I believe there needs to be a barrier on the bridge.</p> <p>The answer to mental health problems is not alteration to a national landmark - that is an aprsin for a brain tumor - please turn the discussion to where it needs to focus - on universal healthcare that includes mental health, better education regarding suicide and more resources in the community for outreach.</p>

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Jeni	Baldwin	<p>The net poses a risk to emergency service personnel & still allows people to jump. With a barrier up, it provides safety and no other method is needed. With the bridge being such a massive tourist attraction, it is imperative that the barriers be raised to insure the safety of all - not just people who go there to jump. When that bridge was built it was not what it is today. Nothing in relation to the beauty of the bridge will change by being more conscientious that people do use it to kill themselves. The barriers should be raised regardless. Not only are people killing themselves by jumping, but they pose secondary trauma to the children and others walking on the sidewalk when they jump. Image being a 6 year old seeing someone jump to their death right in front of you. The barriers are a necessary thing to do.</p>
Robert	Baldwin	<p>Visual/aesthetic - the vertical and horizontal systems will ruin the experience of the bridge for thousands of people. The systems won't stop a determined person. The net won't stop anyone from crawling to the edge and going over anyway.</p> <p>Cultural resources - it is not your job to stop people from following through on their decisions. Counseling is still the best way to help people.</p> <p>Land use, recreation, biological resources - this is just another waste of public money.</p>
Bruce	Balent	all barriers are ugly, though 3 is the least offensive. It's also the only one that can't be easily defeated by a determined suicidal person.
Bruce	Balent	alternatives 2 & 3 are ugly and ineffective
Bruce	Balent	The bridge is a national treasure, don't junk it up with such ugly attempts; it's not going to prevent suicides, just move them elsewhere and spoil this treasure for everyone else. it will also reduce tourist revenues; who wants to see a junked-up bridge.

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Bruce	Balent	Don't spoil the bridge for everyone with alternatives 1 & 2 just to try and help 20 people each year. There are better ways to prevent suicides. If a barrier must be installed, then use alternative 3, the net; word will get around that getting caught in the net and sent to an aslyum for attempted suicide is terrifying; that would be real prevention.
Bruce	Balent	Incompetently implemented comment form; if you follow one of the "review" links above, your form throws away everything someone's already written. Second, \$50 million would be better spent on: 1) sending 333 students or more to college for 4 years, 2) hiring 50 suicide prevention counselors for 10 years, 3) beefing up bridge security (a terrorist attack could kill over a thousand and cause severe economic hardship to over a million), or 4) pay down the state debt.
Brian	Balingit	The bridge hasn't been changed for over 70 years. Why change it now?
Brian	Balingit	Barriers would ruin the unobstructed, beautiful view of San Francisco for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Nets would ruin the legendary view of the bridge from the Marin Headlands, Presidio, and many other popular viewpoints.
Brian	Balingit	The huge cost of the barriers can be used to fund non-physical suicide deterrent programs, which could deter suicide by changing society's view of suicide in a more permanent way.
Harold	Ball	I believe that it is impossible to make the world perfectly safe. The financial resources required to build barriers that begin to address but not solve the problem of bridge suicide are excessive. In addition, the resultant visual degradation of this iconic landmark is unnecessary.
Elizabeth	Ballard	safety
TODD	BALLENGER	CHARGE A FEE FOR JUMPING SO WE CAN MAKE YOUR BUDGET. YOU COULD ALSO VIDEO TAPE ALL JUMPS AND YOU CAN SELL THE VIDEOS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND THE PRODEEDS COULD GO TO GOLDEN GATE FERRY MANAGEMENT RETIREMENTS. THIS WOULD HOPEFULLY KEEP THE COST OF TOLLS DOWN FOR THE REST OF US THAT ARE TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING.
Daniel G.	Ballens	This discussion of suicide barriers is yet another example of bureaucrats focusing on the minority,,, the very few ... who scream the loudest. Suicide barriers will NOT stop the deaths as they will only go elsewhere to end their life. Suicides have always been part of the human species and always will. Inpatient care used to control psychiatric problems. "Outpatient" care is the problem. A "barrier" is a waste of public funds for a problem that will not stop.

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Jason	Ballesteros	<p>I believe that going with option 3 will satisfy both sides of this debate. Option 3 is the most aesthetically appealing of all the options. Provided it is built right, it has the possibility to be a safer alternative to the other four options, 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B. If a person were to attempt a jump with option 3, they will at least experience somewhat, what it will be like to jump from the bridge. Hopefully enough of a hair raising experience to make them think twice about what they were doing. If an individual were to go with any of the other options, they would simply have to climb over if possible, the higher barrier would also be aesthetically unpleasing, tourism for the bridge would most likely decrease as well. If a vertical barrier is chosen, I recommend a clear Plexiglas barrier. The Plexiglas barrier would have supporting posts every 10 feet to secure it the the original hand railing. If one were to climb up on the hand railing, it would be hard for them to find anything to grip while trying to scale the Plexiglas barrier. The option would be for the person to destroy the barrier requiring tools that are not available. In the time it would take the person to find these tools, prevention services would already be on scene.</p> <p>The negative to employing a net type system are as follows. If one were to jump, assuming they are still convinced to do so after landing in the net, they could easily climb out and jump again. The option would be for the net to somehow keep the jumper from jumping again. Perhaps it will be extremely flexible and hard to get out of once occupied (i.e. tighter mesh, plastic coated cables, etc). Another problem will be with thrill seekers jumping into the nets for fun. This can unnecessarily tie up resources.</p> <p>I might also add, that by decreasing response time, increasing surveillance, by having more foot/bike patrols, dedicated individuals monitoring the bridge, and perhaps adding more emergency phones (linked to crisis management), one might decrease bridge related suicides by a small part.</p> <p>Overall, by employing the previous mentioned measures, along with either a Plexiglas barrier, a net, or some combination of both, we can work to curb suicides with a tool that doesn't ruin the aesthetics of a historically significant structure, and works to provide the best prevention possible for a troubled individual.</p>
charles	ballinger	<p>Your priorities should lie on preventing head-on collisions on this unsafe bridge. We have limited resources these days and we should protect those who don't wish to die. This is an ill-advised, wasteful project at best.</p>
Rosemary	Balmain	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge has become too glamorous and therefore too dangerous not to have a suicide barrier. After all, the Eiffel Tower has one, and the Empire State Building.</p>
brian	bane	<p>The number one consideration should be to make the bridge safer, to save lives. People will commit suicide anyway, it is true, but the bridge is a magnet for suicides.</p>

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Marc	Banks	Hello I have lived in the Bay area for 40 years and I think the idea of a suicide barrier is not the answer if a person wants to comment suicide there is no way to stop them there are bridges all over the bay area to jump off and none of those have barriers anything less then a net underneath will ruin the bridge views and have financial draw backs people want to see the views without obstructions when they visit there is no way to stop someone from suicide. Please don't spend our money on a barrier thank you
Marc	Banks	No barrier please use the tax payers money wisely and keep all views unobstructed there is no need for a brigde because it could spell nets for all bay area bridges next. thank you
Stephen	Banelos	The Net System is a good compromise to enhance public safety while continuing the beauty of the brigde and its views which are an international attraction
Stephen	Banelos	As a resident of San Francisco, I strongly believe the views from the GGB must not be compromised.
Catherine	Barber	This change will save lives. Nearly all people who leap from the bridge die. If thwarted, some will use pills or cutting instead; a lethal outcome using those methods is far less likely. Ninety percent of people who survive an attempt do not go on to die by suicide later. This is well-established in over 90 studies of repetition of self-harm. It is true that some would-be bridge jumpers will substitute firearms, and most of these will die. But it is unlikely that all will substitute firearms. Some will use other means, and a greater proportion of these will live than if they leap from the bridge.
mary	barlow	Least visual impact the best.
Irene	Barnard	Alternative 3 (net system) seems to have least visual impact of all.
Irene	Barnard	You wouldn't even see Alternative 3, if you were on the bridge, and if you were looking at bridge, would not notice it either.
Irene	Barnard	Alternative 3 would not affect people using the bridge for walking or biking recreation, nor would it affect people just looking at the bridge from any one of the many vista points nearby.
Irene	Barnard	Alternative 3 is also the least expensive, and even taking into account needing to operate some type of crane or other mechanism to remove people from net, seems like it would remain the most cost-effective.
Hannelore	Barnes	Most survivors who jump regret it immediately. The net would allow them to really face the reality of jumping and hopefully deter them from climbing further if they climbed down onto it. Horizontal design significantly impacts the visual experience from the car. The new inner handrail compared to the existing vertical handrail illustrates this when you drive across.

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Hannelore herb	Barnes barnes	The bridge is too compelling as a method of suicide. A high school classmate of mine jumped from the bridge and did not survive. His grandfather had also jumped and dies while his brother had survived his own jump but lived in a vegetative state. Clearly the bridge was a suicide landmark for this family with some genetic mental illness which is all the more reason for a barrier.
Jim	Barnes	Alt. 1B is best.
Jill Lion	Barnett Barnett	The barrier is too expensive. You have just raised the cost of the toll and plan another or congestion billing. Who is going to pay for this construction that benefits so few. You will destroy the integrity of the bridge. Why don't you charge pedestrians to walk across the bridge instead of constantly charging drivers. Other landmarks charge tourists.
Dorothy	Barnhouse	please have mental health professionals constantly patrolling the bridge, seeing people who are alone, deciding whether to approach them to talk or not...
Dorothy	Barnhouse	Please do not build anything on the bridge
Bonnie	Baron	The net system is effective and less obtrusive.
Bonnie	Baron	Our society has many pressing problems. There are thousands of people in need of mental health services who cannot afford them. Many of them are literally lying our streets. Some of them might impulsively consider suicide, whether by jumping from the Golden Gate bridge or taking pills. Let's address the bigger mental health problem and invest in the counseling and social services rather than constructing barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge.

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Nora	Barr	<p>I strongly feel that option 1b is the best option for the bridge. Here are my reasons:</p> <p>1) As a normal pedestrian, I would feel safer having the original handrail there. It feels more secure, and my fear of heights would be appeased slightly.</p> <p>2) Keeping the original handrail keeps the bridge as historically unchanged as possible. The bridge remains the most similar to the original plans.</p> <p>3) When looking through the horizontal bars, you can see an entire view of the skyline. From the distance of the bridge, the skyline is very long horizontally and the buildings do not seem as tall, and so at any height (based on how tall you are) you can look through the closest two bars and see everything, not impeded by the vertical bars.</p> <p>4) While the horizontal bars are easier to climb up, the wing at the top of the bars provides a deterrent to climbing over.</p> <p>5) As a somewhat strong young woman, I could probably jump and launch myself over the vertical option because it does not have the wing at the top. It would take a lot of effort, but if I were determined, I could do it. Imagine someone stronger or taller than I -- and many people are.</p> <p>6) From a tourist standpoint, the plexiglass option provides the opportunity to take clear pictures. But if you don't like that, you can even use the horizontal bars to steady your camera as you place it between the bars to take a picture.</p>
Allen	Barr	While I chose two specific physical barrier alternatives, all are acceptable. They have negligible aesthetic impact and will save lives. The price is nominal in the context of lives it will save each and every year.
Allen	Barr	Even as a person not at suicide risk, I will feel safer walking the bridge with barriers in place.
Sarah	Barr	There are 8,666 people in Tiburon (according to the 2000 census-it's actually more now.) On Wednesday, August 20,2008, the Tiburon Town Council voted on a resolution supporting your efforts to find a solution for stopping the suicides off the Golden Gate Bridge. I hope you will count all 8,666 people as in favor of a suicide barrier or some other means to finally stop the deaths. I have listed my personal favorites here.
Crystal	Barrett	I am concerned as to how the net will provide adequate safety for the individual until emergency personnel can arrive at the scene? Or, will the net allow the individual yet another location in which to jump from? Additionally, how easily can emergency personnel access the person who has jumped to the net?

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Crystal	Barrett	I am in favor of protecting the beauty and integrity of the Golden Gate Bridge, but more importantly, I am concerned with saving lives. I am aware that when suicide deterrents are placed on structures, persons wanting to jump from such structures may find other structures to jump from. Therefore, I like the idea of a net, as it may help someone have a second chance after they have made the choice to jump. If they are deterred by a barrier, they may simply jump from another structure, and therefore, they probably will not have a second chance for life.
Nicole	Barrett	Building a barrier is ridiculous... If someone wants to kill themself they will find a way to do it. Suicide is something we cannot control. Is it horrible? YES. Is it preventable? NO. Not to mention it's exorbitant cost, it would block the view of the mi
Jennifer	Barron	I feel we need to make a change to save lives. If it is financial more money to replace the outside handrail I say we stick to the old. The beauty is still there!! If it saves lives it is worth it.
Orlindo	Barsetti	It's incomprehensible to me that you're even continuing with this course of action. At a time when bridge tolls are increasing seemingly every few years, you would allocate the millions of dollars to attempt the prevention of suicides. Although the Golden Gate Bridge is an attractant to those who would end their lives, I truly don't believe a barrier is the answer. Make it hard for someone to committ suicide at a given place and most likely they will find another way. With the new bike lanes available to the Bay Bridge upon completioun of the new span, what's to keep despondent persons from using that bridge, or for that matter stepping in front of a bus or truck. I don't believe the tax payers of the counties involve, and the commuters using the GG bridge should be subsidizing an ugly barrier which will change the estheics of a design masterpiece. My other concern is that although the study identifies proposed costs, it has been my experience that these project always have cost overruns, sometimes substantial overruns. Again, it will be us who use the bridge on a regular basis that will foot the bill. In essence an unwarranted and unnecessary idea.
Don	Bartels	There should not be any visual change to the existing structure.
Chad	Bartley	The Golden Gate Bridge does not need Suicide barriers. If you spend all that money to put them up, it will drastically change the beauty of the bridge, the view and will only push people to other bridges that have even higher traffic.. e.g., the bay bridge.
Chad	Bartley	The Golden Gate Bridge does not need Suicide barriers. If you spend all that money to put them up, it will drastically change the beauty of the bridge, the view and will only push people to other bridges that have even higher traffic.. e.g., the bay bridge.

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maureen	barton	I think a barrier in any form is needed. I live in Seattle and our governor is putting a barrier on the Aurora bridge to prevent suicides with taxpayer money. The suicide rate off the Golden gate bridge is the highest in the country. A barrier is the only civilized option!
Jeff	Basham	The bridge is a national landmark. Its a San Francisco Treasure. To think that the beautiful bridge that I grew up looking at in awe, in wonder would be changed in the way it appears is just heart breaking. Its not fair that a few mentally disturbed individuals would ruin this beautiful landmark for ever, for every person who would visit the bridge for the first time in the future, and not be able to experience the pure beauty and joy that I and so many others have for so long.
Jeff	Basham	A ugly wall or screen will not stop someone from killing themselves. They are not going to go to the bridge and say "Oh, there is a wall I guess I will not kill myself!!" They will just go somewhere else and kill themselves since they will know about the wall ahead of time. They aren't killing themselves because they want to jump off the bridge - they are killing themselves because they are mentally disturbed. They will kill themselves someway, someplace no matter what we do, so why ruin such a beautiful landmark?

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Lois	Basham	I have lived in the bay area all my life (56 years).I do not want to see anything done to the bridge in the name of saving someone from committing suicide.If someone is in that state of mind they will just find another way.You would never be able to stop someone by having an unsightly system on the bridge. They are not going to say "oh, I guess i will not kill myself " just because the bridge has a wall. Plus they are going to know this in advance and go some place else.
DAVID	BATES	please think this through! who will pay net rescue? who will pay life support for unsuccessful jumps? remember prohibition the cost and how it worked. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS
DAVID	BATES	what happned to the lane change direction project to help the people that want to live? this fence and net are the worst ideas in years I love the city and hope you come to a clear and well thought out choice NO NO
Jason	Bates	I have none comments, but I do have comments for the second question.
Jason	Bates	I do not think a suicide barrier should be built on the Golden Gate Bridge. It is simply nobody's business when it comes to why someone ultimate chooses to jump. If parents grieve over their sons or daughters perishing from the jump, then it is because their parenting was poor. It's that simple. If friends or significant others of jumpers grieve, I feel sympathy up to a certain point. Let's face it: to consider suicide absolutely immoral is arrogant. It is arrogant because non-suicidal people tend to find it too self-deprecating or a waste of time to empathize with suicidal people. And besides: if you put a suicide barrier on the bridge, people are just going to find some other method to kill themselves. The suicide has made his or her choice. Live with that! I mean it!
John	Bateson	Doing nothing should not be an option. The tragedy of needless deaths from the bridge must end. Nets are ineffective; the only sure way to prevent suicides is with a barrier.

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John	Bateson	Opponents of a barrier cite three reasons: 1) cost; 2) aesthetics; and 3) ineffectiveness (i.e. someone intent on suicide will resort to another lethal means). Cost wasn't a factor in erecting a barrier for bicyclists even though no bicyclist has ever been killed on the bridge, and it hasn't stopped conversations about erecting a median to separate vehicle traffic. As for aesthetics, Toronto proved that it's possible to erect a barrier that's functional and also aesthetically pleasing. The argument about replacement means is totally erroneous based on all of the research. The fact that the Golden Gate Bridge is the number one suicide magnet in the world should be a source of shame to every person who lives in the Bay Area.
Richard	Baum	Put up the barrier and save lives.
Ron	Baum	This is a phenomenal waste of public funds and a desecration of an iconic landmark. If an individual is intentent on committing suicide, they will do so. The first time that someone breaches this barrier and is successful at terminating their life, there will be another public outcry as to why this proposed barrier wasn't effective. Well it wasn't effective because we can't keep allowing the government to hold our hands.
Dan	Baumgarten	
Dan	Baumgarten	<p>Gentlemen and Ladies --</p> <p>There are so many budget demands that exceed the priority for this one and effect many more people/tax/toll/and farepayers. These include the retrofit of Doyle Drive, the adequacy of mass transit, weekend congestion.</p> <p>This band-aid addresses the syptoms of suicide and not the cure. If the folks that support this want to throw money at suicide prevention do it directly to those services that are providing this kind of aid. Although the families' of suicide do suffer, the odds are that the event is not a surprise and is essentially a victimless event. Additionally, what isn't noted in your evaluation is the additional cost to maintain these proposed structures. Why should the users of the GGB subsidize this?</p> <p>Dan Baumgarten</p> <p>San Rafael</p>

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		<p>I have known three people who jumped from the golden gate bridge in my 60 years born and raised near San Francisco. I have known many MORE people who have died in auto accidents (suicides due to poor skills, alcohol, drugs, etc.) At least the bridge suicides chose their own death without killing innocent people on the road.</p> <p>Get over it. May they rest in peace. How many deaths occurs from boat accidents and lost boats in areas around the pacific ocean? Let's do more to protect THEM.</p>
Linda	Baxter	
Francine	Bearden	Anything done to alter the iconic visual identity of the GGB is a mistake. The aesthetics of the Bridge can only be diminished by tacking on a suicide "attachment".
Francine	Bearden	I grew up watching the building of both of the bay bridges from the ferry boats. At the year of the 50th anniversary, my husband and I walked to the first tower. When we felt that strange "quivering", we quietly turned and headed back through the crushing crowd. When asked if we,"made it across?" we just nodded and kept on going. Scarey.
Francine	Bearden	None
		<p>I find it amazing and sad that "a million dollars" per person could be spent to avoid someone's success at bridge jumping. If necessary, just Use the net option, so that whoever jumps gets stuck in such a visible way that also mitigates the 'celebrity' news hour status for the jumper hanging over wires or transparent "wings".</p> <p>LLB</p>
Lindy	Beasley	
Dan	Bech	I think it is high time that we do something about this problem regardless of the visual impacts.

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Terence	Bech	<p>My daughter jumped three years ago to escape police pursuit. She was influenced by drug abuse.</p> <p>A vertical system of prevention would have allowed the police enough time to restrain her and in her weakened physical condition, would have prevented her having sufficient strength to launch herself over the edge regardless of the motivation to do so.</p>
Terence	Bech	<p>A horizontal system offers only a minimal additional physical distance to be covered, psychologically easily overseen below the field of sight, perhaps more challenging but openly accessible by crawling-rolling-walking-stretching-pulling,a new sort of launching platform, before the jumper finds the ultimate edge.</p> <p>The order of importance in your making this choice is first, what is the most effective system of prevention (the ultimate reason for creating and construction of this "system"), and second, what design of this system is the most visually/aesthetically acceptable. SF has world class artists, engineers and architects among which a more than satisfying solution can certainly be found.</p> <p>Not enough alternatives were provided above. Is there no invisible barrier thinkable such as the use of laser light activated nets that could be launched at the place where a jump is taking place, as used by biologists for the ringing large birds? Cost is a factor I am sure.</p> <p>I wish you complete and uncompromised success with this project. It is humane and if rightly designed can also become a factor in drawing tourists to the bridge.</p>
David	Becker	<p>Decency demands something to address the bridge's attraction as one of the most attractive and least reversible means of self-destruction. A net would soundly address the problem with minimal affect on the bridge's look.</p>
mark	becker	<p>A ridiculous use of money. If someone wants to commit suicide they will find a way whether it is the bridge, a tall building, high cliffs, weapons, pills etc..</p>
Anne	Beckett-Fedarko	<p>Any action is better than no action, please.</p>

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Brad	Beebe	Don't put barriers on the bridge. The bridge should not be destroyed because of some people. But further. People being able to commit suicide off the bridge is a good thing. People will always commit suicide. Anyone who goes out to the bridge and gets that far, without doing anything to trigger others (friends/family) to stop them is pretty well committed to it. At that point only the reality of being on the bridge will cause them to not do it. If you put barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge those people will find another way. They will walk out onto the bay bridge in traffic, jump out of buildings onto the street, jump in front of cars or trains. They will go for another method and in doing so endanger others. The Golden gate bridge method of suicide is quick and does not pose a threat to others. Don't put barriers on the bridge.
Frances	Beeman	I do not know what method is best. But, something needs to be done.
Frances	Beeman	The Gold Gate Bridge is beautiful and a luring attraction to people who are going to commit suicide. Some time of guard to prevent this is needed.
Gail	Beeman	The money could be used better for depression and suicide awareness. This will not stop the problem. It may make it even more challenging for someone to try and jump. We need education in our schools systems to talk about depression and the signs of depression! BIG WASTE OF TAX PAYER'S MONEY TO BE USED FOR THIS FENCE/BARRIER.
Bill	Begert	An incredible waste of public money!
Andrea	Beggs	I firmly believe that a person who wants to die, will find a way.
Jenny	Belforte	If someone wants to commit suicide, they will find a way to do it, with or without barriers on the bridge. Leave the beautiful bridge alone. It is a waste of money and in the grand scheme of things will probably not save more lives--they can take their life another way.
Jenny	Belforte	Please please please leave the bridge alone. From a 4th generation San Franciscan.
jory	bell	please don't diminish the iconic golden gate bridge by adding some sort of barrier. people will always find a way to kill themselves if that is their goal. leave the bridge alone and focus on non-physical suicide deterrent programs which will help address the problem instead of moving it elsewhere.
jory	bell	except for the net, all of designs ruin the visual experience of being on the bridge. it goes from experiencing a lovely open vista to being in a cage.
Amy	Bellin	please put up a barrier, stop worrying about superficial aesthetic issues and stop useless deaths.

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Susan	Belling	<p>For over 29 years I have been a volunteer phone counselor, grief counselor, trainer, public speaker and former Board member with Suicide Prevention and Community Counseling of Marin. I am a member and Certified Crisis Worker of the American Association of Suicide. Which leads me to voice my opinion on a subject I feel so strongly about.</p> <p>The Bridge District has been doing research and studies pertaining to a suicide barrier since the 1980s and so far nothing has happened. It is now time to bite the bullet and save lives. Something must be done.</p> <p>We know that the Golden Gate Bridge is an international symbol for suicide. For every one person that we know of who jumps from the bridge there is one we never find. Without a note, personal belongings or a car, left behind, the Bay currents carry people out to sea, never to be found. With a barrier most people would NOT chose another means to kill themselves as most people chose a specific plan.</p> <p>This is not just about saving people from committing suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge but to save family, friends, acquaintances and the community, from the pain and devastation of losing a loved one to suicide.</p> <p>How do you put a price tag on human life?</p> <p>This is my personal opinion and should not be considered a statement from Suicide Prevention and Community Counseling of Marin or the American Association of Suicidology.</p>
Dan	Bellm	I strongly believe that a suicide barrier is essential -- long overdue! -- and that the net system is the best choice for deterrent & visual/aesthetic purposes.
Jamie	Benham	I am a mom who's son committed suicide two years ago in 2006. I know that you should do all you can to save even one life because when this tragedy hits a family , the whole family is never the same. We all die inside !
Ronna	Benjamin	Studies have shown that impulsive suicied can be prevented by suicide barriers. Please help to save lives by building a barrier.
Bruce	Benner	Its a real shame that one of the most beautiful bridges in the world is the no. 1 place to commit suicide. Only a 4 foot handrail is just too inviting for very distraught people.
Grace	Bennett	What a complete waste of money!! If someone decides to kill themself, a barrier will not stop them; they will simply find another way. Just think of all the really positive things one could do with the money if the barrier was not built - including funding mental health care! How many people is this barrier expected to benefit? How many more could benefit if this money were put to another use??

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Michelle	Benvenuto	This is a historic structure. Any addition to the beautiful simplicity of the design is not in keeping with the original vision of this bridge.
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Michelle	Benvenuto	My uncle jumped off the GGB and I STILL do not support this outrageous idea. Why are we spending money to address a problem that is not caused by the bridge? Why are we attempting to destroy this beautiful and historic structure because of an issue that is not her fault. People will continue to commit suicide and it has nothing to do with the bridge.
Bettina Adam	Bepler Berger	I am in favor of any of the 4 choices that support a physical barrier on the bridge. However, I am NOT in favor of a net system. I believe a net is not a strong enough deterrent, as people can still jump from the net, and can see the potential for problems with rescue efforts, pranks, etc.
Adam	Berger	Although I have not reqd the EIR/EA, I want to voice my general support for a suicide barrier for the bridge with the assumption that current suicide prevention programs will be continued as well. I trust the Board of Directors to choose the best design.
Christina	Berger	I am concerned about Alternative 3 as it was mentioned that birds may become caught up in the netting. For that reason I am strongly opposed to this option.
Christina	Berger	A recent article in the New York Times "The Urge to End it All" July 6, 2008, discusses impulsive suicide vs. premeditated suicide and the effectiveness of suicide barriers. It states, "Put simply, those methods that require forethought or exertion on the actor's part (taking an overdose of pills, say, or cutting your wrists), and thus most strongly suggest premeditation, happen to be the methods with the least chance of success." Conversely, those methods that require the least effort or planning (shooting yourself, jumping from a precipice) happen to be the deadliest. The natural inference, then, is that the person who best fits the classic definition of "being suicidal" might actually be safer than one acting in the heat of the moment at least 40 times safer in the case of someone opting for an overdose of pills over shooting himself." I ask that this information be taken into consideration.

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Alie	Berka	<p>I would like to see a suicide barrier put up on the Golden Gate Bridge. I think any of the proposals are acceptable.</p> <p>It is imperative that we put up a barrier to prevent any more senseless suicides.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention!</p>
Alison	Berka	I am a fourth generation Californian from the Bay Area and I have always felt the Golden Gate Bridge was a special landmark for us. I support putting a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. All the alternatives will maintain the integrity of the bridge. I think any one of them should be implemented as soon as possible so as to save lives. It is our responsibility to do so.
Paula	Berka	Adding a horizontal system would seem to be the most effective way of preserving the view which seems to be the over riding public concern.
Corbin laurie	Berkenpas berliner	In the 40 years I have lived in Sacramento I may have read twice about a person committing suicide by jumping the Golden Gate. Yet it is claimed to be the number one suicide bridge in the world. I just don't see the news media and public outcry to justify such a costly deterrent. I mean, really, will the state recoup this cost by keeping people from performing an act they'll do elsewhere???
		I am completely opposed to any of the proposed alternatives. I am a life long Marin County resident, SF Bridge commuter, and trained suicide prevention counselor. I believe the best deterrent is a personal one: increased foot patrols 24/7 and this would be at much less cost to the tax payers and regular bridge commuters. With the increased cost of commuting these days the Bridge District needs to focus on more important issues: ensuring adequate public transit options and improving/sustaining bicycle-foot access. The Bridge is one of the major attractions to the Bay Area -- please don't ruin it with these costly unnecessary modifications.

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Dr. Lanny	Berman	<p>From a public health perspective, lives will be saved by the construction of barriers that effectively thwart the use of the bridge from use by would be jumpers. There is considerable science supporting, and general consensus among scientists who have studied this issue, the fact that lives will be saved. Were I to promise that I could save 100% of those next 1300 jumpers from dying by jumping from this bridge and that 90% of these people would not otherwise go on to suicide, would that not be a compelling argument to do whatever is possible to make that happen? Those predictions can be supported by what we now know -- To do nothing is a proposal only supported by naivete and callous disregard for human life.</p>
Shiva	Berman	<p>Substantial body of research over the last few decades has shown the following:</p> <p>GG bridge is the the most popular suicide magnet on the face of the planet.</p> <p>Those who chose to jump to their death do so in a moment of pure impulse (they do not have a plan B in place).</p> <p>Of the 29 who have survived the attempt only 1 has gone on to commit suicide later and many talk about how they were sorry they jumped an instant after having done so.</p> <p>A physical barrier is the only proven method to save lives 100% of the times.</p> <p>Shame on us for waiting so long to save countless lives and for choosing aesthetics over the lives of so many people.</p> <p>Shame on those in charge of the bridge who choose to ignore this, siting other non effective methods already in use as an excuse, and cover up the number of lives lost each year in the hopes that if they don't talk about this, the problem will just go away!</p>
Brad	Berman, MD	<p>All available research suggests that a barrier will help reduce impulsive suicidal gestures, and that it will not in any way diminish the beauty of the bridge nor decrease it's tourist value.</p>
Tim	Bernard	<p>It seems irresponsible to me to aesthetically alter a historical cultural icon such as the GGB.</p>

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Tim	Bernard	If it is true that people come from all corners of the globe to use the GGB as their venue for self destruction then they are obviously quite committed to their cause and you are kidding yourselves if you believe a barrier is saving their lives, as they will surely find another means to the same end. These people have made a choice and have committed to its implementation. At a cost of 40-50 Billion dollars it is a foolish and irresponsible use of resources. This money would be much more wisely spent on a barrier for the highly dangerous roadway that would benefit hundreds of thousands of people that did not make a choice to die on the GGB, but rather, expect to have a safe passage. Spend the money for the safety of the many, not the few.
Paul	Bernier	Do not build any barriers that will obstruct the beauty of the bridge!
Lidia	Bernik	Too many people die every by jumping from the Bridge. It is proven that restricting access to lethal means is an effective form of suicide prevention. Please do the right thing - extend the barrier and help save lives.
Agnes	Bernstein	I wish the GGB stayed they way it is - it is a national monument and should not be tempered with. It's more then that - it's a worldwide famous landmark, a piece of art, a marvel that survived all these years to be "embellished" by our over-sensitive generation. Shame on us...
Agnes	Bernstein	San Francisco voted "yes" on the idea because we wanted to save a few lives. Saving lives... well, it's money poorly spent - if put into improving road safety at some notoriously dangerous intersection or drug prevention at some intercity school, the money would go a longer way. I wish there was more education and out of a box thinking on the subject.
Barbara	Bernstein	I strongly believe that a barrier is needed. I would like the one that is most consistent with the look of the bridge now. I'm not sure which choice that would be.
Barbara	Bernstein	It is imperative that a barrier be built since it has proven to be a suicide deterrent in other locations around the world that were magnets for suicides.
Keith	Bernstein	I am saddened that people choose the GG Bridge to take their lives. Nevertheless, this bridge is a beautiful, defining, landmark structure of our city and I don't think it should be made to look worse *and* obstruct other users' views (bicyclists, walkers
Karen	Bert	visual/aesthetic concerns should be a top priority in resolving this particular situation.
Michael	Bertinetti	You will damage the appearance of the Bridge and you won't prevent suicides -- they will just relocate. When you take a shared thing of beauty away from the rest of us, you kill a part of life for many millions of people. Your powers don't go so far. You are trustees -- not owners. You need to preserve the thing entrusted to you. If you can't do that, resign.

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Susan	Bertolli	I would like to save the 20 lives per year that are lost because of the accessibility of the bridge but am very concerned as well about esthetics. The net provides the least obtrusive option and allows a second thought. I hope it works. None of the options appear foolproof to me.
john	bertrand	I think the suicide barrier is not going to prevent suicides. People who want to commit suicide are still going to find a way to terminate.
john	bertrand	Terrible, I hate them. The suicide rail is going to spoil the pinnacle landmark of San Francisco.
Paul	Bessette	<p>this is crazy!</p> <p>The potential for pasenger vehicles to accidently collide head-on is significantly more devastating than people voluntarily jumping off of the bridge.</p> <p>Please focus on the truely dangerous aspects of the bridge and install a collision barrier!nstead of</p>
Joy	Best	The eir process seems to presume that a barrier will be built. Why? The District has enough financial problems without adding one more. Suicide is a personal choice--good or bad--whatever. Stick to transportation and don't be suckered in by the influence of a vocal few proponents of the barrier.
Yve	Betar	The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it

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Yve	Betar	A visual barrier on the bridge would ruin the aesthetic beauty and quality of the experience for the more than 30 million visitors. I do not believe that the "No Action" alternative in the DEIR has been examined properly, If people want to kill themselves they will find a way.
Yve	Betar	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.
david	bettini	close family member attempted to jump and was stopped by a bridge painter. he went home and hung himself in the storage shed in the back yard. he was found by his wife. if someone is set on suicide, building a barrier and the bridge will not stop them. i am against pulling a ugly barrier on a national treasure. thank you
Suzanne	Bettman	This beautiful bridge, a gateway to a magnificent city, is becoming a symbol of despair, a magnet for hopelessness. Please erect a barrier. Please.
ML	Beuchert	Any barrier will interfere with the beauty of this landmark! Employ a couple of people to patrol the bridge day and night.
Birte	Beuck	Suicide is often an acute crisis that can be reversed with appropriate help. NOT having a rail is the moral equivalent of handing a loaded gun to someone in acute emotional distress. Your "yes" to a suicide barrier will save lives. Thank you!
Gigi	Bibeault	As someone whose dad committed suicide, and as a friend to 3 others who did it, it will make ZERO DIFFERENCE in the rate of suicide! It will just make the GGB not the chosen place. It will not save lives. It will suck up a ton of money, and assuage consciences, but not to any decent end.
d m	bieneman	bridge suicides are a TINY portion of all suicides. leave the bridge alone...you can't protect people from themselves
Steve	Bilan	This is to inquire whether or not you're still soliciting ideas for a barrier. If it's still possible to submit one, please let me know and I will create a draft design to send to you. I can be reached at steve_bilan@comcast.net

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		<p>The reason I am against the barrier is NOT because of bridge aesthetics.</p> <p>Rather, I feel it is society's obligation to make provisions to keep people reasonably safe from accidents. In this case, protection from an accidental fall is what I think we should be providing. If the current 4-foot barrier does it, so be it. If a 6-foot barrier would be demonstrably better for that purpose, then so be it.</p> <p>The new inside (between walkway and road) railing of a few years ago is a perfect example of along-overdue basic safety measure.</p> <p>But the same people who choose to kill themselves by jumping into the water would still be able -- with the proposed barrier -- to do so by jumping into the roadway. People commit suicide that way, too. Or they could drive one mile away up into the Headlands and purposefully go over a cliff. That happens, too.</p> <p>Using massive amounts of public funds to "prevent" the unpreventable is not an appropriate use of resources.</p>
Michael	Bilton	
Lloyd	Binen	This is crazy. Maybe we should take all bridges down to prevent all bridge suicides. Maybe instead of toll takers we should have psychiatrist-toll takers who can interview all people entering the bridge to make sure they're not prone to jump. What about people that jump from buildings--maybe we need architects in incorporate safety netting. And what about people who throw themselves into the oncoming Southern Pacific train that goes up the Peninsula--maybe we need chain link fencing to prevent that and don't forget the barbed wire at the top.
Lloyd	Binen	LEAVE THE BRIDGE ALONE.
Lloyd	Binen	Is this a joke?
Lloyd	Binen	Leave the bridge alone.
Lloyd	Binen	Leave the bridge alone.
Lloyd	Binen	Leave the bridge alone.

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Lloyd	Binen	Leave the bridge alone.
Lloyd	Binen	Leave the bridge alone.
Lloyd	Binen	Leave the bridge alone.
Sonia	Binnendyk	<p>I am concerned about the visual impacts associated with alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 3. The non-net alternatives will negatively obstruct the views from the bridge (and could have economic impacts on the tourist industry) and the netting could adversely impact the appearance of the bridge from points in San Francisco, Marin County, and across the bay.</p> <p>I have walked across the bridge several times and have greatly enjoyed the easy views of the City and Marin. The proposed barriers would discourage me from walking across the bridge again because I could only get these views by stopping to peer through fencing.</p>
Steven	Binns	Something has to be done. It seems the net would be most hazardous to workers (maintenance) and is my least favored option (of the four acceptable courses of action). The horizontal bars seem to have the least aesthetic impact as far as obstructing the beautiful view from the bridge.
Steven	Binns	<p>The greatest impact the project could have is to save lives. The loss of life from suicide has a devastating cultural impact (and, technically, biological). The saving of lives from the brink of suicide would have a powerful positive impact; the discussion of which was dissappointingly absent from the project summary.</p> <p>Suicide is a tragedy that touches many more lives than most people are ready to admit. My family is from California and I am very passionate about this issue.</p> <p>THE ONLY reason I would accept for the delay of this project would be the absolute lack of funds; in which case I would expect there to be fundraising activities (of all kinds) until the project could move forward.</p>
Caitlin	Binstadt	The horizontally system looks like a ladder that one would climb to jump over the top, and the winglet takes away from the view.

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Larry	Birger	Why waste the money on people who would kill themselves anyway.. Political Correctness taken to the ultimate degree... oh please don't jump... Mess up the view for the millions who come just because some idiot wants to jump... let me give them a kick in the ass to get them going... LEAVE THE BRIDGE ALONE..... JUMP YOU LOSER.. Natures way of saying you didn't make the cut...
christienne	birkhahn	The EIR draft is thorough and well done. I believe any of these alternatives do not detract from the beauty of the bridge, or adversely affect the land use, recreation and biological resources of the area. Although the net system may be the least visually invasive, it may not be the most effective deterrent, though I would support it if I knew more about its proposed effectiveness.
christienne	birkhahn	I believe the beauty of the bridge, as both an icon and an experience, is not marred by any barrier. The bridge is a timeless design, one that is not so easily tarnished or devalued by this important necessary alteration. As a designer myself, I have some insight into the process, and I find it hard to believe that the original designers were thinking about this aspect at the time - when they SHOULD have been. Following the wall street crash and great depression, the specter of impulse, despair and the result of the vicissitudes of life was everywhere. It should not have been lost on the designers when they were conceptualizing the bridge. But designers sometimes relegate use to a lower rung in the process, especially when they are tempted by the opportunity to self-aggrandize - and what an opportunity bridging this span was! Yet our society has come far in this century, and should exhibit that level of stewardship to our fellow man. The amount of mental illness, lack of oversight in care and medication of it, and the general state of eroded support systems make the bridge TOO attractive, for the wrong reasons. We need to build this barrier. Give the design of the GG Bridge some credit - it will survive intact, as will (hopefully) the vocal residents that behold it. And better yet, the ones that want a fool-proof, impulsive way to end their pain can live too.
Brian	Birney	Two points: 1) I very much want to preserve the view aesthetic from the Bridge. 2) This is a form of NIMBY - I am extremely skeptical that the monies spent on this project will be effective in ultimately deterring suicide, and simply having people commit suicide somewhere else is not a justifiable reason to expend \$40-50 million in public funds. I'd much rather have that money spent on other, more pressing needs with more proven solutions.
Brian	Birney	To reiterate: 1) I very much want to preserve the view aesthetic from the Bridge. 2) This is a form of NIMBY - I am extremely skeptical that the monies spent on this project will be effective in ultimately deterring suicide, and simply having people commit suicide somewhere else is not a justifiable reason to expend \$40-50 million in public funds. I'd much rather have that money spent on other, more pressing needs with more proven solutions.
Alan	Bishop	All of the modifications are ugly.
Alan	Bishop	Alternative 3, net system, appears to detract the least from the view of bicyclists and distant onlookers.

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Alan	Bishop	Modifying this historic structure in this manner is outrageous
Alan	Bishop	each modification would severely detract from the recreational experience of the bridge
Alan	Bishop	Good work.
Alan	Bishop	For 40-50 million dollars, more bridge patrol officers could be funded for decades and increase safety without the cultural impacts of the build alternatives.
Shirley	Black	<p>Do not alter the appearance of the bridge in any way. If people are so disturbed that they are determined to end their lives, they will find a way. While that is quite sad, it should not be a reason to spend a vast sum of money to prevent people from jumping from the bridge. It is such a beautiful and iconic bridge and to ruin its appearance is to me unthinkable and not rational.</p> <p>Not to mention the huge sum of money to make modifications. Perhaps one cannot put a value on a human life, but one can put a value on maintaining the beautiful bridge that people from around the world come to see.</p>
Shirley	Black	<p>If money is to be spent on suicide prevention, then put it into mental education, mental health clinics, treatment facilities and medications etc.</p> <p>Look at the statistics of suicide by other means, other than jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>Families are desperate to place blame when someone they love jumps, but they close their minds to what other means are also available and just not used by that person, their family member or dear friend.</p>
Marcia	Blackman	Assuming a few suicides every year would be prevented by a barrier; is probably correct. But 50 million dollars given to Firefighters & Police resources; would save the lives of more people WHO WANT TO LIVE. Assuming if there wasn't a GG Bridge; there would be no suicides; is ridiculous. I lived in NYC 33 years; and a month didn't go by without 1 or more people jumping in front of the subway trains to kill themselves. That's one mess to clean up (I've been there) and everyone else has to get off the train(s).
Marcia	Blackman	The Brooks Family ignored the warning signs of their daughter's depression/illness. A 17 year old girl who's 'never been kissed', 'never had a boyfriend'...has problems. If they had noticed how smart/wonderful she was; how come they didn't notice her defects and problems and now are blaming the bridge for her suicide?

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Daniel	Blain	I am more concerned about the visual/aesthetic of an iconic landmark that has defined San Francisco for decades.
Erik	Blangsted	Alternative 3 provides the best visual/aesthetic solution. However, I'm wondering if a jumper who fell into the net could crawl out of the net and fall to his/her death?
		I think that this would be an excellent project for the city of San Francisco to pursue. Most of the money directed towards the construction of this barrier will go towards San Francisco based employees and companys. Those arguing about the cost of this project must understand that the majority of that money goes directly towards our local community, allowing it to grow in other ways. Bridge designs 2A and 2B are spectacular. They allow more of a view from the vantage point of a walker on the bridge and will do an excellent job in preventing suicide attempts. I support the implementation of this project 150%.
William	Blaustein	
raven	blaze	vertical!! all the way
		Why let someone who wants to die influence the way the rest of us lives? The bridge is what is is because of what it represents to people worldwide. Leave it alone. To be able to walk on the bridge and hang your head over the side represents the ultimate freedom the bridge builders had in mind and what this country stands for.
neil	bleiweis	
neil	bleiweis	If it is public safety you are really concerned with then both sides of the bridge should be open, continuously, one for pedestrians and the other for bike riders. I feared for my safety while walking on the bridge (for the first time) because of the bicyclists whizzing past in such close quarters. That's suicidal.
David	BLOCK	Given anticipated fare increases, why is this being proposed with these price tags. The GG Bridge District does not have the money. You are a bunch of crazies with lots of ideas, no money and no action on things like a median barrier.
Nancy	Bloom	It is not the bridge's fault. Money should be spent where it makes the most impact and that is with MENTAL HEALTH support for individuals.
Nancy	Bloom	Suicide is not a bridge issue, it is a people issue and money should be spent on people not on a thing.

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Mark	Bluestein	Alternative 1B is preferred over 1B because it would have less visual impact both from the bridge and looking at the bridge. Vertical rods would punctuate the view while driving across the bridge and would be more visible when looking at the bridge from the view points at each end of the bridge. Vertical rods also look more "jail-like." Alternatives 1A and 1B are preferable to Alternatives 2A and 2B because they preserve the existing handrail which is part of the historic design of the structure. Alternative 3 would have the least visual impact , but would not be very effective at preventing suicide, the purpose of the project.
Alan	Blumenthal	I don't think the No Action alternative has been properly analyzed and considered.
Alan	Blumenthal	The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!
Alan	Blumenthal	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are unacceptable.
Gary	Boatman	I am sorry that people choose to use the GG bridge as a jump off point. But in these hard times and with a huge lack of support I think these funds could be better spend designing a barrier to prevent head on collisions (of people who actually want to live). We cannot be all things to all people. This liberal left idea of a barrier is DOA and should be dropped. When will we learn that we have to allow people the freedom to make their own paths and choices???
Hawkins	Bob	leave it as is
Austin	Bodek	The ideas would aesthetically ruin the bridge.

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Austin	Bodek	<p>I feel like suicide is a huge issue but putting up all those barriers is not going to change anything. If you are suicidal you will find another way. We should be focusing on spending money on outreach programs to help suicidal people instead of trying to block one option.</p> <p>Also, I feel like if we are going to change anything on the bridge we should add a car barrier for accidents. And stop raising the price for cars, but charge pedestrians and bikers who cross the bridge.</p>
Greg	Bodin	<p>I think that money should be spent on a stronger police presence for suicide prevention, not on physical barriers on the bridge. I am concerned about the aesthetics of any planned barrier, as well as potential structural impact.</p>
Kathleen	Bodnar	<p>Alternative A, the net system, if it works the way it does on the tall buildings in Berne Switzerland, will stop people from attempting to jump. I mean, who wants to jump into an orange net 2 stories below? And how humiliating, to have to be scooped out of the net afterwards.</p> <p>I also like Alternative A because the bridge will basically look the same.</p> <p>I like Alternative 2B, Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System, because it actually expands the current view to include the water; you can see through the horizontal wires, and you can't see the current thick heavy bridge rail.</p>

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		<p>Thank you for the extensive research that went into these alternatives.</p> <p>Four years ago, when my daughter dressed in black, walked into a BART tunnel and sat down on the tracks, the train hit her at a fast speed, killing her instantly, because the driver didn't see her in the dark tunnel. BART immediately put lighting in all the tunnels approaching and leaving the stations, and erected larger pedestrian barriers into the tunnels, trying to prevent this from ever happening again. I am so glad the Golden Gate Bridge is also considering action to prevent easy suicides.</p> <p>I was impressed by the quality of the presentation of the alternatives at the ferry building, with the architect and engineer's explanations, and the presence of board members to listen to comments. I was also impressed with how few people, the public, and especially the opponents, showed up, to really take a good look and learn.</p> <p>As far as funding, I liked an idea I read in the Chronicle in a letter to the editor: reinstate a one dollar fee for pedestrians to walk across the bridge. I also hope mental health and suicide prevention organizations at federal, state, and local levels will help with funding, as well as organizations that target youth and aging populations where suicide rates are highest.</p>
Kathleen	Bodnar	
Willie	Boesel	i think it would make the bridge look awful
Willie	Boesel	i think the
John	Boessenecker	Are you people crazy? You continue to raise the bridge tolls and now you want to spend even more money on feel good repairs? These people are going to kill themselves anyway.
Roger	Bohl	Individuals should be allowed to take their own lives. We should not spend society's resources to prevent individuals from exercising this choice. If "no-build" is not chosen, then "least costly" (present value) over 20 years should be chosen
Jean	Bolen	#3 will act as a deterrent while not affecting view from bridge.
Logan	Boles	I am not convinced that a barrier will provide any real suicide deterrence. There is no evidence that the San Francisco Bay Area has any higher incidence of suicide than any other area.
Logan	Boles	If the Bay Area needs to spend 40 to 50 million tax payer dollars for humanitarian reasons, there are better places to spend the money. Mental health services might be a good place to start.

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Heather	Bollinger	As tragic as it may be, the truth is that people who decide to take their lives will do so, whether the GGBridge has a suicide barrier or not. Not to mention, if this barrier is constructed in such a way that attempted jumpers are not injured - what will stop them from just then jumping off the barrier? I am sympathetic to the families who have lost loved ones in this manner (or any manner) but I cannot imagine the world of good \$50 million would do to our mental health care system in this city! I urge the families who are supporting this draft to think about all the people who could be helped with that money - instead of focusing on the relative few people who choose the bridge as their location of preference.
Diane	Bolman	The net system provides the necessary deterrent with minimal visual impact.
Diane	Bolman	Why not select the system that benefits everyone?
David	Bolyard	This would keep the view somewhat unobstructed, but I'm sure it will reduce the number of suicides.
aaron	bonfilio	Please see additional comments below.
aaron	bonfilio	<p>Please consider the upside to raising the barrier.</p> <p>Regarding the visual/aesthetic to the bridge's design, I, like many who will comment in support of a barrier, had a friend leap to his death this past year. It will be one year ago August 7, 2008. Owein Sanders was his name and he was struggling with mental illness when he decided to take his life. He was truly an amazing graphic artist who's work lives on to this day in various murals, museum displays, and print media.</p> <p>Owein would have appreciated the idea that the aesthetic/visual changes to the bridge would be of such great concern, if not the primary concern being heard before The Board. This however is a non-issue for those that have lost someone due to the ease of lifting oneself over a four foot fence that a tallish fifth grader could stumble or fall over, but for the masses in San Francisco and the surrounding bay area that have not known anyone who has taken their own life or specifically jumped from the bridge, well it seems, their goal is ensure their view remains static. The interest of the 75% or what has been deemed the overwhelming majority, by the press, is and has been solely with the aesthetic.</p> <p>Please, we must erect something that will at least give the suicidal person pause one last time, physically if not emotionally, before climbing to their death. A jump to eternity shouldn't be so easy from such a heavily populated, monitored and governed location. There is no other bridge in the entire world that is as heavily populated that does not have some sort of barrier, NONE. In a few years, no one will mind the change of view as they zip past if such a barrier were to go up. The truest, most direct benefit is someone's family may have one more member around the table come next family or holiday gathering.</p>

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Scott	Bonnenfant	<p>I still think that a fee should be charged per pedestrian. Doing so will add tremendous revenue, as well as giving a trained authority one on one contact. Put these two together and you'll make money and reduce suicides.</p> <p>Can't get to the top of the Empire State Bldg. without a fee. This landmark is just as big.</p>
Jonathan	Boos	<p>Again, you are going to spend my money to stop people from doing things they are going to do anyway. You CANNOT regulate pinheads and dimbulbs. Anyone who is determined to make the move over the edge, will do so. You mentality of NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) is lost on me. You are trying to save an average of 22.2 lives per year (using published figures on suicides since the bridge opened. If you took the estimated 50 million this project will cost and funneled it toward better projects, I think you could save far more people that may be better deserving. The cold, calloused, reality is I don't give a hoot if people jump off that danged bridge.</p>
Anna-Marie	Booth	<p>Approach this decision knowing that life is the priority.</p> <p>First, life; then, aesthetics.</p> <p>Build the most effective physical deterrent while enhancing the non-physical suicide deterrent programs.</p>
Anna-Marie	Booth	<p>The opportunity afforded by the Golden Gate Bridge should be eliminated. My son, Joseph Booth-Metwally, has been missing without a trace since December 14, 2006, when he was a beautiful, wonderful 17 year old boy. Whether or not he is among the uncounted bridge statistics let's value life over aesthetics. Let's do all we can to prevent future loss of life. http://www.JosephBooth-Metwally.info</p>
Anna-Marie	Booth	<p>My priority is doing all I can to ensure that no one follows my wonderful teenage son by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge; life is the priority</p> <p>Read the July 6, 2008 New York Times article by Scott Anderson concluding that barriers are effective in preventing suicide.</p>

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Anna-Marie	Booth	<p>A barrier must be erected.</p> <p>Note the July 6, 2008 New York Times article by Scott Anderson titled "The Urge to End It All"</p> <p>Anderson cites a doctor - "The more obstacles you can throw up to potential suicides, the more you move it away from being an impulsive act. And once you've done that, you take a lot of people out of the game".</p>
Naydine	Booth	<p>While the story in Sunday's IJ was heartfelt and tragic, there are always signs. We need better services, education not a barrier. The ending of young lives is especially tragic but parents need to be more parental in this modern age. I am not blaming the Brooks for the tragic loss of their beloved daughter but universally there seems to be a disconnect in modern parenting that if remedied perhaps could change the dangerous paths so many young people take. I am not an expert in parenting, or in suicide, or in mental health issues, but am a past parent and now a grandparent. While the article said this is the number one suicide spot, would any barrier then relinquish that infamous honor to another location? Where does it stop? It stops by mental health education and mental health services. This is not a problem of youth only but a problem of society.</p>
T	Booth	This is not a cost effective deterrent.
Ron	Boring	The proposed "solutions" are a waste of money, time and aesthetic value.
Ron	Boring	Please do not do anything to change the current structure of the bridge for assumed suicide prevention. That effort requires a personal, non-structural answer.
joyce	borkowski	Just get it done!!
joyce	borkowski	Just get it done
lynn	bornstein	<p>Even with a barrier on the Bridge, people who wish to do away with themselves will find another way.</p> <p>As a member of a pioneer family, who settled in San Francisco in 1848, I ask you to leave our beautiful Golden Gate Bridge alone.</p>
Scott	Bossen	The GG Bridge should be left the way it is. If someone wants to commit suicide badly enough to go all the way to the bridge and attempt jumping off, they can just as easily pick an alternate national monument. Are we going to put nets around all bridges and buildings and monuments? Are we going to start putting huge rubber bumpers in front of the cable cars, buses, taxis?

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Gary	Boswell	I am a long time user of the bridge. The special treat of walking across the bridge cannot be duplicated by moving it to the side. People who choose suicide as the only way out of their problems will still choose to end their life if the bridge is not available and their methods will be more messy and seen by more people.
charee	boulter	I like the concept of decreasing the appeal of jumping from the GGB and the options are visually attractive.
John	Bourne	The beautiful aesthetic design of the bridge should not be altered. The original engineers and designers would want future generations to enjoy the bridge as it is. Any alteration to the present design would seriously impact it's natural beauty in a detrimental way.
John	Bourne	Suicide is a result of mental illness or instability. Suicidal individuals will continue to take their own lives by using handguns, hanging themselves with a rope, ingesting lethal drugs or jumping off high buildings. The bridge directors should not be compelled to alter the bridge in any way because of the self destructive actions of a small group of unbalanced people. Maybe without this type of project, the board could also refrain from raising the bridge tolls every few years.
John	Bowen	The idea of spending so much money to prevent so few people from willfully doing themselves harm would be ridiculous at any time, but proposing to waste so much of the public's money in the current economic climate is beyond comprehension.
John	Bowen	The idea of spending so much money to prevent so few people from willfully doing themselves harm would be ridiculous at any time, but proposing to waste so much of the public's money in the current economic climate is beyond comprehension.
Jamie	Bowles	Do not change the bridge.
Malcolm	Bowles	I have grown up in San Francisco, and this would irreparably mar the beautiful bridge I have grown to know and love. Compared to many other methods of suicide readily available to the public, I fail to see the extraordinary dangers of this method which merit special consideration - especially when this consideration would have far-reaching consequences beyond the suicidal individual.
Philip	Bowles	The Alternatives 1 and 2 make it seem like you're in prison, not on the bridge. Hideous. I can't believe this money could not be put to better use, including improving the anti-suicide patrols.
Bryan	Boyce	I think the visual impact would be very negative for all of the proposed alternatives.
Bryan	Boyce	I think the planned alternatives are not consistent with the vision of the architect nor with the cultural value of the Bridge.

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Bryan	Boyce	I think the proposed alternatives would diminish the recreational value of the bridge, and not be consistent with the land use that is intended for the bridge.
Bryan	Boyce	Given the amount of paint and gasoline needed by bridge workers to maintain the current structure, why create a larger debt to sustainability? It's more of an indirect impact.
Bryan	Boyce	Adequate.
MJ	Boyd	I think the 'net' system is not practicle as it set up a system for people to throw objects --garbage and then someone has to maintain it...
Patrick	Boyd	The board members need to fulfill their public trust responsibilities and immediately proceed with an option which they believe will stop the suicides. This is not a responsibility to be relegated to a public popularity contest. The architects have given you several designs that look prefectly appropriate for this amazing structure. MAKE A DECISION NOW and get it done on a fast track before more lives are needlessly lost due to continued indecision and bureaucratic hurdles. These are easily preventable deaths.
Katherine	Boyers	I think vertical lines will complement the appearance more than horizontal lines.
Barbara	Boyle	The money could be better spent elsewhere. If someone is intent on suicide, they will find a way.
Joanie	Boyle	A suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge MUST be built to protect and preserve human life -- the #1 responsibility of a humane, moral, compassionate, and socially conscious society. Options 1A and 2A have minimal impacts on aesthetics, cultural resources and recreation, which are truly insignificant when compared to the inestimable value of lives and communities that will be spared the tragic and terrible loss, suffering and devastation caused by easy access to lethal means of suicide. The SF Bay Area community has an undeniable responsibility NOW to follow through with building a suicide barrier, which will remove the adjectives "terrible" and "lethal" -- qualities that the visionary architects and builders never intended for the "beauty" that they created and that millions use and enjoy. To me, preventing suicides from the bridge, and the destruction of families and communities that follows, is truly enlightened historic preservation -- removing from the bridge what was never intended, yet what has become the darkest of shadows cast by it. We must strip "suicide magnet" from the description of the Golden Gate Bridge.

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First	Last	Comment
Joanie	Boyle	More education is needed to inform our communities about the demonstrated effectiveness of physical barriers to suicide. The recent article in the New York Times titled "The Urge to End it All" by Scott Anderson (Sunday, July 6 Magazine section) is excellent, and should be included in public awareness/outreach resources. It addresses the question "Is suicide the deadly result of a deep psychological condition -- or a fleeting impulse brought on by opportunity?" Several key studies are cited that show that removing the opportunity - that is, easy access to lethal means - significantly saves lives. To me, the question is not black/white, either/or, but BOTH, since both factors increase the risk of suicide. While efforts continue in the realm of education, diagnosis, and treatment of depression, mental disorders, and substance abuse - factors which increase suicide risk (the WHY)- we CAN and MUST address the question of opportunity (the HOW). Building a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge fulfills this responsibility.
Thomas	Boyles	This entire project is a complete waste of resources. Your relatives are dead, and this will not bring them back. People who want to kill themselves will continue to do so, despite any length of nanny-state coddling. If you have a problem with your grief, go to a support group instead of ruining one of the most iconic pieces of American architecture. If you feel a sense of public duty and want to help, you should work to help the living, non-self destructive people who actually need the support. This is a public work and you are a public commission. There is no question that the public is vastly OPPOSED to any changes to the bridge. You should do your job as public servants and close this entire matter before any more money is wasted. Or, better yet, use your considerable fundraising and organizational skills for something more useful, like helping to improve the San Francisco schools.
Thomas	Boyles	This entire project is a complete waste of resources. Your relatives are dead, and this will not bring them back. People who want to kill themselves will continue to do so, despite any length of nanny-state coddling. If you have a problem with your grief, go to a support group instead of ruining one of the most iconic pieces of American architecture. If you feel a sense of public duty and want to help, you should work to help the living, non-self destructive people who actually need the support. This is a public work and you are a public commission. There is no question that the public is vastly OPPOSED to any changes to the bridge. You should do your job as public servants and close this entire matter before any more money is wasted. Or, better yet, use your considerable fundraising and organizational skills for something more useful, like helping to improve the San Francisco schools.
George	Bradley	If you can't find a better use of our tax dollars, I can. Let me take you on a tour of San Francisco. It shouldn't take more than a half hour.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)		
First	Last	Comment
George	Bradley	If you can't find a better use of our tax dollars, I can. Let me take you on a tour of San Francisco. It shouldn't take more than a half hour.
Theresa	Brady	Alternative 3 appears to be the best combination of being least intrusive visually and most economical. The view from the bridge would remain intact but the view of the bridge would be seriously compromised. I would most notice and be bothered by the view being compromised as I'm driving across the bridge.
Theresa	Brady	I believe that we cannot prevent suicides by safety-proofing the world. We must address the issue through psychological intervention.
Leo	Bragagnolo	I don't believe the statistics support installation of a suicide barrier.
Leo	Bragagnolo	The vertical and horizontal handrail systems degrade the view significantly, penalizing everyone. Alternative 3 satisfies the worthy goal of reducing suicides without significantly affecting the view.
Leo	Bragagnolo	The vertical and horizontal handrail systems degrade the view significantly, penalizing everyone. I have walked and biked across the bridge many times, and construction of any of the alternatives would significantly degrade my experience when I cross the bridge.
Bob	Brakinen	I don't like any of the proposed changes and believe that they all are a waste of resources.
Bob	Brakinen	The way to suicide prevention is with bridge patrol, if even that. We can't stop people who really want to die.
Vivien	Braly	Thank you for addressing an issue that is long overdue. I live in Marin and do not take my children to walk on the Golden Gate Bridge because I know someone who jumped to his death and it haunts me. We need to protect our most vulnerable citizens from an impulsive decision to end their lives. Please make the Bridge safe.
Ellen	Branco	Please build this barrier. I work in the mental health field and with teens and feel this is vitally important.
Bob	Brandriff	Please build a barrier. As I understand it there is a suicide at the Golden Gate Bridge approximately once every two weeks. And, apparently, the evidence is conclusive that most people, if deterred from jumping, end up not committing suicide later on. Please do the right thing and build the barrier. You can end the bridge's horrible distinction of being the most powerful suicide magnet in the world.
William	Brasseur	I do not want to see this magnificent bridge changed. Too many liberties have been taken away from us in the name of safety and I do not want to see the Bridge turned into a cage. As much as we want to we cannot protect people from themselves or their desires.

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		<p>Rather than selecting from various design alternatives that would save lives at the cost of \$40-50 million, why not ask a different question: assuming \$40-50 million was available to be spent in any conceivable way, anywhere in the bay area, with the only restriction that it had to save lives, what would be the best way to spend it that would save the most number of lives? The bridge project would be one possibility, but just one out of potentially hundreds (ex: new equipment for SF General, drug rehab programs, AIDs research, homeless shelters, etc, etc.</p> <p>My guess is that the bridge project would be way down on the list if you analyzed lives saved per dollar spent.</p>
fritz	brauner	
Neff	Breen	The suicide barrier is an important project to save lives. I urge you to build it.
Neff	Breen	
diane	breivis	it seems that from evidence it will save lives - impulse jumpers will get another chance to think about it
Matt	Brewer	will destroy the visual/aesthetic appeal of the most beautiful bridge in the world
Matt	Brewer	20-50 Million???? Are you kidding me???!?!?! This is a horrible idea, spend the money on suicide prevention, do not alter the Golden Gate!!!
SUZANNE	BRICE	Tho my heart is with the families who have lost a loved one thru suicide.. society does not advance thru actions demanded by the grief of the victims. We need to fund education and ALWAYS offer compassion/aid. Changing the bridge is truly futile and only encourages more drama from potential suicides.
Chris	Bridge	I've noticed all of the options below to comment on the specifics behind this initiative- thank you for that. However, I have only one to offer- I think it is PROPOSTEROUS that this amount of money be spent on this project- and I speak as someone who last month lost a dear friend to suicide, has had a family member try to commit suicide three times and as someone who recently watched "The Bridge"- I have an understanding, and compassion for this issue- spending \$25-50m, not to mention changing the aesthetic of this national treasure is not the correct approach!Especially as there are so many other worthy initiatives which could be undertaken affecting far more than the 20-30 people who jump from the bridge each year (and of course, their family members). In the days of \$5 gas, escalating bridge tolls, the need for a barrier to help prevent innocents from being mamed and killed on the bridge and the looming Doyle drive project, how anyone could think this expediture and use of resources is prudent, is beyond my understanding. Please do not vote yes on this! I appreciate the opportunity to comment- I trust you'll make the right decision here.

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Kell	Brigan	Would birds nest more on Option #3 than they do on the bridge currently? If so, would this be a hardship for maintenance workers, or otherwise interfere with air flow or the effectiveness of the net?
Kell	Brigan	Congratulations on reaching this milestone! About Option #3: would it be possible for an especially fit person to climb to the edge of the net, and "complete" a suicide attempt? Also, isn't there a possibility that thrill-seekers (not suicidal, just dumb) might jump into the net just for kicks?
		(My second comment. Left some stuff out.) 1) Re. #3 -- I wonder what impact the net might have on maintenance workers. Would they be safer, ultimately, or would having to move the net to get around add risk? 2) Generally, please look at options for spreading the cost around. The Bridge is a State treasure, as well as San Francisco's, so it seems reasonable that the rest of us cough up something to help with expenses. Even though the State budget is probably unavailable, private donations could go a long way to help, should money be a concern. There are 35 some-odd million folks in California. Even if only 1 in 100 people feels strongly enough about this issue (show 'em Dr. Sieden's study, and they'll care), we should still be able to come up with some cash.
Kell	Brigan	
Kell	Brigan	I prefer 1A and 2A because the vertical lines of the barrier would echo in miniature the overall vertical lines of the suspensions cables. These seem to me to be the most visually elegant options. (I prefer 1A because it preserves the historic structure for future reference, and also allows the existing rail to be a "floor molding" for the new barrier. The contrast between the old and new features is more elegant and interesting than 2A.)
Kell	Brigan	I prefer option 1A because it would maintain the existing rail for historical reference. (I also think it's the best overall design.)
Kell	Brigan	The 6.5-inch span on the vertical or horizontal barrier bars should allow plenty of room for the photographers to get a shot "outside" the barrier.
Kell	Brigan	
Joanne	Briggs	The visual impact of alternative 1A and 2A both fit into the design of the bridge the best.
Joanne	Briggs	It is vital to put a suicide barrier on the bridge as soon as possible. Too many lives are being lost at this bridge.

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Mary Jo	Brimhall	Constructing a barrier isn't going to stop someone from committing suicide. They will find another way. Don't ruin the bridge hoping it will deter the number of suicides that take place. They will take place at another location is all.
Nancy	Brink	<p>My understanding is that the current rail does not meet contemporary building standards; that alone is a strong argument for changing the railings.</p> <p>I am impressed with the plans and the explanations I've received at the San Francisco hearing today. I think great attention has been paid to preserving the visual/aesthetic value of the bridge, which seems to be people's major concern. The alternative I marked does, in fact seem to open up the view in some ways.</p>
Nancy	Brink	I am disturbed by the mean-spirited comments made online, in response to articles and on the web. I have lost someone on the bridge, and know all too well that the impact ripples far beyond the person that jumps. I appreciate the thought and consideration that the board and the architects and engineers have given to the designs and the reasons behind the barrier.
Janelle	Brinton	my primary concern is simply that some deterrent be added. With the bridge a draw for so many suicide attempts, it would be wholly irresponsible to not take any preventative measures. Aesthetics are important but I believe they are of secondary importance compared to safety concerns.
Dusan	Britan	Do not waste money on something that will not decrease number of suicides, but will visually and aesthetically completely damage the most recognized SF landmark.
Dusan	Britan	The argument for says that over the last 2 decades 27 people ages 21 or younger jumped from the bridge. How many of them committed suicide by other means? How many of them die each year on city streets as homicide victims? Those who want to finish their life will find their way of doing it. Building barrier will not stop them. Spend the millions of dollars on suicide prevention!!!
Tom	Brock	First and foremost, create an effective barrier. Second, try and preserve the views of the city and bay.

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Jason	Brodkey	<p>I wholly endorse a suicide barrier however I think that the priority should be building the median barrier BEFORE building the suicide barrier.</p> <p>Not to be insensitive to the mentally ill, but shouldn't we be spending that kind of money on Northbound/Southbound median barriers first? Prevent tragic accidents before preventing intentional tragic acts.</p>
Jason	Brodkey	
michael	brodsky	How about forgetting the suicide barriers, and instead removing some of the existing visual clutter on the bridge, especially all the little storage shacks on the west side of the bridge.
Eric	Brody	Whichever system you choose, please do something. The existing rail system is a travesty.
Jim	Bronkem	<p>Concerning the draft EIR it should be stressed in the document that the GGB Highway and Trans. District is seeking public input and it is a UNSCIENTIFIC poll. I am disappointed that the GGB Board had not yet directed staff to seek funding for a suicide barrier. I am afraid that they will cite the public's response to do nothing on this UNSCIENTIFIC poll and than scrap the project. This is a shame for a 4ft. railing that was installed in 1937 and has caused over 1,300 KNOWN suicides. The public should not be voting on this, rather the Bridge board should do its duty to protect pedestrians from this public health hazard.</p> <p>The Bridge Board directed staff to seek funding for a median barrier for the roadway. They were granted \$20 million from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for a median barrier. Head on crashes on the bridge have resulted in 36 deaths, yet the 4ft railing has resulted in over 1,300 KNOWN suicides. Directors , please allocated bridge staff time to seek funding for the suicide barrier.</p> <p>The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and state and federal funding have not yet been approached. Nor have foundations/corporations such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Home Depot, Calif. Healthcare Fdn., The Gap, and others.</p> <p>Please include the comments above in the final EIR-public comments</p>

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Aimee	Brooks	<p>If a suicide barrier is going to be built, then great care must be taken so that it does not deface a beautiful bridge which it seems the whole world has grown to love.</p> <p>Of all the alternatives, I think the horizontal net is the best. One selling point is that it does not interfere with the view from the bridge, as a higher fence might. Nor does it involve removing the original railing, which is a thoughtful part of the original art deco design.</p> <p>However, there are a couple of concerns with the net, which should be easy to address. One is that a determined would-be jumper aware of the net, might conceivably carry a concealed knife or similar device with them- once they land in the net, cut themselves loose so they fall. The net would need to be made of a material durable enough to prevent or seriously hinder this.</p> <p>Another potential issue is that of possible mischief. This is the so-called "Youtube" generation, and shows such as Jackass, featuring stupid and dangerous stunts are popular and widely imitated.</p> <p>It's quite conceivable that somebody showing off or looking for attention might leap into the net on purpose. If memory serves, this was even a concern during the bridge's initial construction. Workers were threatened with dismissal were they to deliberately jump into the safety net.</p> <p>A possible deterrent to mischief would be to fine anyone caught "stunting" by jumping into the net for purposes of amusement. Of course, those persons found to be genuinely distraught and suicidal might be released from such fines on compassionate grounds. But no leniency should be shown to Jackass-imitators, as fishing such an individual from the net is a waste of police and bridge crew resources, not to mention possibly distracting from a real emergency.</p> <p>Thank you, -Aimee Brooks</p>
Dana	Brooks	Please do the right thing and approve the barrier
Donald	Brooks	The important issue here is not how good or bad the bridge will look but that one of the designs is, in fact, built...period. Personally, the bridge's beauty can only be enhanced by putting up a barrier that will prevent people from jumping off of it because the beauty lies not only in the bridge's structure but in the knowledge that no one can be hurt by the structure's existence.
Dorothy	Brooks	I see no problem in viewing the surrounding watears and land scape. I am watching the car in front of me!!!

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Dorothy	Brooks	Any barrier that saves a life is worthwhile. These barriers will NOT take away the beauty of the bridge
Dorothy	Brooks	1A No problem in viewing the landscape. As someone said, the driver should be watching the road in front of him!
Dorothy	Brooks	Might save a life. It could have been my granddaughter's but now it's too late.
Dorothy	Brooks	I see no problem
Dorothy	Brooks	1A No impact at all
Dorothy	Brooks	Might save a life
Dorothy	Brooks	The view from the bridge is NOT hampered with these barriers! Put them up!
Dorothy	Brooks	Please save lives and vote for a barrier. You could have saved my granddaughter if you'd had one in place in January.
Grant	Brooks	Please put it up
john	brooks	Public safety trumps everything
john	brooks	Public safety trumps everything
Jordan	Brooks	A horizontal or vertical barrier is better than a net system. Visual/aesthetics are insignificant considerations compared to the value of a human life.
Kimberly	Brooks	What's more important: saving a human life or the visual aesthetic impact of a bridge? Whatever design is chosen, make sure it is one that is going to prevent someone from successfully killing themselves off of this bridge!
Kimberly	Brooks	Any barrier is better than none. The vertical and horizontal systems are far better than a net. Saving lives is a moral obligation. Protect our children; protect your loved ones; protect all who are drawn to the bridge as a way to end their lives, whether the decision to do so is premeditated or impulsive. The bridge will be more beautiful than it is now when it is no longer linked to the deaths of human beings.
Lindsay	Brooks	It is about time! Show the your leadership and get this passed! Enough with the should we shouldn't we... of course we should these are people's lives!
Marilee	Brooks	Please approve the barrier. Please treat the funding as a separate issue and approve the barrier.
Anne	Broshar	I appreciate the amount of time and concern that has gone into all of these proposals. However, it still seems to me that (1) the idea of a suicide barrier interferes with the will of the individual; and (2) all this money may be better spent preventing deaths in traffic on the bridge than in preventing jumpers from it.
Anne	Broshar	The least intrusive of all of these (very intrusive) alternatives is #3. I would prefer that no barrier be built at all. Please, consider not making millions pay for the actions of some thousand or so people in pain. And consider the source of this comment: a person who has struggled with depression for 20 years.

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Anne	Broshar	Again: taking no action now is better than taking any new action. What is the environmental argument FOR this barrier?
Anne	Brown	What a waste of our tax dollars!! Let them jump. Provide a sign in sheet to notify next of kin, and don't even bother fishing out the body.
Cindy	Brown	There is no question that a barrier will save lives, especially those of teenagers.
Dewey	Brown	Four of the five alterations to the Bridge are "criminal". Netting is the least offensive but still takes beauty away from the Bridge. All designs have the feel of a prison-yard, except the netting. I had a close friend who climbed up the north tower to commit suicide, but was helped back down. Where does this insanity to save someone from suicide stop?
Diane	Brown	It seems to me that Alternative 2B and 2A could improve the view from the bridge as well as save hundreds -- and over the years -- thousands of lives each year.
Diane	Brown	Thank you for working on preventing suicide from The Golden Gate Bridge. A national treasure does not need to be a national tragedy where over 1000 people end their lives each year! Let the beauty and the promotion of human life be harmonious.
Dr. C Hendricks	Brown	<p>It is absolutely time to provide a physical barrier that would make it far less likely for people to attempt to jump to their death. It is also very feasible and appropriate that this be done esthetically as well. There is no excuse for not acting to prevent suicide deaths. As a researcher on suicide I know that such barriers will save lives. On behalf of all those who form plans to commit suicide and all their loved ones, this is a time for the barrier to be put in place.</p> <p>Dr. C. Hendricks Brown Distinguished University Health Professor Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics University of South Florida</p>

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George	Brown	<p>I prefer the net system. I believe that just the existence of the net will be enough to deter people from jumping. I really expect that no more than a handful of people will actually jump into the net each year, and of those that do, they will turn out to be not serious suicide jumpers. If this is indeed the case, then the barrier will be a huge success in saving lives.</p> <p>One further note: the bridge is obviously going to be in existence for as long as there are people living in the Bay Area, that is, most likely for hundreds of years into the future. Based on the number of people per year who are currently taking their lives on the span, one can make a simple calculation of the amount of lives that will ultimately be saved. Putting up a barrier now is the right thing to do.</p>
George	Brown	My daughter knew the girl who jumped from Redwood. That kind of death affects the whole community, not just the family.
Helen	Brown	I don't like the net idea at all.
Helen	Brown	This site is hard to find things in. I spent a bunch of time looking for pictures of the alternatives. The Chronicle/sfgate did not have a link to the site in the previous articles so I could not vote
Janet	Brown	Lives need to come before aesthetics anyway.
Lakisha	Brown	please do whatever is needed in order to completely deteriorate suicides from the golden gate bridge. i ask u to please imagine that one of the suicides had to do with someone u loved dearly...
Patrice	Brown	All plans are visually acceptable, and attractive. None would take away from the bridges timeless beauty. In addition to something that is absolutely necessary, it provides jobs for an economy desperately in need of economic stimulus.

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Patrice	Brown	Clearly something needs to be done. Most people who survive a suicide attempt later confess that they are glad they were not successful. The lives of so many countless people are at stake, and I ask what is most important? Obviously the man is more important than the manmade object! People opposed to this are most likely fortunate enough not to have suffered through a loved one's suicide from the bridge. Please, I beg of you, do not place the concerns of those who do not have firsthand experience with the issue of suicide and attempted suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge above those who have lived through these horrendous sad events. Please, do not place the value of the dollar and aesthetics above the truly higher valuable human life, and those of the lives forever changed that they leave behind.
Peter	Brown	Ugly
RONDELIAN	BROWN	<p>"NO CHANGE" IS NOT AN OPTION NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES</p> <p>I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SUICIDES STOPPED ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE</p> <p>I HAVE TWO FRIENDS WHO LOST THEIR BEAUTIFUL SON'S TO SUICIDE - YES, THEY JUMPED FROM THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, PLEASE DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE'S SON, DAUGHTER, BROTHER, SISTER, MOTHER AND FATHER LOSE THEIR LOVE ONE BY MAKING IT EASY FOR THEM TO JUMP FROM THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE</p> <p>LETS SAVE LIVES NOT TAKE LIVES "NO CHANGE" IS NOT THE OPTION NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES</p>
Russell	Brown	Any barrier will destroy the beauty of the bridge and the views from it. While it can be an attraction to some who seek suicide many others find other ways, about 750 for the entire Bay Area. The money is better spent on helping people to address what is driving them to suicide to address the problems in the cause people to try to end their lives and not destroy an Icon.

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Russell	Brown	Why not put fences around all train tracks in the Bay Area, many end their lives by walking on the track and being hit by a train and many others do so my accident. As far as I can tell there are just about as many deaths on train tracks as there are deaths from the Golden Gate Bridge, so why not put up fences. At least the fences would protect people from accidental deaths.
Shelley	Brown	Whatever you need to do, needs to be done, protecting the aesthetic of the bridge as much as possible.
Shelley	Brown	This is SO important...my friend's 14 year old son who was on the wrong medication which was causing suicidal tendencies would have easily gone to the Bridge and talked of jumping, especially when he heard about the most recent young highschooler who jumped. It MUST be prevented-it is just too easy for young people. We look at the Bridge everyday and it is a terrible thought...
Spencer	Brown	Out side of the natural world the Golden Gate bridge is one of the few places where you can look straight down a great distance. It is one of the major highlights of visiting the bridge. All of the proposed suicide barriers effectively destroy this unique quality. There are many, many ways to commit suicide. The 'not in my back yard' approach the Golden Gate Bridge is taking does nothing to solve suicides, it simply pushes them somewhere else. Please don't alter the bridge. -Spencer Brown SF resident of 6 years, lifetime visitor of the bridge
Spencer	Brown	None of the proposals allow a person to look straight down to the water.
Thomas	Brown	This project is a complete waste of time and scarce public resources. If pursued, it will scar a national treasure for no good reason.
Thomas	Brown	This project is a complete waste of time and scarce public resources. If pursued, it will scar a national treasure for no good reason.
Jo	Brownold	PRESERVE THE VIEW FROM THE WALKWAYS
Ed	Brownson	The best option remains to leave the bridge alone physically while increasing patrols with trained outreach specialists. This could work in preventing suicides as well as regulating pedestrians and cyclists. Just being present, sort of like bridge docents, will be a huge help. A lot of patrols can be trained and financed with \$40 million.

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Victoria	Brubaker	Suicide is a very sad and devastating experience for the affected families, friends and society at large. I have experienced it within my own family and can attest to the above. My opposition to the barrier system, however, has nothing to do with aesthetics, but with the money required to build such a system. If we are going to add additional cost burdens to commuters and local tax payers, the money should be spent on a movable barrier to protect drivers from head on collisions -- accidents where those involved have no plans to take their own lives or the lives of others. We already spend outrageous amounts of money in tolls, which continually rise each year, for a bridge that was supposed to be paid off years ago. With additional proposals for fare hikes to fix Doyle drive, I think it is fiscally irresponsible to spend tens of millions of dollars to prevent bridge suicides. Let's spend the 40-50 million dollars on preventing avoidable accidents, or fixing Doyle Drive first, and then if we have money left over, or taxpayers are still willing to pay more, then build the prevention system.
Don	Brubeck	It is possible to conserve the historic features and aesthetic qualities of the bridge while adding a barrier to effectively reduce suicides. Such measures have a proven effect, and do not merely shift suicides to other locations. [I am involved as a community advisory committee member in a similar effort for the bridge with the next highest number of suicides in the US: Aurora Bridge, Seattle WA. With this comment I am speaking for myself, not for the committee or for WSDOT]
allison	bruce	I am in favor of increasing police presence and cameras on the bridge.
PETER	BRUCE	WHY KILL THE BEAUTY OF THE BRIDGE JUST BECAUSE SOME ONE WANT TO KILL THEN SELF.
PETER	BRUCE	WHY KILL THE BEAUTY OF THE BRIDGE JUST BECAUSE SOME ONE WANT TO KILL THEN SELF. AND MAKE THE TOLL GO UP !!!!!!!!!

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		Since the 16th century, city planners have debated the effectiveness of suicide deterrents on bridges. Time and again, case studies find that these deterrents reduce the incidence of suicide. The relatively straightforward intervention on Golden Gate Bridge will most likely save lives with minimal adverse cost, cultural, and biological impact. One of the goals of the CA Mental Health Services Act, passed in 2004, involves reducing the incidence of suicide. This Act costs taxpayers \$1.5 billion per year, and its effectiveness remains unclear. Compared to the Act's price tag, the Bridge suicide deterrent seems minimal; its cost-effectiveness of saving lives, moreover, represents a bargain. I would encourage those intent on maintaining the status quo to reflect on the implicit value judgment made by doing nothing. I also recommend that detractors carefully examine the extensive evidence on bridge barriers and suicide prevention.
Tim-Allen	Bruckner	
Bill	Bruns	Please do not ruin the view, for the sake of the few sad souls. Even they are attracted by the beauty.
R.L.	Bruns	My opinion of the best system would be to combine 1A and 3. Alternatives 2A and 2B have a prison-ish look.
Lisa	Brussell	preserve the aesthetic beauty of the bridge
Lisa	Brussell	put those \$ into community and/or school programs for visual arts, music, athletics, and that help build community and personal relationships that help prevent suicide in the first place thus contribute to the well being of us all

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		<p>If people seriously want to committ suicide they will do it whether or not there is a barrier. they may do it someplace else but we the tax payers and general public should not be expected to pay up to 50 million dollars plus annual maintenance because 30 or so people a year choose the golden gate bridge to commit suicide.</p> <p>The goden gate bridge is both a national icon and large tourist attraction and alteringcould impact the number of tourists that come to see it. Which could then further raise the cost of a suicide barrier through lost tourism, bridge tolls,and sight seeing tours.</p> <p>Again if someone is truly serious about committing suicide they will do it.</p>
jodi	brust	
Louis	Bryan	All the alternatives negatively impact the aesthetics.
Louis	Bryan	The money proposed to be spent on the alternatives could be better used on virtually any other program.
Louis	Bryan	The main cause of deaths and injuries on the bridge is automobiles, not jumpers.
Ester	Bryant	Keeping with the historical engineering beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge and within financial reason barriers must be erected as a deterrent.
Ester	Bryant	We must structurally and legally do whatever it takes to stop suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge.
Maximilian	Buck	It is only human decency to value life before aesthetics. Suicide has widely tainted the symbol of the Golden Gate Bridge.

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First	Last	Comment
Blaine	Bucking	<p>A new view with a 180 degree turn around is what is needed here. People who jump off the bridge should pay for desecrating the image and reputation of the bridge. Those people and their families should pay \$50,000, \$100,000, \$500,000 -- whatever is determined to be the value of of defiling the bridge.</p> <p>If these fruit loops are going to commit suicide and decide that they want to do it at the expense of the rest of us, then change the rules. Make them pay. Make it a tax. Make it have to be paid off.</p> <p>I think that they'll find someplace else or someone else to threaten to jump or to off themselves. If what they are doing is making a glory statement, then don't be a codependent. Make them take it someplace else -- or pay.</p> <p>And by the way, I think that everyone who tries to commit suicide from the bridge should have their name published in the paper -- plastered all over for everyone to see the weak trash that they are.</p>
Barbara	Buckley	<p>I enjoy the beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge as I cross it several times a week. I can see no significant reduction in my experience of its beauty when a suicide deterrent system is built.</p> <p>I will enjoy all the more knowing that the beauty of this bridge will no longer be compromised by its availability as a vehicle for suicide.</p>
mia	budwig	<p>Please consider this for a raised rail. It is the right thing to do. It is a public safety matter. That is the truth.</p>
Carolyn	Burgler	<p>I live almost 100 miles away and am traveling from one point to another not stopping to 'enjoy' the view of the bridge, however, the highlight of the travels is crossing the bridge and the view and as of now I pay \$5.00 for perhaps a 30 sec view of the bridge and area, so I say no to blocking that view in any way, shape, or form. I am so sorry that there are people that choose to commit suicide from that bridge, but if not there then most likely somewhere else. I would be willing to bet that there are more lives lost in head-ons on that bridge and I would like to see the money spent to put in a center divider to protect the innocent...and leave the view alone.</p>

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Clinton	Bunker	As a society, we constantly have to balance public safety with other public values. We allow people to drive 60mph on a highway instead of 30mph because it is more practical despite the additional loss of life. People are allowed to sky dive for the beauty and joy of the experience, despite the hazards. Suicide is tragic, and as a society we should continue to help those with mental illness in a wide variety of ways with increased funding. However, many consider the unobstructed view off the GGB an unparalleled beauty. As humans, we are not solely driven by what is practical. We also value art and beauty, as they allow us to experience life in a deeper and richer way. Where do we draw the line as a society when it comes to destroying things of beauty for practical reasons? Perhaps we should not maintain our museums and instead use that money to help those afflicted with malaria. Again, I feel badly for the loss of life from suicides off the bridge and for the pain that families experience as a result. But I would feel worse if we destroyed a unique view, a thing of art and beauty that takes your breath away, and I would feel sad that no human would be allowed to enjoy that in quite the same way ever again.
Catherine	Bunnell	We have lost 2 people from our community in the last few years. One was a father, one was only 17. Please do something!
Kevin	burgess	Leave the bridge alone. Someone who has lost all hope and finds suicide a viable alternative will find a way to complete the act.
Phil	Burk	Jumpers could perhaps crawl to edge of horizontal system and jump so I think it would not be as effective as a vertical system. Also I worry that a horizontal net would catch birds.
Phil	Burk	I tried to view the alternatives online but the PDF only showed photos for the no-build option. The other alternatives were just blank white with some text like "Belvedere". I am on Mac OS 10.4.3.
Sarah	Burke	Who cares what the bridge looks like? That bridge killed my friend. I want every action taken to stop others from going through the pain that I have gone through because of Casey Brooks's death.
Carolyn	Burnett	I support a barrier of any kind. I know two families whose children have jumped, my husband once attempted suicide from the bridge and I know a young man who has spoken about wanting to jump - ALL of these individuals had/have received a lot of professional counseling. Only a physical barrier can take away the opportunity to act on impulse. We must follow the lead of other communities and do this simple humane act and erect a barrier.
Alan	Burns	This is an ugly and expensive proposition whose purported and unproven benefits detract from the aesthetics and general enjoyment of the bridge. It is unclear that the vast majority of people intent on suicide would not seek an alternative. Thus the cost for every life actually temporarily "saved" would be astronomical.

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Alan	Burns	Barrier proponents merely comprise a small group of noisy and relentless activists who are a tiny minority of the populace. Don't build anything and continue the present course.
HENRY	BURTON	PLEASE LEAVE A BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE ALONE.IF PEOPLE WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE THEY WILL..AND THEY MAY TAKE SOME INNOCENT PEOPLE WITH THEM.BY CAR-OR BY THE POLICE ETC.THIS WAY NO ONE BUT THEM GETS HURT.PUT THE FUNDS TOWARD DOLE DRIVE FIX. KEEPING THE WORLDS MOST B
		<p>Sadly, ever since it was built, the Golden Gate Bridge has been a magnet for despairing people who have been driven to take their own lives. My own brother committed suicide four years ago, casting a sad shadow over me, my family, and our friends. The pain will be with us forever. I feel like I would do anything to get him back.</p> <p>Concurrently, I also have powerful feelings about the ongoing, everyday mental health and quality of life for those of us who are alive. The Golden Gate Bridge is a major contributor to that quality of life. The bridge has been an uplifting inspiration for the millions of people who have visited from afar, who have seen its stunning photos, or who experience it every day.</p> <p>There are very few human-made structures in the world that uplift us as much as this amazing span—one of the architectural wonders of the world. Beauty, humanity, and trust are all exquisitely expressed in its timeless and humane design. To fortify it with fencing and barriers only sends the message that we are living in a scary, mistrustful society, where individuals must be regulated, contained, and restrained.</p> <p>The bridge is a mighty symbol of freedom, splendor and the magnificence of human creativity. Please don't erode our communal sense of hope by fortifying it and adding it to an increasingly "built" environment. We need more symbols of liberty, joy, and optimism bolstering our spirits and encouraging us to love life.</p>
Shirl	Buss	Thank you, Shirl Buss
Danielle	Butler	I do not think the net is a good idea because it will change the appearance of the bridge more than it needs to be changed. Making the existing railing taller or replacing it all together are both great options.
Mary	Butler	Having the winglet at the top is important, I think.
Mary	Butler	A barrier will save lives. I have seen someone attempt to jump from a bridge and it was horrifying.
Sandy	Butler	I don't believe it is appropriate to build a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. The bridge is a classic historic structure that should not be altered. \$50,000,000 can be applied in 50,000,000 better ways. You can't stop people who want to kill themselves from committing suicide.

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EM	Byrne	The "transparent" panels will make the wind speed and direction more unpredictable, endangering the lives and health of bicyclists.
EM	Byrne	All of the Alternatives that include large "transparent" panels will make the wind speed and direction more unpredictable, endangering the lives of bicyclists.
EM	Byrne	The "transparent" panels will be a danger to birds. Money wasted on adding ineffective barriers to the bridge could be better spent on preserving biological resources in California.
EM	Byrne	The nets could entangle birds. Alternatives with "transparent" panels are dangerous to birds that will fly into them at high speeds.
EM	Byrne	All of the Alternatives will highlight the fact that mental-health care in America is execrable. Tourists from all over the world will wonder why so much money was spent to desecrate a national monument instead of paying for mental-health care for ill Am
EM	Byrne	The "transparent" panels will not be transparent at all, due to dirt, fog, and wear.
EM	Byrne	All Alternatives will waste money to desecrate an historic landmark, at the expense of other cultural resources that could make better use of the money.
EM	Byrne	All of the alternatives are a disgraceful waste of money that would be better spent on mental-health care for patients. Where is the part of the report that compares the lives that would be saved by using the money to fund mental-health care for suicidal or depressed patients instead of wasting it on the bridge? None of the Alternatives would make the bridge suicide proof. How many fatal bicycle accidents will be caused by the effect of "transparent" panels on winds rushing and swirling across the bridge? Biological Impacts of the "transparent" panels and nets on flying birds were not resolved.

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Juan	Byron	With all due respect, this local taxpayer believes the view from the bridge is more important than the view of the bridge. 1A & 2A will provide fine viewing & aesthetics from the sidewalks and views of the bridge will be less traumatic than the deaths the current attractive nuisance design provides. Since most vehicles have a single occupant, views from vehicles should not be a concern - keep your eyes on the roadway when driving. Visual/aesthetic impact is secondary to function. We can line the railing with replicas of Michaelangelo's David statue, but what good would it do? Tourism to San Francisco is only going to be enhanced by whatever build alternative is selected, since people will feel they need to see it themselves.
Juan	Byron	1A & 2A are the most pleasing to my eye, and seem like they would also be effective. Anyone who selects 1B or 2B because of some perceived visual or aesthetic impact is not considering the visual or aesthetic impact of young people climbing the horizontal members, which will block views from cars & result in congestion from Emergency Medical Responses to the sidewalk upon which some will fall after having climbed up 12' on the "ladder" which 1B & 2B represent.
Juan	Byron	Build alternatives won't impact my cultural enjoyment. News flash: the bridge gets people from Marin to SF & vice versa, & provides views. These "cultural" values won't adversely change with a build alternative.
Juan	Byron	I'm OK with the temporary loss of one public parking lot & some construction work; the build alternatives won't adversely impact my land use or recreation.
Juan	Byron	I believe build alternatives will have a positive effect on the biological species of homo sapiens.
Juan	Byron	Very thorough.

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Juan	Byron	Divide the cost of the build alternatives by the 1300-2000 suicides, and it looks very cost effective. It's clearly necessary to reduce loss of life. In my work as a paramedic, I see many people who attempt suicide as a cry for help, and later are fully functioning members of society if their attempt isn't lethal. Most everyone who would consider jumping also knows that some jumpers survive. I think some jumpers want to live, and are not able to rationally consider their poor chances for survival as they go over the existing low railing. As the economy tanks, government spending such as building a barrier becomes a more important source of domestic jobs. Raise the toll to pay for it, I'll pay. Concerns about their loved one who did or didn't jump, or who has or doesn't have a job, supersede most resident's concerns about aesthetics of the bridge. Bridge aesthetics & environmental impact are no comparison to the value of human lives.
Heather	C	If someone wants to kill themselves it's not up to the tax payers to stop it too much money on a problem that isn't our concern. Let them jump ... less costly then the build costs.
Kat	C	it is useless to build those railing or unnecessary nets, people will climb over still, it is also waste of money of USD\$40 million, the best way is through advertise on the television and convince those people out of their bad situation. They must be suffering certain pressure before committing suicide, or felt real bad of living, build those fence is absolutely no use at all. The only way to prevent is to make people live with a healthy society, and know why should they survive. please make advertising on TV tell the youth why they should live for the rest of life. They are our future and society future. they should have ideas of the 100 reasons why should they live.
Kat	C	Same as # 3 answers
S	C	Use the money for MH services to address suicide prevention and depression. More people kill themselves by other means or other jumps (buildings,pills, guns,etc.). spending millions to save a few is not smart when the same millions could be used to save MANY. I worked in MH field for 20 years and believe a physical barrier is not the answer. prevention is. Start in the schools & public awareness campaigns.
S	C	All your alternatives will be ugly and change the experience of the bridge as it was meant to be for millions of people from all over the world who visit it.

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S	C	I strongly oppose any physical barriers and believe the money could be much better spent elsewhere and save many more and improve the quality of life of many more people.
Carol	Caceres	We need to get this done asap!
Maria	Caffey	<p>People who want to commit suicide will find a way.</p> <p>The net option would be a substantial "attractive nuisance".</p>
Carolyn	Cahill	This is a terrible waste of resources. I do not want people committing suicide on the golden gate bridge, but what on earth makes people think that putting up a barrier will prevent these people from committing suicide. Instead of jumping off the GGB, they will jump off of the Bay Bridge. These people need resources to help them, like suicide hot lines and psychologists, NOT physical barriers. If this money should be spent in any way, it should be to provide more psychological services for people who are suicidal. This would be an incredibly disappointing way for the Bay Area, a very progressive place, to address suicide.
Meredith	Cahn	i don't really care which version is selected, all i care about is that you put up something as soon as possible. suicide is preventable, as shown in numerous studies. for many people, it is an act of impulse. make it harder for them to complete their impulse.
Meredith	Cahn	It is horrifying to me that so many of my fellow citizens care more about esthetics than saving lives. I love the bridge as a symbol of the bay area, but i hate that it has taken so long to erect a suicide barrier. Do not waste any more time, start educating the public about the real costs of not having one.
Patricia	Callahan	Leave the GG Bridge alone!!! Add more mental health workers and cops on the bridge. Sorry, not everyone wants to live forever. Not everyone can be saved from themselves.

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Patrick	Callahan	<p>Whether a suicide barrier is needed and desirable should not be the subject of serious debate. Clearly, an effective barrier will save lives and the savings to society in general, in terms of both financial and emotional costs are immeasurable. Alternative 2B offers the least obstruction of the views of and from the bridge. One's line of sight is but minimally interfered with using horizontal cables from deck to top and allows viewing from any height -from child's eye-view to the tallest person's eye-view.</p> <p>If a barrier is installed it will become a part of the "landscape" in almost no time and will cease to be considered a visual obstruction, while saving the lives of countless persons - because it is not only the jumper who's life is lost in a jump from the bridge - ask any friend or family member who has lost someone to suicide.</p>
James	Callanan	<p>I think that 1A is as beautiful as it stands right now but it will be socially responsible which makes it more beautiful.</p>
Colleen	Camp	<p>I like keeping the current handrail as it keeps the historic design. I feel it is imperative to have a barrier. I have nearly jumped off the bridge myself years ago (more than once) but luckily didn't. I think a barrier will definitely decrease suicides as shown by the numerous studies from other venues where barriers etc., have been installed. If the compelling object is removed, then the suicidal impulse may go away.</p>
arlene	campbell	<p>hiya ,a jump the bridge and live campaign should be an alternative bungie jump the bridge and live, a professional company can be hired for people who want to jump and they will live to tell there adventure people would pay u ultra megabucks to jump and of course they will live through the journey, i am serious about this my kids dad has been on hi-rises all his life and my dad is a partrooper he did 98 paratrooper jumps and was shot down, when a person is up hi on golden gate bridge it is the equivalent of a huge skyscraper so of course when u look down vertigo sets in ,the pull of gravity overpowers u, so u get this feeling of jumping ,flying soaring because of the gravitational pull u could also have those people who glide people could have hangglider tours off the bridge,bungie jumping is a good answer to solve the suicide problem and barrier problem.(instead of sadness they will have a thrill of a lifetime!)</p> <p>Also include an cement expration date ,the government would give the bridge people lots of money to replace the cement on the bridge while it is standing,do preventative maintenence work, because it has an expiration date i think cement starts disintegrating into powder after a hundred years, there are rumors that archetects use cement that disentrigrates in twenty to thirty years so some of the hi-rises will be turning to powder after a certain amount of years. rolypoly77@yahoo.com,my name is arlene campbell of village voice tv, channel 29 access tv, wild garden film/video,please stop the barrier the bridge is just fine and u are doing a good job keeping it going,please look into providing bungee jumping the bridge and live project and jump on the expiration date on cement project so u can start replacing some of the cement in preventative maintenance projects and make sure u get good quality cement so it doesnt disentrigrate and turn into powder the bridge more than likely doesnt even need cement preventative maintainence.thank u ,arlene campbell,1388 haight st#8,sf,ca 94117</p>

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Candi	Campbell	I stand by my vote for NO suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge -- Spend \$50,000,000 on people who want to LIVE rather than spending it on those who WANT to die !!! This is an absolute "no brainer".
Duncan	Campbell	All of the designs detract from the beauty of the bridge. It is akin to placing railings along pathways/trails in the Sierra.
Duncan	Campbell	The netting, while least objective to me, would appear to be the most costly in terms of upkeep over time. The windows on the other designs are begging to be scratched, etched, and shattered, not to mention getting completely filthy.
Duncan	Campbell	If any of these designs are enacted, what national landmark can ever be safe from the argument 'for the good of the extremely few it must be changed'?
Duncan	Campbell	These barriers will only be on the side of the bridge people jump from, right? After all, only one side of the bridge is dangerous, proportionally speaking.
Duncan	Campbell	I am unaware of the number of bird kills due to the existing bridge design. I can't imagine adding more structure(s) to it would decrease the bird kill.
Linda	Campbell	If you took all the money that's being spent on this and applied it to psychological intervention, you'd do a whole lot more. Add "hotlines" to the bridge, connected to a staff of persons trained in suicide prevention. Try to help the people to not WANT to commit suicide instead of just sending them someplace else to do it. Help the poor souls who are desolate instead of the public image of the bridge.
O.	Campbell	We have many greater needs to spend taxpayer dollars to benefit the general public as a whole.
Ellie	Campisano	I think that option 3 in addition to the other 2 would be the best combination. Or possibly a good alternative as well, though I think the other two options will be the most effective suicide deterrents.
Ellie	Campisano	I think this is an incredibly important issue and I really hope some sort of barrier/rescue system is put in place.
Anne	Campodonico	Please don't ruin the beauty of the bridge for the millions of people who use the bridge everyday and do not jump!! We can't protect everyone from their selves and you are doing your best to prevent the tragedies without sacrificing something so sacred as this landmark is. There are over 600 suicides in the bay area yearly. What about the other 580 or so. I agree with Mac Coffey that many more are saved from suicide because they are stopped by surveillance and talked into getting help. Surely with the barrier we will miss catching more than the 20 or so per year we lose by not having a barrier.

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Janine	Cane	Do you intend to build a barrier on each place people start to choose to commit suicide? Build a barrier here, and they will go elsewhere. We can't live in a society of barriers. At some point people need to take responsibility for their own lives. We cannot live in a safety cage.
Janine	Cane	Continue to focus on building a society that provides mental health to people in need--the rest you cannot control. We cannot put a rail, bars, caging on every bridge, cliff, building...it will never end.
Robert	Canning	I prefer to retain the original rail and add barrier structures to it.
Marcia	Cannon	I'm all for it, especially after reading the front page article in today's (Sunday)IJ. Everything in teens' lives is a big drama and they are too young to realize that things will get better. If it can save young lives, it's money well spent! And I don't believe that it will take away from the aesthetics of or the viewing from the bridge. Thank you.
Christian	Canterbury	Comment- DON"T JUMP!!!! If you want to jump, DONT!!! If you want to prevent suicide, GET HELP AND DON'T JUMP!!!! Stop blaming the bridge for the problems of individuals! Don't marr a beautiful landmark that provides more beauty in people lives than death!
Christian	Canterbury	Comment- DON"T JUMP!!!! If you want to jump, DONT!!! If you want to prevent suicide, GET HELP AND DON'T JUMP!!!! Stop blaming the bridge for the problems of individuals! Don't marr a beautiful landmark that provides more beauty in people lives than death!
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lore	capper	i trust the design team to come up with a choice that provides the best solution
Dionne	Carlson	<p>Here's an alternative I don't see in the Draft EIR:</p> <p>Hire two full time suicide prevention councillors/law enforcement officers to patrol the bridge full time. You could do this for the foreseeable life of the bridge and still not spend the \$45 million plus you plan to spend on installing these unsightly barriers. Would this not be a more cost effective alternative?</p> <p>Also, where is the data/analysis of what other methods these potential suicides will use when the bridge is not available to them? Will this really prevent suicides in the city, or just move them to another location?</p> <p>Why should we, the law abiding public, who love and visit the bridge regularly without abusing the privelege always have to pay for the few idiots who are determined on doing something illegal and stupid? Perhaps everyone who enters the bridge on foot could just sign a form making them liable for any damage they do and absolving the city from any liability?</p>

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Dionne	Carlson	All the physical barrier alternatives are unsightly and will mar the bridge aesthetically. This will negatively impact their enjoyment of the Golden Gate bridge for many millions of people, both locals and visitors to the bay area. Weighing that impact against the only "possible" prevention of a few determined suicides, the cost-benefit analysis doesn't seem to make sense to me.
Caitlin	Carlton	The impact on resources is worth stopping people from committing suicide.
Caitlin	Carlton	PLEASE, PLEASE do what is right and help stop children and parents and all the other victims of depression from taking their lives by means of this important cultural landmark. How could we allow the integrity of the Golden Gate Bridge to be tainted by suicide?
Richard	Carlton	For pedestrians, the horizontal system would offer very little visual impact or reduction in viewing opportunity--especially with the unobstructed viewing from the belvedere areas.
Richard	Carlton	In my opinion, the no-build option is NOT an option. This is a public safety issue and the District would be negligent if a barrier is not built. What is a life worth?
Lima	Carmen	Who cares about visual/aesthetics when we are trying to save lives. THAT should be the only concern
Jorge	Carmona	<p>In seeing the ugly desings and the lack of engenuity presented by the designers of the proposed barrier for the bridge, encouraged me to tell you my idea to prevent people from jumping.</p> <p>What you need to do is to lower the walkway and replace it with one of lighter material(see-through?). At the same time replace the existing old heavy barrier with a taller, lighter and nicer looking one.</p> <p>By adding the lows and highs you can make up the 12-foot needed according to the projects shown in today's news.</p> <p>I am a bus operator for GGT and have some engineering education.</p> <p>P.S. Plase inform GGB Thanks.</p>

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Van	Carney	Fewer than 1250 people have committed suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge in the 71 years it has been open to the public. The very idea that the scenic view should forever be taken away and the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year should instead be
		HAVING READ YOUR ARTICLE IN THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL ON 07-22-2008, I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST AS I USED TO LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO MANY YEARS AGO. AN INEXPENSIVE, BUT WORKABLE SOLUTION, IS TO ERECT AN ELECTRIFIED BARRIER WHICH WOULD "ZAP" PEOPLE AND KEEP THEM AWAY FROM CLIMBING TO THEIR POINT OF JUMP. FARMERS USE THIS METHOD TO KEEP THEIR CATTLE IN ENCLOSED PASTURES. YOU HAVE TO CONSULT AN ELECTRICIAN AND USE THE PROPER VOLTS AND OHMS TO PREVENT DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU WOULD USE 220 VOLTS AND NOT 110 VOLTS AS THE 110 WOULD NOT KNOCK YOU AWAY AS THE 220 WOULD, THEREBY ELECTROCUTING YOU.
DARRYL	CARR	
Pamela	Carr	I don't beleive it is the district's duty to dissuade jumper's. The view should ABSOLUTELY NOT be obstructed. If the district is to install any barrier it should be on top of the bridge between lanes to stop head-on accidents.
Pamela	Carr	If the district is ABSOLUTELY committed to constructing something to prevent suicide, the only thing I would condon is the net system.
		I had a cousin that committed suicide by jumping from the bridge. I believe this was before call boxes were placed upon the span. I support the horizontal net system as an alternative to a suicide barrier. I do not believe the barrier would deter most people from their goal, and I think the money would be better spent on safety issues around Doyle 'Dead Man's' Drive, and across the span for those of us that commute and want to cross into S.F. and Marin safely. I believe the proposed barrier is misguided, unattractive and financially infeasible.
Raquel	Carrillo	
diane	carroll	The GG Bridge is a historical icon. The beauty and design should not be altered or changed in anyway to accommodate a tiny minority. As sad as suicide is, surely we can come up with a better solution than altering the bridge.
diane	carroll	Have you considered closing off the bridge to all pedestrians? To all bicyclists? Why are you spending \$2M on a study that has no funding for change to begin with? The majority of the people in the Bay Area do not want the bridge altered. Are we still not a country ruled by the majority?

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Juanita	Carroll	It's about time!!!
Petra	Carroll	Total waste of \$40mm of SF tax payers!
John	Caruso	I'd strongly prefer that there be NO SUICIDE BARRIER on the Golden Gate Bridge. In lieu of that, a net would at least ruin the look of the bridge the least, though it would no longer be as enjoyable as it is now to look downward from the bridge to the water below.
Alan	Cascio	I firmly believe it is important to erect some type of system, but the net system is the least impact visually and should add sufficient protection
Howard	Case	One of the great thrills in the world is walking on one of the greatest architectural achievements and taking in the unobstructed view of one of the greatest vistas in the world. Nothing should be done to obstruct that view or mar that architectural achievement.
Karen	Casey	I think it is a terrible use of taxpayer money (from any pocket)to spend up to 50 million dollars in an effort to deter a relatively few people from suicide; rather, erect a permanent median to prevent head-on collisions of those who are hoping to live.
Richar	Casey	<p>My mother committed suicide when I was 16. I have experience in this subject. In the ensuing 55 years I have read about all I can on the subject.</p> <p>My conclusion. The majority of the suicides that are successful, warned families and loved ones several times before it was done...it is a cry for help. If they want to succeed in suicide they will. Again, there will be several warnings.....If you put a net up under the bridge, it will be the NEW warning place for people that need attention. Please think about that....If they know they can do the almost ultimate jump and not die, they will do that.....with a net, you can almost gaurantee an amazing increase in jumpers.....respectfully submitted.....Richard J. Casey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Novato, CA 415 898 2220</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--</p>

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
Monica	Cassani	<p>I think most people can find other ways to die...there are not shortage of appropriate buildings in the area to jump from...</p> <p>The bridge is a beautiful historical piece of archetecture and art.</p> <p>I love it.</p> <p>By the way, I'm from SF and the Bay Area...I do not live there anymore...I don't know if my opinion carries weight or not...</p>
Christina	Castaneda	<p>The "No Build" 'Alternative' should be STRICKEN. This is NOT an alternative. We have a responsibility to make our buildings, structures, bridges, and roadways safe. Do we allow people to walk on highways? NO! Because it's not safe. This makes perfect sense. Furthermore, the current rail does not meet current building codes. This makes the bridge district liable for legal action from any family that has suffered a loss.</p> <p>Alternative 3 is interesting, but there are various concerns that make me think it is an inferior option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is not inclusion of an alarm or alert if someone were to jump into the net. -There is no consideration listed about how difficult it would be for a person to jump into the net and then climb to the edge and jump. <p>These considerations make me wonder how effective the net could really be.</p>

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Christina	Castaneda	Every two weeks that go by without this rail being constructed is another person's blood that is on the hands of the board of directors of the bridge district. I'm not sure how they can live with themselves, but I urge them to think long and hard about the lives they have failed to save, and the public they have failed to serve by continued delays. I urge them to think of the families of these people, and the lives that have been ruined because of their inaction. I hope that these considerations lend some semblance of urgency to the days leading towards a barrier being constructed.
Christna	Castaneda	The net option is probably the most visably/asthetically pleasing. On the other hand it probably provides the most upkeep issues. The horizontal bars are like big ladder and I don't think would be of much help in deterring or preventing people jumping off the bridge.
Christna	Castaneda	Some kind of barrier is NECESSARY to protect those who are in need of help. Although there are other ways of committing suicide, I do not see that as the primary issue. The primary issue is to save lives and by doing so ending the dark history of suicide on the bridge. Such an iconic bridge deserves a golden history or romance and visual splendor. It is our responsibility to not only act with social responsibility in preventing suicides, but we must act affirmatively to prevent tarnishing such a California Icon.
Jose	Castano	No mater the cost if it saves just one life, it the has paid for it self many times over.
Greg	Castillo	This iconic Art Deco bridge known to millions should not have its original beauty compromised because people choose to jump off it. Stop suicides on the GGB and the same desperate people will just find another means-- providing suicide is their intent. A visual barrier, fence or net, will only spark debate and a new "claim to fame" that the GGB attracts these folks.
Mark	Catrambone	It is absolutely vital that one of the preventative alternatives be adopted. Doing nothing is not an alternative. Make the changes, save lives.

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Jim	Cauble	<p>Any attempt to create a barrier will only make the potential suicide more determined either to beat the system (with a knife or ladder) or to go somewhere else, like a freeway overpass or on the BART tracks.</p> <p>Instead of being so focused on just the bridge, suicide prevention is a community-wide issue and should be addressed as such.</p> <p>Netting would look horrible to a national landmark. Barriers of steel and/or concrete could be too heavy and affect the strength or flexibility of the bridge.</p>
Jim	Cauble	<p>\$50 million can go a long way toward suicide prevention, but we must not just try to eliminate just one venue. Discouraged by not using the bridge (if the barrier works), people will just be jumping in front of BART trains.</p> <p>Netting can be cut, walls can be climbed. If someone is determined to kill themselves, they will find a way, and no expensive deterrent will be effective.</p> <p>I propose using the funds for suicide prevention, area-wide, not just for the bridge.</p>
Nuala	Caulfield	<p>While I feel deeply sorry for people who are suicidal, defacing such a beautiful structure is not justified. If people cannot commit suicide by jumping from the bridge they will find another way, or, better still, have second thoughts and decide that life, with all its troubles, is still worth living.</p>
Nuala	Caulfield	<p>The only point that justifies defacing the bridge with a barrier is that people (Coast Guard?) wouldn't have to undergoe the traumatic experience of fishing out bodies from the bay or ocean. Nuala Caulfield</p>
Hank	Cecil	<p>A barrier of some kind will be more effective as a deterrent</p>
Claudia	Center	<p>Vertical barrier matches the existing design of bridge.</p>

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Sally	Cerreta, LMFT	As the Clinical Director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention I believe as a community we must protect individuals that are lost in hopelessness from the GGB's easy access. I have facilitated support groups for friends and family of someone that has suicided for fifteen years. Often when someone jumps from the bridge the family reports their loved one showed no warning signs. This validates for me that the bridge is an impulsive means for suicide. Take a good look at the studies!
Craig	Cervenka	Please add protection to the bridge to stop this national icon from its spotlight of suicides. It will not in any way change its overall appearance.
Gloria	Cevallos	Alternative 1A would visually be more interesting, adding on to what has been there historically. Also, they vertical bars do not have to be as close together as alternative 2A. Horizontal rails will only invite someone to climb. A Net alternative looks like a future maintenance nightmare.
Gloria	Cevallos	Since the loss of my only child on the bridge December 28, 2006, in honor of my son, I am devoting my life to preventing suicide and consoling the families and friends of suicide victims. Yet, in just one vote, each of you directors, has the opportunity to save at least 30-40 physical lives a year and the many emotional lives of those devastated by the loss. The evidence is clear and well documented that putting up a barrier will save lives. You have a civic, ethical, moral, and social obligation to open your mind to the evidence and vote to put up a barrier. For every 10 days you wait, another life is lost and another family is devastated. How can you afford to wait any longer?
Mauricio	Cevallos	Minimal visual/aesthetic impact, elegant,easy to accept.

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Mauricio	Cevallos	Impulse and ease are a deadly combination and the GGB Transportation Authority has an opportunity to help reduce the devastation to families and community by reducing the ease and allure of the current Bridge Rail structure.
Mark	Chaffee	I urge you to follow through and put an end to this bridge's horrific legacy as the number one suicide magnet. The people in the Bay area deserve better, and the bridge deserves better.
John	Champlin	It looks terrible, and destroys the enjoyment of the bridge for the majority of us, who see it as one more great reason to go on living.
John	Champlin	Tear the damn bridge down and go back to ferries if you want to deface it this way.
John	Champlin	It sucks.
Ronald	Chan	A physical barrier would scar the aesthetic beauty of the bridge and ruin views for pedestrians and car passengers. Would make suicide attempts harder but not impossible and would only shift people bent on committing suicide to another location or method. Thus benefit of a barrier would be minimal and does not justify expense and ruining views and aesthetics.
Ronald	Chan	DON'T BUILD A BARRIER!! The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one.
Chris	Chandler	spend \$ on programs to help prevent suicide attempts. I think after spending millions-you will find people will look for another place to commit suicide.
Rob	Chandra	Please, please, please. I just ask that you do something that makes it harder for people to jump off the bridge. Please do something. Anything.
Carol	Chapman	I believe there are ways to make an impact on depression and suicidal urges without defacing a national treasure.
Carol	Chapman	Leave this national treasure of a cultural icon as it is. Strengthen suicide prevention through other venues. That's my strongly held opinion and I'm stating it as often as possible.
Lya	Chapman	I don't think it's fair for tax payers to pay to keep people from intentionally hurting themselves.
Sam	Chapman	Just pick the best alternative. The important thing is to act to save lives.

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Susan	Chapman	We will get used to it. Other suicide landmarks have implemented barriers. How can we not implement one of these. The net sounds sort of scary to imagine people hanging there in the net. But any approach that saves lives is ok with me.
Susan	Chapman	There is no mental health system in SF that adequately prevents the impulsive suicide jumper. At present our mental health system is underfunded and many mentally ill lack access, insurance, and a source of care. Public health prevention generally never show cost effectiveness and is expensive in the number of lives saved. But that is true for all preventive services. How can we not do something to save even a relatively small number of lives when we know it will save their lives and there is no alternative that will ever be equally effective?
Jake	Chapnick	Specifically regarding the steel net idea, I had the idea of a net that was soft, more like a trapeze artist uses for safety. This metal thingomabob is going to cheese grate people when they hit it. I mean, it won't literally grate their body into pieces, but it is liable to break their arms, legs, backs, and necks. Then they could sue the city.
Jake	Chapnick	Also, if you put up a metal net, there will be plenty of jackasses who try to jump onto it or perform stunts for kicks. Please, this is really a dangerous idea, it is not a good solution for deterring suicide. It only escalates the publics' derangement from this ongoing battle.
Dale	Chappell	With no build it will be as is.
Dale	Chappell	Too damn expensive.
Otis	Charles	2B seems most harmonious with the natural beauty of the bay and surrounding hills. In fact it seems to be an improvement over the present handrail which block views.
Otis	Charles	Elimination of the possibility of suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge has been too long in resolution. We enhance the Golden Gate Bridge as a symbol of hope by rendering impotent its fatal attraction for those drawn to suicide.
Robert	Chase	The bridge is a cultural icon recognized around the world. Nothing should be done to the bridge.
Kelly	Chatwood	This is an important step to deterring individuals who are at risk for suicide. A commendable effort has been made here to keep the integrity of the existing structure and aesthetics. Job well done, I look forward to seeing the completed system.

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lisa	chavez	<p>In the short 28 years I have been on this earth, two people very close to me have jumped the bridge.</p> <p>The first was a close family friend, she was like an aunt to me. She survived the jumped only to be fished out to live on life support for an undoubtedly excruciating 48 hours.</p> <p>I only learned that her suicide attempt didn't kill her on impact when discussing the more recent suicide of my friend with my sister.</p> <p>I shudder to think of what happened after he jumped, knowing that he did so at the height of white shark feeding in that region of the bay.</p> <p>He jumped at night, a time when you have to be allowed in and are on video doing so- what is the purpose of this type of entrance? Who is making sure patrons of the bridge exit?</p> <p>The bridge ceased being a place of peace and beauty for myself (and others)long ago. It is not a place desire to visit nor do I take visitors to the bay area there.</p> <p>No one can change the past, but I would be very happy to know that in the future the bridge could garner only positive attributes and leave the negative ones in our memories.</p>
Robert	Chee	<p>A suicide barrier would ruin the design aesthetics of the bridge and would be a waste of money. I strongly believe nothing should be done. It has already been a waste of money to commission the study in the first place.</p>
Robert	Cherny	<p>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for modifying a National Historic Landmark structure would seem to point to Alternative 1A as the first preference, in that it makes the smallest change in the historic structure. Alternative 2A makes the next smallest change, in that it maintains the historic verticality of the barrier.</p>

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Robert	Cherny	<p>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for modifying a historic structure clearly permit modifications for the purpose of public safety. Thus, any of the alternatives that actually prevent suicides would seem to be acceptable, though some are more preferable.</p> <p>Given the information presented, Alternative 3 is not obviously likely to be as effective as any of the other alternatives. Could not a person jump first into the net, and then climb over the side?</p> <p>Finally, regardless of which alternative is chosen, it is important to build a barrier. The significant preponderance of scholarly studies of suicide indicate that some proportion of suicides are acting on a sudden impulse, and that removing the opportunity to act on the impulse may well prevent that person from committing suicide ever.</p> <p>A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency established the current value of a human life at \$6.9 million (SF Chronicle, July 11). At that price on human life, it requires only a little arithmetic to determine that building a barrier would become cost-effective after deterring only a relatively small number of people from committing suicide.</p>
Sarah	Cherny	The vertical options are the closest to the current railing and therefore represent the least visual change. Further, the horizontal options strike me as potentially being able to be used as a ladder; and the net option, as noted in the Chronicle, would take hours to rescue people from, during which time (a) a big gathering would surely accumulate on the walkway above and (b) the person can climb out an jump. Plus, the net is ugly.
Ed	Cherny	Only build the net system if it is not visible from the sidewalk on the bridge.
Ed	Cherny	I'm sorry people choose to kill themselves, but that doesn't mean we should ruin a world-renowned historical icon. Even if we do ruin the bridge, those folks will find some place else to kill themselves.
Jane	Chesson	What ever barrier is deemed most effective to preventing easy suicides and is most cost effective and quick to implement should be chosen.
Jane	Chesson	We need to stop deaths now.

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Jane	Chesson	The GGB, one of the most recognized icons in the US, is suicide magnet, both for the truly mentally ill and for those who are temporarily saddened or angered. Without any type of barriers, it allows both pre-meditated and impulsive suicides to be easily consummated. While increased local mental health services may reduce suicides by persons suffering from mood disorders, impulsive suicides will not be prevented. Neurological studies have shown that the human brain is not fully developed until age 20+, therefore young people do not possess the frontal lobe / executive type thinking that mature adults have. Older teenagers are particularly affected by severe negative emotionality and they can become despondent over issues that rational, mature adults know will pass. The number of GGB suicides of seemingly healthy (not mentally ill) young people attest to the above, therefore we citizens of Marin County must act immediately to protect our children from these preventable, tragic deaths.
Patricia	Chesterman	Please do something to help these confused people. It is our civic duty--mine and yours. The vertical bars look jail-cell like so horizontal would be preferred for aesthetics.
Patricia	Chesterman	I lost my childhood friend to a suicidal jump from the GGB on New Year's Day. We were born on the same day and grew up in San Francisco out by the zoo. Her dad and my dad were both SFFD and her dad had been SFPD also. My vote is in memory of her. Thank you for reading this.
Thomas & Shirley	Chesterman	All of the alternatives detract from the appearance of the bridge
Thomas & Shirley	Chesterman	Do not build: All of the building designs are ugly.
Thomas & Shirley	Chesterman	If people wish to commit suicide, the answer is not to make it physically difficult, but to provide resources in society to make life livable. And if they still want to do it, let them. Freedom involves the possibility of denial of enjoying freedom.
Thomas & Shirley	Chesterman	Add us, my wife and I, to those who do not want our money (tolls or taxes or any other alternative) spent on suicide barriers. We consider the studies wasteful enough.
Walt	Chestney	I was surprised at how nice they looked. Very classy. I can live with this.
Lynn	Chiapella	Most of the alternatives destroy the glorious and famous view from the bridge. Please do not select an alternative that ruins the magnificent visual experience.
Deborah	Chiarucci, MD	@B offers a visual aesthetic and makes it very difficult to contemplate jumping. The nets are worrisome-one could land in the net, then crawl to its edge and jump.

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Donna	Childers	I agree completely with the follow quote: "The GG Bridge accounts for a TINY FRACTION of all Bay Area suicides. The money would be better spent on programs that would help to prevent suicides in the general population. â€œ□
George	Childs	I am adamantly opposed to wasting the taxpayers and ratepayers money on a barrier. I believe that a barrier, as conceived, will have little or no effect on deterring the ability for someone bent on suicide to accomplish their goal by one means or another. Many alternate means could injure others as well.
Steve	Childs	I think the bridge tolls and upgrades (above the standard \$4 bay area bridge toll) should be paid out of the state budget since the GGB is a national landmark and a huge boon for state tourism. Marinites should not be footing the bill for the GGB!
Debbie	Chinn	Kindly put this net system in place. It will not deter people from thinking the Bridge looks different or alter in any way its appearance, and we as a society have the opportunity to help others.
Cintha	Chn	There's little difference between the first four options, all of which raise the height of the current railing. Any of them would work. The fifth option is a safety net. Because the net doesn't impact views from the bridge, it's been the choice of many people; however, it's a bad option for several reasons: 1) a net isn't nearly as effective as a barrier (someone can still jump from the net to their death); 2) retrieving someone from a net presents additional hazards for police officers engaged in rescue efforts; and 3) a net could attract people who jump as part of a fraternity initiation rite or other stupid endeavor.
Augustin	Chofre	This my bridge keep it the way it was built.
Augustin	Chofre	Must we always have to protect people from their own folies. If they are going to jump and they cannot use the bridge, they might use a building and hurt an inocent person.
Ruth	Chofre	n/a

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		<p>Please, no additions or corrections to our beautiful Golden Gate Bridge!</p> <p>Both my husband and I are in accord when we strongly urge any and all committee members to focus on matters of far more importance and extreme urgency, such as our education system, our schools, our roads, our transportation, and our people who service and run them...as well as our police and fire departments.</p> <p>Even as children, my husband, Michael, and I have lived in, out, and around our greater San Francisco Bay Area since 1949. Many "sins" have been committed in the operation of this great city and area. Please, although it may be a satisfaction of sorts to a very limited few, it would be a travesty to waste \$38 million taxpayer dollars on something so frivolous at this or any future time.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my/our input.</p>
Ruth	Chofre	
JY	Choi	Alternative 3 will be good for visual aspect.
JY	Choi	it's time for start suicide deterrent program.
Francois	Christen	Some of these alternatives make the bridge look like a prison (1A for example). Please, please, don't ruin the bridge!
Cris	Christensen	SF stupid-visor Tom Ammiano and others who think this idea is going to stop people from taking their own lives should pay for this themselves. I am very opposed to changing a Bay Area icon (at residents' expense).
Jed	Christensen	Spending \$50 million on a suicide barrier when all transit operations are having enormous fiscal challenges is impossible to justify. That along with the visual damage to the bridge by adding on any kind of additional barrier is very distressing. Please keep the original engineering integrity as designed. Thank you. Jed Christensen
Wendy	Christiansen	If people want to commit suicide they will find a way. We shouldn't have to pay millions of dollars for a barrier...you know it will be passed onto the commuter. Leave the bridge as it stands.

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Tristan	Christianson	As with any deterrent, if a person wants to badly enough they will find a way around it. This may serve in stopping or slowing some, but other more "eyes on" methods should be utilized and/or better utilized for the bridge and its security.
Tristan	Christianson	As I understand it this "barrier" is only for the east facing side, so this only solves half the issue and as noted if someone wants to badly enough they will find a way and no amount of money will be worth the expenditure if this proves out that someone can still get past it.
Maria	Christman	I was a lifetime Californian until the USAF took me away and I retired in Texas with my husband. The Golden Gate is an emotional symbol, but "means restriction" is more important. Please, save lives.
Corey	Christopher	Construction of ANY barrier will negatively impair the aesthetics of the Bridge.
Corey	Christopher	The existing handrail should remain as it is a beautiful and historic part of the original structure.
Corey	Christopher	Visitors are currently able to look over the handrail down onto the water, this unique feature of the bridge should be maintained.
Corey	Christopher	none
Corey	Christopher	none
Corey	Christopher	none
Corey	Christopher	none
Corey	Christopher	none
Corey	Christopher	none
Corey	Christopher	none

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Curtis	Christy	<p>The best you can do, I think, is cause people intent on suicide to have to stop and think before going ahead with it ... on the Bridge or somewhere else. A net would be a "rude awakening" that might jolt some people into a different mind-set ... at least for a while.</p> <p>If the Bridge were being used by people to murder OTHERS ... by throwing unwilling people over the handrail, etc., then, yes, we would be duty-bound to make that as close to impossible as we could ... aesthetics be damned. But I don't think you can split the psyche or one's depression from the "soul" of people intent on suicide, and then compare the "urge" occurring in some disrupted part of the mind to another individual trying to harm them. And yet, that is--more or less--the mental health model: You have a "thing" in you that is trying to control you, hurt you, hurt others, etc.</p> <p>Schizophrenia and the manifestation of multi-personality disorders notwithstanding, we are single, indivisible people with minds that are not connected to other minds--no matter how impaired we may become. Suicide really should not be compared to murder; nor can it be prevented in the same ways you might attempt to prevent murder and other violence. The impossible aspect of suicide prevention is that you can't jump backward in time to help people to avoid whatever experiences or internal stimuli that might have caused them--eventually--to become disposed toward killing themselves.</p> <p>The best the society can do in its efforts to reduce the number of successful suicide attempts, is to interrupt the process in a way that forces the person to have to go through the decision process all over again--possibly coming to a different conclusion the second time. For some, it was a hard decision to make in the first place, and they simply might not make it again--especially if they got some counseling after having been thwarted in the attempt once. But let's face it: Others will try again, so matter what society tries to do to prevent an attempt from being successful.</p> <p>The jump from the Bridge is almost always successful, whereas some other methods of suicide have lower success rates. If you put them off bridge-jumping, they may not try another method, or they may try one that is less likely to kill them. A jump from the Bridge eliminates any "cry for help" that might be interpreted from some other method (like taking an overdoes of pills) that may or may not have been a serious attempt. Whether or not the person MAY have wanted help, jumping from the Golden Gate eliminate the possibility for them to get that help ... so that the choice of METHOD was the big determinant of whether anyone figured out the person's need or cry for help. As it is now, once the person is over the handrail, no help is possible IF THEY MIGHT HAVE RESPONDED TO HELP, at all.</p> <p>Of course, forcing depressed and desperate people to choose other options than bridge-jumping won't deter everyone, and some will select a much more messy and horrifying way to end it all ... and one that will actually be worse for the survivors than a jump from the distant Golden Gate Bridge. A shotgun blast through the mouth in the bedroom, for example, may be the only option left for someone whose bridge-jump was thwarted. How many families would rather their loved one chose that option than simply allowing them to join the 1300 people who have jumped off the Bridge in the past?</p> <p>I don't know that it is the role of the society to herd people away from one method of suicide and toward another. I hope that we're doing something to help prevent it among the young and among the traumatized, the sick, the lonely, and those who have suffered unbearable losses. Beyond that, I think a net that gives</p>

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		<p>people one last chance to get help (especially if serious referrals to counseling are involved ... AFTER a mandatory 51-50 to a locked mental health facility), is about all we should seriously contemplate doing to alter the course of life for those who have determined to end it.</p>
Curtis	Christy	<p>If the Bridge were being used by people to murder OTHERS ... by throwing unwilling people over the handrail, etc., then, yes, we would be duty-bound to make that as close to impossible as we could ... aesthetics be damned. But I don't think you can split the psyche or one's depression from the "soul" of people intent on suicide, and then compare the "urge" occurring in some disrupted part of the mind to another individual trying to harm them. And yet, that is--more or less--the mental health model: You have a "thing" in you that is trying to control you, hurt you, hurt others, etc.</p> <p>Schizophrenia and the manifestation of multi-personality disorders notwithstanding, we are single, indivisible people with minds that are not connected to other minds--no matter how impaired we may become. Suicide really should not be compared to murder; nor can it be prevented in the same ways you might attempt to prevent murder and other violence. The impossible aspect of suicide prevention is that you can't jump backward in time to help people to avoid whatever experiences or internal stimuli that might have caused them--eventually--to become disposed toward killing themselves.</p> <p>The best the society can do in its efforts to reduce the number of successful suicide attempts, is to interrupt the process in a way that forces the person to have to go through the decision process all over again--possibly coming to a different conclusion the second time. For some, it was a hard decision to make in the first place, and they simply might not make it again--especially if they got some counseling after having been thwarted in the attempt once. But let's face it: Others will try again, so matter what society tries to do to prevent an attempt from being successful.</p> <p>The jump from the Bridge is almost always successful, whereas some other methods of suicide have lower success rates. If you put them off bridge-jumping, they may not try another method, or they may try one that is less likely to kill them. A jump from the Bridge eliminates any "cry for help" that might be interpreted from some other method (like taking an overdoes of pills) that may or may not have been a serious attempt. Whether or not the person MAY have wanted help, jumping from the Golden Gate eliminate the possibility for them to get that help ... so that the choice of METHOD was the big determinant of whether anyone figured out the person's need or cry for help. As it is now, once the person is over the handrail, no help is possible IF THEY MIGHT HAVE RESPONDED TO HELP, at all.</p>

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Frank	Cioffi	<p>Of course, forcing depressed and desperate people to choose other options than bridge-jumping won't deter everyone, and some will select a much more messy and horrifying way to end it all ... and one that will actually be worse for the survivors than a jump from the distant Golden Gate Bridge. A shotgun blast through the mouth in the bedroom, for example, may be the only option left for someone whose bridge-jump was thwarted. How many families would rather their loved one chose that option than simply allowing them to join the 1300 people who have jumped off the Bridge in the past?</p> <p>I don't know that it is the role of the society to herd people away from one method of suicide and toward another. I hope that we're doing something to help prevent it among the young and among the traumatized, the sick, the lonely, and those who have suffered unbearable losses. Beyond that, I think a net that gives people one last chance to get help (especially if serious referrals to counseling are involved ... AFTER a mandatory 51-50 to a locked mental health facility), is about all we should seriously contemplate doing to alter the course of life for those who have determined to end it.</p> <p>While we feel for the people and families involved, we suspect the 1300 suicides that have occurred on the GGB would likely have still occurred somewhere else, if not there. There must be some expert research on this point.</p> <p>Please stop spending time and money on this sad, yet foolish, issue.</p>

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Skeptical	Citizen	<p>Why are we considering this? I'm just as dismayed by suicide as everyone else but suicide barriers don't seem like the right approach.</p> <p>Almost every object in the world can theoretically be used for suicide (a plastic bag, a closed garage with a running car, etc. there's no reason for me to continue). However, we can't barricade all these things without sacrificing the welfare of the general public.</p> <p>Additionally, there is simply no feasible way to barricade a person from all means of suicide. If they really want to find a way, they will find a way. By closing off one method of suicide, you will likely be redirecting people to another.</p> <p>I propose that available resources should be used to improve education which inspires people to care about themselves and the world they live in, thus preventing them from being suicidal. Don't squander resources on a fence which probably won't prevent suicides but will certainly wreck everyone's view.</p>
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Skeptical	Citizen	<p>Why are we considering this? I'm just as dismayed by suicide as everyone else but suicide barriers don't seem like the right approach.</p> <p>Almost every object in the world can theoretically be used for suicide (a plastic bag, a closed garage with a running car, etc. there's no reason for me to continue). However, we can't barricade all these things without sacrificing the welfare of the general public.</p> <p>Additionally, there is simply no feasible way to barricade a person from all means of suicide. If they really want to find a way, they will find a way. By closing off one method of suicide, you will likely be redirecting people to another.</p> <p>I propose that available resources should be used to improve education which inspires people to care about themselves and the world they live in, thus preventing them from being suicidal. Don't squander resources on a fence which probably won't prevent suicides but will certainly wreck everyone's view.</p>
Sandy	Claire	<p>I completely oppose any physical additions to the Bridge re: suicide barriers/deterrents. The money should be spent to improve safety of automobiles passing each other in opposite directions on the Bridge. Leave the Bridge alone -- improve screening of those with a potential for suicide and provide funding.</p>

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First	Last	Comment
Paul	Clark	The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!
christy	clark	Nothing should be done. This is ridiculous. What about personal responsibility. The govt should not have to protect everyone in this manner.
mary	clark	an architectural icon such as this should not be altered. who knows what sort of impact it will on the structure and to say the least the looks. people come from all around the world to visit this beautiful bridge, that marries so well between the dramatic nature and the amazing architecture. this should remain in tact and a solution should be found that does not alter this.
mary	clark	this amount of money could be used in ways that would decrease the suicide rate but still keep the beauty in tact. it is the job of the committee to do so!! i know someone who has committed suicide off of the golden gate bridge. if it had not been the bridge he would have done it another way...
Paul	Clark	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.
Philip	Clark	Good luck. I can't understand why this wouldn't be done.
Ann	Clifford	We have the resources and now we need to make this a priority. The bridge is too accessible to people at risk. It is our responsibility to fix this suicide platform in our back yard.
James	Clifford	Fix it now in the most effective and financially cost effective manner.
James	Clifford	We must prevent suicides!

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Lance	Clifford	Do not destroy the Golden Gate bridge with ridiculous "safety" devices!!! Enough wasting tax dollars! If someone wants to kill themselves, there is NO STOPPING THEM!!!!
Lance	Clifford	Do not destroy the Golden Gate bridge with ridiculous "safety" devices!!! Enough wasting tax dollars! If someone wants to kill themselves, there is NO STOPPING THEM!!!!
Joseph	Cline	It is beyond belief that a \$40-55MM expenditure could be even considered for this purpose. This is insane. Why would there not be more interest in spending money on behalf of poor people who want to live than for people who want to die? We, the people, would be repaying this debt. Let us vote on whether we want to spend this money, rather than leaving it in the hands of bureaucrats who will not feel the financial impact.
Joseph	Cline	<p>This is beyond bizzare that \$40-55 MM could be even considered for expenditure for this purpose. One person told me it would be worth it if even one person were kept from suicide. With all the other needs we (the public) have, how can we spend this kind of money for a matter over which we have no control.</p> <p>This is insane. Why would there not be more interest in spending money on behalf of people who want to live, rather on those who want to die. How did this get so far without the people who pays the bills being able to express their disgust with this proposal?</p>
Joseph	Cline	<p>This is beyond bizzare that \$40-55 MM could be even considered for expenditure for this purpose. One person told me it would be worth it if even one person were kept from suicide. With all the other needs we (the public) have, how can we spend this kind of money for a matter over which we have no control.</p> <p>This is insane. Why would there not be more interest in spending money on behalf of people who want to live, rather on those who want to die. How did this get so far without the people who pays the bills being able to express their disgust with this proposal?</p>

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William	Cline	People who wish to commit suicide will find a way and spending taxpayer money to just force them to find another way is meaningless. If they want to commit suicide, they should have the right to do so, and it shouldn't be up to the public or the government to take away that option. If they really don't want to commit suicide, there is help available from many sources.
Annie	Clinton	The money would be much better spent if it addressed the root of the problem, that people are unhappy. A suicide barrier won't help people who are depressed.
James	Clinton	All of the handrail alternatives amount to the erecting of an ugly fence that will permanently obstruct a spectacular, world class view, will unnecessarily punish the thousands of bikers, runners and walkers who traverse the bridge regularly for exercise
Jamie	Clinton	The handrail alternatives are not only supremely ugly, they will block one of the most spectacular views in the world. The thousands upon thousands of people who bike, run, or walk across the bridge montly for recreation or site seeing will be deprived of this uniquely exhilarating experience, all for the handful of people who choose to jump from the bridge.
megan	clouse	The barrier is outrageous. It is ridiculous to visually destroy a national landmark which millions enjoy every year for a micro amount of mentally ill people who will just go to other means to end their life. Leave the bridge as it is!!!!!!!
jack	clumeck	It is not the purview or purpose of the Golden Gate Bridge & Highway District to intervene in the business of suicide prevention. Better to try to determine how to deal with ever-increasing operating deficits. How about reinstating the charge for the millions of walkers and bicyclists using the pedestrian walkways each year?
Debbie	Cochrane	more than a "suicide magnet", the bridge is a major tourist attraction. That mustn't be dismissed.
Bob	Cockrell	Alt 3 would have the least visual impact.
Courtney	Coffland	While suicide is a horrible thing, building a deterrent on the bridge is not going to stop people who are determined to commit suicide. Take the \$50 - 60 million and spend it on programs that reach out to people who are considering suicide. 22 people jumpe
Amanda	Coggin	It would be good to study the effects of the barrier on bird life, if at all possible, through other bridge barrier research.
Amanda	Coggin	Very detailed and thorough. Nice job.
Amanda	Coggin	I think comparing visual aesthetics to saving lives is for egomaniacs and like comparing rotten apples to sweet oranges. Plus, a tourist could stick their camera through the slots to, "Get that perfect shot."
Amanda	Coggin	No comment. Visual is not an issue for me.

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Amanda	Coggin	History is everchanging. Mental illness, depression, and suicide are on the rise. It's time to get current on history and raise the rails.
Amanda	Coggin	No comment.
Amanda	Coggin	Recreation and death should not be compared.
Amanda	Coggin	No comment.
Amanda	Coggin	No comment.
Amanda	Coggin	I lost my boyfriend to suicide a year and a half ago. He didn't jump off the bridge, but I do believe that had he not had access to the means as to how he took his life, he may not have done it. As per the bridge rail, surprisingly, I was against it at first (even after my boyfriend's suicide). My first thought was that if they were going to take their lives, they would do it no matter what. Then I met Kevin Hines, spoke out, became a Board member of the NorCal Board of Trustees for The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and I learned a few things. Most importantly, I learned that 95% of those saved from jumping off the GG Bridge are still alive and well today. That set me straight. Now I know there should be a barrier and if nothing else, it is drawing attention to a cause that has been far too ignored for too long, mental illness and suicide prevention. Amanda Coggin San Francisco Board of Trustees of NorCal American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
DONNA	COHEN	Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, & 2B are equally effective. Alternative 3 is not an effective deterrent.
Steve	Cohen	All designs would ruin the aesthetics of the bridge. Do ont do it.
		No comment on draft except to say that I believe that if someone wanted to commit suicide they would "do it" where ever they can. Raising the hand rail or any other type of obstruction, wil just cause the person to go some where else or find other means to end their life. I have had several friend take their final leap in life. One lady was a recovering alcoholic and she went over the bridge with her address book in her hand. Who knows why she jumped but life for her was too bleak. The other person was man who was dying from cancer and he did not want to prolong his life. I believe either of these two people would have ended their lives regardless of "where" they would have ended their lives.
Sandie	Colbert	
		1A retains the wonderful look of the railing. It looks to me like it will deter almost everyone. There is a moral imperative to do something, rather than nothing.
JOHN	COLE	
Nicholas	Cole	na please see below.

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Nicholas	Cole	<p>I visited San Francisco in Sep last year (07) from Melbourne, Australia and thought your city was fantastic!</p> <p>The one thing I was appalled at however was the amount of homeless people.</p> <p>Would you not be better off using the 50 odd million assisting your vast homeless population?</p> <p>Sadly at the end of the day there will always be people who wish to end their lives and they will do so one way or another.</p> <p>So my comment is why spend so much of your tax payers money on the bridge suicide program when there is other situations in your city which are so much more in dire need of support?</p>
Steve	Cole	Let people jump if they want to. They are going to die someday anyway. Suicide is just a choice.
Steve	Cole	Let people jump if they want to. They are going to die someday anyway. Suicide is just a choice.
T	Collier	Please put ANY kind of barrier -- aesthetics are secondary to saving lives!
Jamie	Collins	no build for the aesthetic/historical value of the bridge. Alternative 3 seems the least visually intrusive if a system will be implemented.
Abram	Conant	The bridge would be more aesthetically pleasing if there were something more substantial than small plastic tubes between me and traffic traveling in the opposite direction. The plastic tubes are an eyesore and a disgrace.

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Abram	Conant	How can you possibly justify the money already spent, and the huge amount of money proposed to be spent on a barrier to protect people who intentionally harm themselves when little to nothing has been done to build a barrier to protect people who are being harmed in head-on collisions through no fault of their own? The only barrier that should be under consideration is a safety barrier between traffic lanes. No public money should be spent on a suicide barrier until the bridge has been made safe for people who don't want to be maimed or killed crossing the bridge.
Daniel	Conlan	Any barrier option is a poor allocation of money. The attempt to cage people on the bridge is yet another lavish expenditure for a minority need. San Francisco funds are continually drained by special interest and the trend seems to be accelerating. I believe SF city officials have an obligation to work on improving the quality of life for 850m everyday citizens, not the few.
Daniel	Conlan	Any barrier option is a poor allocation of money. The attempt to cage people on the bridge is yet another lavish expenditure for a minority need. San Francisco funds are continually drained by special interest and the trend seems to be accelerating. I believe SF city officials have an obligation to work on improving the quality of life for 850m everyday citizens, not the few.
ellen	conlan	<p>I listened to a panel discussion on this topic on NPR the other night. As the sibling of a mentally ill man, I know firsthand how the mentally well will sacrifice time, money and their own happiness to support and protect the mentally ill. The conundrum is that the mentally ill often refuse proper medical help and treatment, putting further burdens on the families and communities that try to support them. In other words, the consequences of their mental illness fall on the community as much as on themselves. I do not support designing our buildings and our bridges, our parks and our heritage sites to save the mentally ill from themselves.</p> <p>Designing a world to provide access for the disabled is a worthy endeavor. Designing a world to thwart the self destructive tendencies of the mentally ill just seems crazy. Our family struggles over the issue of productive support vs enabling...always seeking some wisdom to know where to set limits and where to have patience and mercy. I'm glad to hear a public debate on this issue, but I come down on the side that we are going too far when we mar the beauty of our world and our structures, when we limit the joy of the hopeful to preempt the urges of the hopeless. We may want to save these unfortunate souls but we are not required to live in a world without grandeur to do it.</p>
Leigh	Conner	Where does the 50 million come from? While the loss of life is tragic it is not sufficient to build a barrier

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patricia	conner	Please spend the money on care, outreach, housing and treatment for the homeless, addicted, mentally and developmentally challenge. Treat the problem at the root cause not by spending more money on avoidance of responsibility. Many people kill themselves because they are hopeless and feel trapped without choices and to stop pain not to die. A "barrier" will not stop that "treatment" will.
ellen	connorton	I support any of the options that raise the physical railing. The net system seems less safe, and may pose additional risks to public safety officers trying to help someone who has jumped.
ellen	connorton	I am appalled that so many respondents want to leave the bridge with no barrier for esthetic reasons, when we know a barrier is very effective suicide prevention. I don't really care what this will look like...I'm interested in saving lives. I hope those comments merely concerned with the bridge's appearance will not be considered.
tom	conor	Install a diving board for the death row inmates and charge a fee. Solve two problems.
John E.	Conway	2A is much more aesthetically appropriate
Peter	Cook	Isn't our money better spent on root causes like social awareness or mental health issues? This seems like a expensive response to suicide without a clear positive result. How do we know if a barrier is erected it will prevent these people from committing suicide? No, I think this is a PR move by the board. Is the bridge's image so tarnished by suicide? I think not. Why do you?
Peter	Cook	Over analysis with no positive corrolation to suicide prevention in general. A huge waste of money. Someone could lose their job for this fiasco.
Peter	Cook	Please add anything that will stop people from being able to stop them from jumping off the Golden Gate bridge. If people intend to kill them selfs please let them do it at there home or any other place and not from the Golden Gate Bridge
Robert	Cook	Alternative 3 would still allow someone to jump off the net should they really want to do so. It might give them pause after they fell 20 feet. Alternative 2B is the better choice because it prevents children from crawling between the lower horizontal bars.
mark	cooley	Please do not ruin our bridge.

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Tara	Cooper	I don't feel strongly about which deterrant is used, but I feel strongly that there should be one added.
J	Cornell	I am not comfortable with the visual/design impacts of modifying the railings in any manor
Michael	Corona	They are all ugly...This will not stop people from killing themselves. If someone wants to die, they will find a way...they will jump in front of a bus instead of jumping off the bridge. This is ridiculous! 25 to 50 million dollars? That you don't even have? Even if you built the barrier, people would jump off the cliff near the bridge on the Marin side. What are we going to do, wrap everything in bubble wrap so no one gets hurt? Dont do it!
Ms	Cossio	Have they assessed what the cost of making any of the alternatives "carbon-neutral" would be? I'm sure all of the energy and materials that would go into any of the projects would be significant, so again, why would we waste time and money and harm the environment and the aesthetics of the bridge to simply reduce the incidence of suicides? If we have to start bubblewrapping all of the "dangerous" places in this world to save them from humankind's whims, we're in trouble.
Ms	Cossio	I think they all greatly reduce the beauty of the bridge and are a complete waste of time and money.
Ms	Cossio	Again, I think we should do nothing, it is a waste of time and money and will only harm the beauty of the bridge for what? a handful of people who very well may take their lives by some other less glamorous means, why deprive them of jumping off the GGB?
Ms	Cossio	I am saddened that people are actually wasting time and resources on this potential project when there are so many other more pressing concerns in our midst. Why not spend this money on reducing the city's carbon footprint? or improving education? or low-cost housing? Spend it on those who want to live a better life, not on the handful who for whatever reason want to end theirs.
sherry	costanza	I have been a mental health professional for many years. I strongly believe that a barrier will save valuable lives and be well worth the money spent. Please make this happen.

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Rafael	Costas	<p>Leave it as is. The Bridge is a beautiful, distinctive and world-renowned landmark with spectacular views for walkers and car passengers. That it tempts some people to take their own lives by jumping from it, is not by itself a big enough "cost" against the aesthetic benefits of leaving the original design unchanged.</p> <p>I do feel for the families of those who commit suicide by jumping from the GGB. But a decision to spend at least \$50 million dollars on something like this has to be made dispassionately.</p> <p>First, I would think that jumping from the bridge is not an "impulse" as some claim. I don't think anyone has "just jumped" while going for a stroll. It is a deliberate act that must have taken a lot of thought and, actually, courage. I think that if you took this venue away from a potential suicide, he or she will just end that life in some other way.</p> <p>Second, besides the cost of the individual life and the pain of his loved ones, what "cost" is actually being imposed on the city and the district? Does each jump result in costly traffic delays or any other measurable cost? If any, I don't think we're willing to spend \$50+ million to eliminate.</p> <p>Third, people committ suicide by shooting themselves, swallowing pills, excessive intake of alcohol, drowning, etc. Yet we still sell guns/bullets, alcohol, Tylenol, etc. I would apply the same thought. It is not the GGB's fault that it has become a favorite venue for a suicide. It is the jumper's decision and if you take that venue away he will simply find another way to do it.</p> <p>Fourth, if you feel compelled to really do something for the jumpers, use money to provide counseling and other psychological services...or perhaps more of a foot patrol on the bridge.</p> <p>Lastly, I am not at all religious and so don't feel compelled to interfere too much in someone else's life. Many times a suicide is actually a pretty rational and long-thought-out decision, even if it might go against your morals and you wouldn't do it. But I think you would be overstepping your boundaries as a body if you were out there trying to prevent anyone who has a mind to committ suicide. We would be being "selfish" in hoping to avoid our own feelings from being hurt. But perhaps that person, for whatever reason, has decided to end his life. If he wants to do it on his own terms, in the grand style of jumping of one of the most beautiful structures in the world, then I don't think we need to get in his way. There were many opportunities for family, friends, society and social services to prevent it from getting to that point. The jump, or however they choose to end their life, is a mere "formality" by the time it takes place.</p> <p>I would say, if you must pick one of the ideas, the screen below the bridge is pretty dumb. Why wouldn't someone just jump to the screen and then scramble to the edge and jump from there to the water?</p>

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		<p>Please take into account the sheer volume of comments and votes against any change and make your decision according to that and not to passionate laments and appeals from family and friends of suicide. Though it's sad and I feel sympathy for them, they are in a very significant minority and should not carry the day. Democracy and majority rule really should carry the day. That is what I expect our public officials to follow.</p> <p>Assuming my vote counts, I vote for not using yet MORE public monies for something like this.</p> <p>Many thanks for making it so easy to comment on this.</p>
Janice	Cote	I really do not care which safety barrier is used as long as one of them is used since this seems to be a place where too many suicides do occur. I vote for any barrier that would work well and does not take away from the look of the bridge.
Kaye	Cowen	A major piece of the appeal of the bridge is the view from the walkway. The rails destroy the view on both sides of the bridge.
Kaye	Cowen	Only the no build and Alternative 3 do not ruin the aesthetic qualities of the bridge
Kaye	Cowen	Since all projects have the same approximate cost, alternative 3 seems to be the best option. However 40-50 million is a lot of money which might be better spent in maintenance, improvements and other projects required for the bridge.

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Kaye	Cowen	I have not heard credible evidence that a barrier will prevent suicides. While it will likely decrease the number of suicides on the golden gate, is there any evidence that it will impact the overall rate of suicides in the area? If not, then alternative measures should be considered.
Chuck	Cox	Do not destroy the integrity of the historic bridge. If someone chooses suicide, it is their life and their choice to do so. The bridges beauty is for all to enjoy.
elaine	COX	<p>Just because there is a barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge does not mean that suicides have been prevented--only this one bridge as a conceptual means of doing so.</p> <p>Additionally, to constrict the view from, or the aesthetic view of, the world's most famous bridge for such an ambiguous result is not a price the world public should have to endure.</p> <p>If we want to use tax payer's money to save lives, give it to dying children, those whose lives may be saved with medical help their families cannot afford.</p> <p>E.D. San Francisco</p> <p>(Do not publish my name).</p>

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Jolene	Cox	While the aethesetic aspects to building a suicide barrier are less than desirable and the cost is prohibitive, I believe that the preservation of life takes precedence over other concerns. I believe that while some persons will find alternative means of suicide, a greater portion will live beyond the impulse to jump and eventually heal from the transient despair which leads to suicide in most cases.
Vincent	Cox	This barrier will not change the attempted number of suicides; they will just attempt it from another high structure in the city. The Bridge does not cause persons to commit suicides it is their personal problems that do. The bridge need to stay the way it was original designed.
James	Coyle	If any changes are to be made to the bridge, they should be done with the permission of the people of California. Changes should be on the ballot in Nov.
Ellen	Crandall	BUILDING A BARRIER DOES NOT PREVENT OR DETER SUICIDE. Those who will - will just find another way. Suicide is an effect. Illness, depression, hopelessness are causes. If we want to stop an effect you have to treat the causes. I can't help but wonder what frustration would lead to such a LACK OF LOGIC to dump \$ into a NON-solution. It may take longer but our \$ will be better spent in programs that adress causes.
christina	crane	Too expensive, not necessary
Elizabeth	Crawford	The most important thing is to save lives!
Hannah	Crawford	Too many people have died. not putting up a barrier should be considered assisted suicide! with another jumper almost every week it is just a matter of time before someone you know jumps. trust me it has changed my life and i almost didn't graduate high school because of Casey's death. dont let this go on any longer
Michael	Creedon	PLEASE DO SOMETHING! You are standing by allowing people to kill themselves and should be charged with being an accessory after the fact. You are maintaining a public hazard that has proven itself to be deadly by the shear numbers that have died there. Something needs to be done now! Please be brave and act now or you will have to take responsibility for the deaths that will surely follow if you fail to act.
Bonnie	Creeger	People who want to commit suicide will find some place else. At least this way, they only hurt themselves.
Penni	Cremen	I like the idea of a net system, however, I am not convinced that the proposed system would prevent suicide. It seems that it would help slow the process down, but could a person still get through if they wanted. Also, my fears is that it would be used as a prank/dare by some. Generally, I like the idea but have questions/concerns about.

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Penni	Cremen	I feel that a horizontal system would best allow for the visual/aesthetic values of the bridge while providing the safety needed. Vertical rails would not allow for the same visual/viewing aspects.
Julie	Criscenti Heck	I am in support of building and funding a suicide deterrent on the bridge. If it saves lives by making it less easy to commit suicide especially for impulsive teenagers than I think it is worth it even it impacts the aesthetics of the bridge.
Jessica	Crivello	For all the reasons listed above, we should leave the bridge as is.
Lorrie	Crivello	This is INSANE. \$2million already spent to study the suicide barrier. And, another \$40-50 million for the net. Please don't spend money on this. These dollars could be so much better spent. Another case of governmental agencies frittering away dollars without regard to the cost to the public.
Ian	Crockett	Any suicide barrier will deface this wonderful historic structure.
Bob	Crockford	<p>People will find a way to committ suicide! If you do this to every bridge in the world, it will not deter anyone to find another way to end their life.</p> <p>There are cliffs,buildings, road abutments, etc.</p> <p>DO NOT ALTER THE BEAUTY OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, PLEASE!!</p> <p>I was born in San Francisco in 1938 and raised there. I do not want to see this beautiful landmark scarred!</p> <p>Thank you</p>

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Jan	Crook	<p>If people want to commit suicide, they will find a way. And if jumping off he bridge suits them, then so be it. Why do we all have to give up something so perfect and beautiful for the few.</p> <p>I am totally against doing anything to the bridge. This sounds cruel, I know. But read the first sentence again.</p>
Garry	Crossland	The problem is not the bridge, it's the weak minded individuals that climb over the edge. The arguments for barriers or other physical prevention are as fallacious the anti-gun lobby.
Dale	Crouse	Replace handrail is visually/aesthetically more attractive at this point in history.
Dale	Crouse	<p>Scientific evidence has shown that the high barrier will reduce suicide deaths. The impulse will pass, not be delayed to other time/place. The wingleet provides a more secure feeling to the Bridge pedestrian and seems to be an improved design.</p> <p>I've loved the GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE since I was a student at Stanford B.S. 1964</p>
benilda	crouse-smith	An average of 20 individuals/year jump impulsely from the bridge. The survival rate of these individuals is <1%. In the past several years the number of jumpers has increased to almost 40/year with an greater number of young adults and teenagers. A net system would save lives, and not ruin the asthetics of the bridge. Studies have shown the the impulse to commit suicide is short-lived and usually related to an adverse life event. If we could prevent one impulse like this, we could very well save lives. Other cities and countries have erected suicide barriers on tall buildings and bridges where people had a proclivity to commit suicide. We're supposedly so soft and warm and sensitive here in the Bay Area. Why can't we support a suicide barrier?
Rufus	Crow	<p>If you care about people, hire an onsite counselor! You could hire a counselor with a PHD for 3 years for less than it cost me to pay for your suicide barrier study.</p> <p>Atleast put up a sign with a suicide prevention hotline # before you ask me for another</p>
Tim	Crowley	All options detract from the beauty of the bridge's form. More information would be useful for Alternative 3 (e.g. a side-on view).
Tim	Crowley	Alternatives 1a, 1b, 2a, and 2b have a prison-like quality. Alternative 3 appears to have the least aesthetic impact.

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Tim	Crowley	Suicides from the GG bridge represent a small fraction of all suicides in the Bay Area for any given year. Let's put the \$50 million into mental health programs and awareness.
carrie	crystal	It is difficult to comment on aesthetics when I disagree so strongly with the concept of spending millions of dollars to prevent a handful of suicides each year. I believe the general public should be offered the opportunity to vote on how they would like to spend \$50 million dollars to improve San Francisco.
carrie	crystal	Visitors come from all over the world to visit the Golden Gate Bridge. By erecting a barrier you are not only ruining the original design of this iconic structure, you will lose countless visitor dollars lost by making the bridge less appealing to visitors.
carrie	crystal	A suicide barrier for \$25-\$50 million dollars is completely ridiculous. If the point is to save lives, \$25-\$50 million dollars could save literally 1,500,000 lives in Africa by providing anti-malarial drugs to those suffering from the disease. It makes no sense to place a higher value on the lives of the 38 people per year that CHOOSE to jump from the Golden Gate Bridge than we do on 1.5 million Africans. If we are trying to save lives, let's get the most out of our money and save many, many more lives by providing clean drinking water, ARV treatment, bed nets, food or anti-malarials to those suffering elsewhere. If we insist on saving lives only in California, then why don't we instead invest \$25-\$50 million dollars in stem cell research, cancer research or other lifesaving work that will ultimately save tens of thousands of Californians?
Steve	Crystal	Wouldn't money be better spent on improving safety for drivers--drives who want to live.
William	Cuevas	All designs are hideous. Blasphemy. Unacceptable.
William	Cuevas	Raising the handrail, no matter horizontal or vertical, would turn the bridge into a giant jail-cell. The obstruction of vision would ruin the experience of crossing the bridge in any manner, whether by foot, bicycle or automobile. The idea of windows is ludicrous. They would require cleaning almost hourly to maintain any clarity. Otherwise they would be disgusting studies in salt spray, bird feces, human spit, "tagging" and other forms of vandalism. The netting, while being more acceptable to car or bicycle viewing, would ruin the experience of pedestrians and viewers of the bridge from afar and would also be a magnet for garbage.

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William	Cuevas	Any alteration of the original intent of the architect(s) of such a cultural icon is blasphemous. The bridge is world-wide renowned. I believe that if public comment included the entire world there would be no debate, no question that the bridge should be LEFT ALONE AS IS!
William	Cuevas	Again, this is a global cultural icon. Raising the rails significantly alters the bridge as does the netting concept. Visitors from out of state or other countries would be appalled to see such ridiculousness of netting, raised rails, or filthy glass "viewing" stations.
William	Cuevas	I enjoy riding my bicycle across the bridge every weekend. Any "suicide barrier" would be an unfortunate reminder of suicide and of society constantly looking out for "my best interest". Ironically, I have a history of depression and have considered suicide. My weekly rides across the bridge bring me UNRIVALED HAPPINESS, something i look forward to every week. I ride the Caltrain to work during the week. I think jumping in front the train would be a quicker easier mode of suicide. Please!!
William	Cuevas	I enjoy riding my bicycle across the bridge every weekend. Raising the handrails would obstruct my joyous views. The garbage strewn filthY netting or vandalized viewing glass would be a constant reminder of suicide and of society constantly looking out for "my best interest". Ironically, I have a history of depression and have considered suicide. My weekly rides across the bridge bring me UNRIVALED HAPPINESS, something i look forward to every week. I ride the Caltrain to work during the week. I think jumping in front the train would be a quicker easier mode of suicide. Please!!
William	Cuevas	These alterations of the bridge would surely have a NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF HUMANS trying to enjoy the most beautiful bridge in the world! A constant reminder of suicide would make experiencing the bridge a study in depression and one of the darkest sides of the human psyche and would probably lead to more suicides.

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First	Last	Comment
William	Cuevas	Raising the rails creates a claustrophobic effect and obstructs views. While wildlife may not mind, this will have a very negative impact on the mental health of humans trying to enjoy the bridge. The netting would make viewing the boats and seals below obstructed, again ruining an otherwise joyous day on the bridge.
William	Cuevas	No comment.
William	Cuevas	Please see my comments above. I regard experiencing the Golden Gate Bridge as therapeutic to my mental health, a reason for me to enjoy life despite a lifetime of battling clinical depression. Put up these barriers and it will make at least one human in the world more likely to swallow a bottle of pills (that would be me). For god's sake, people need MORE reasons to live! The beauty of the bridge and the experience of walking or riding across it in its current state is unrivaled, anywhere! Don't mess with it!

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First	Last	Comment
		<p>My response to the Los Angeles Times article of July 9, 2008</p> <p>After reading your article about the proposed designs to establish a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge, I have to wonderâ€¦ why! First, if someone is ready to end their life, they will find a way to do it. In San Francisco they have a bridge, in Pasadena they have a bridge, in Santa Barbara they have a bridge. If those arenâ€™t convenient they will find a way, they have made the decision. Spending an estimated \$25 to \$50 million to stop an estimated 1.6 people jumping per month is ridiculous. In the state of California we are facing a \$15 billion shortfall, and this is the type of spending that has gotten there. I would think that Eve Meyer of the SF Suicide Prevention would be happy to have a tenth of that money to help people who may be at risk. The proposed barrier on the Golden Gate will not reduce the number of suicides in California, it will just change the location where they occur.</p> <p>Bob Cumming 9645 Hazard Avenue Garden Grove, CA 92844 Phone (714) 775-6553 FAX (714) 775-6553</p>
Bob R	Cumming Cummings	I don't support altering the visual experience from the pedestrian point of view on the bridge. No Build is my first choice, and Alternative 3 is a distant second due to minimal pedestrian impact. Alternatives 1 and 2 significantly alter the appearance of the bridge from both the pedestrian view and from a distance and are unacceptable.
R	Cummings	Support the no-build alternative as there is no visual alteration. Distant second is alternative three, as that alternative does not alter the experience from the bridge appreciably. Any alternative with "winglets" is unacceptable as the "winglets" will be far more visually obtrusive than shown in the renderings due to wear and tear, reflections or shadows, and dirt buildup.

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R	Cummings	I only truly support the no-build alternative. Option 3 is the least offensive of the other options. The bridge is a cultural and historic symbol in the US and the impacts of erecting any of the options but the no-build far outweigh the benefits of plan that only lowers the suicide rate on the bridge.
		As someone who attempted suicide, but never considered using the bridge to do it, I do not like changing the bridge and people's ability to enjoy it because of what seemingly is a kneejerk reaction to a documentary film featuring suicides on the bridge, while ignoring other common methods of suicide (such as train tracks, which seem to be a regular target of those wishing to commit suicide).
		I would prefer money be used in other ways, including suicide prevention in the area, as well as increasing suicide patrols on the bridge, because the best way in my experience to stop a suicide is to have a person reach out to them, not to make them feel caged in any more than they already do.
Kevin	Cunningham	
		Change is inevitable in life. In time, the new design would be as revered as the current one. Life should be our most precious resource. I cannot imagine a more traumatic and disturbing image than that of someone leaping from the Bridge.
Kita	Curry	
		Let's hire full time counselors to patrol the bridge. It's cheaper, provides employment, and saves the look of the bridge.
Jim	Curtis	
		The millions of dollars that would be devoted to building and implementing a barrier as a reactionary method of preempting suicide deaths is a gross misuse of funds. Instead, this money should be directed towards preventative measures, helping those in desperate need before their desperation climaxes in such a tragic fashion. Efforts to educate the public and aid troubled individuals would be much more effective in preventing suicides of all kinds, not just those who jump from the bridge. It would also prevent the possibility of those who are barred from jumping due a barrier using other means to end their lives.
Sarah	Curtis	

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		<p>There were hundreds of thousands of people who walked/ran/biked across the bridge last year who didn't jump off it. They will all be unfairly penalized by a physical barrier. Part of the treasure of the world's most beautiful bridge is its open aired freedom. All barriers proposed so far (net excluded) destroy the aesthetics of the bridge, and make it as inviting as a concentration camp. I believe that the millions that might be spent on a physical barrier are far better spent on round-the-clock patrols by trained suicide prevention personnel. The two dozen people who need help each year will never learn that it exists if all they see is a fence. But they will if there's someone to talk to.</p>
Peter	Curzon	
Barbara	Cutshaw	<p>50 million dollars--are you crazy! No funds should be spent to deter suicide at the bridge at all!! Persons hoping to commit suicide will find a way if they are determined enough. If you waste money on this bridge project, suicide will increase in other venues-at the BART, in traffic accidents,drownings,at other bridges,etc, etc. -you really can't prevent any deaths at all, in the long run,by altering the bridge. Please stop wasting money on committees and drafts!</p>
Kim	Cyr	<p>The bridge is an historic landmark, whether or not it is labeled by lawmakers in DC. In our hearts it is more historic than the Presidio. It is one of the most beautiful sights in the man-made world. Therefore I cannot imagine removing the handrail, or adding more steel higher up so it looks like a bars in a prison.</p>
Kim	Cyr	<p>Removing handrail and replacing it. or heightening it: in so doing we forever destroy one of the most lovely things about the bridge, it's low handrail. I love this aspect of the bridge. I love to stand at it and feel the sea beneath, the winds blowing in from the open ocean. I would say for me, these are deterrents to suicide--I feel empowered and want to live life to its fullest when I feel this power of nature on the Golden Gate Bridge. It gives me the sense I can accomplish anything. It makes me laugh and smile and I look around and see countless others uplifted as well. What a gift! I have an uncle who climbed it and hung a flag, and my grandfather was one of its builders. I have a photo of him at the top of it, fearless and smiling. Everything is so safe these days that it's boring and lifeless. How regretful if this wonderful low handrail, which gives us access to incredible energy and beauty, were to be taken from the millions of the people who find such beauty and grace while standing at it.</p>

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Kim	Cyr	I am sorry to say, but this study seems like a grand waste of taxpayers' money. I think money could be better spent on foot patrol of the bridge for that teeny tiny static who decides to jump. Or why not spend it on gun limits? According to Suicide.org "over 90 percent of people who die by suicide have a mental illness at the time of their death. And the most common mental illness is depression." Do we really want to construct an environment to cater to a very small minority of people with depression who decide to jump off a bridge? Do the millions of people who love the bridge have to give up a thing of great, historic beauty, to save the lives of 20 people a year?
Peggy	da Silva	I do not think there should be any more fencing that detracts from the enjoyment of people walking and bicycling on the bridge and being able to see the water, boats, skyline, etc.
Peggy	da Silva	Do not place any barrier that blocks views.
Peggy	da Silva	The view from the bridge for walkers and bicyclists is invaluable. Do not obstruct it.
Marie	Dachauer	I think it's a shame to alter the Golden Gate Bridge...it's a beautiful structure, known world-wide.
Marie	Dachauer	I think the net is best because it is the least noticeable. The other alternatives are unattractive. But if you had to, vertical would be better than horizontal, because someone would just climb up the horizontal rods.
Marie	Dachauer	It seems that a net is the least restrictive to the use and recreation offered by the bridge.
Diane	Dagan	Please don't spoil the bridge. Misfits drift out to the coasts and always have - then they hit the end. Let them jump into the water rather than onto people from high buildings. And let's not direct them to the Bay Bridge where a jumper could hold up traffic for hours. Thanks
gemma	daggatt	this needs to be done! Statistics show that deterred jumpers do NOT move to another location. This will lower the number of suicides.
Nicole	Daigle	i dont like the transparent windows either, they will be broken, flown into, get dirty....just a bad idea
Nicole	Daigle	The other options, besides alternative 3 obstruct the view of the city, which could possibly make the bridge less popular and draw tourists away, which in our horrible economy, would be a really bad idea.

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Joe	Dailey	If the suicide rate is out of control the walking across the bridge should be curtailed to a scheduled few times per year. A "Bridge Day" so to speak which can control jumpers.
Jan	Daison	Stop the needless deaths.
Adam	Dale	I wish to voice that I am completely against any type of barrier on the Golden Gate bridge. Thank you.
Marsha	Dalmas	I have read that the net system is cheaper to install, but it can lead to a slew of rescue problems. Should we choose one of the other options?
Marsha	Dalmas	I thoroughly support the need for a suicide barrier on the bridge. I don't have a specific preference in terms of style...I'll leave this up to the engineering experts, but I do know that something is needed. After more than 70 years of debate and more than 1,250 lives lost, it is time to put an end to the pain that is felt by everyone in the community when a life is lost in this way.
Paul	Dalmas	Some sort of suicide barrier is an absolute must! Failing to eliminate this disgrace is unconscionable.
Peggy	Daly	I do not believe that ANY barrier should be added to the Golden Gate Bridge. I've heard "experts" on both sides of the issue saying that a barrier would or would not help prevent suicide. I believe 100% that this barrier would not deter the overall number
Deborah	DAmico	<p>Continue with the current surveillance measures in place now and use additional less expensive ones instead. Changing the appearance of our iconic and beloved monument as shown in your draft EIR will be counterproductive in many ways and it seems as of this writing that approximately 75% of us in the Bay Area are against it!</p> <p>Additional and less expensive measures may include multiple motion detection barriers from the parking lots and entrances to the bridge along with mandatory escort of individual/s by police bridge staff for a small fee with a corresponding reduction of bridge toll for those who must drive across it.</p>
jeanne	dana	People need to suffer the consequences of their actions. Better to build a middle barrier for the bridge to help innocent people. Nineteen people a year is not as many as other means of suicide. Help for treatment would be better.
darioush	danesh	<p>I believe to make the bridge safe and keep its beauty should be taken by bridge designers.</p> <p>The 5 options to me is just to save the life of innocent people which is good. But to put some art and engineering on it will make it a wise solution.</p>

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Daniel	Daneshrad	I write merely to comment on my belief that any addition will also have the added benefit of more protection from accidental falls. I have ridden across the bridge on a bicycle, and felt very nervous during the ride as on my bike I was quite high relative to the handrail. Although I fortunately stayed safe enough to make it across, I do not feel comfortable riding across again because I felt the handrail was too low relative to my height on my bicycle.
James	Daniel	any such proposal would destroy the bridge's aesthetics. This is absolutely the dumbest idea you have ever considered. Never mind you don't have the money and are raising tolls. Better & cheaper idea is to offer a million dollars to anybody contemplating suicide if they will reconsider!!
Chad	Daniels	The bridge is an architectural masterpiece. Please do nothing. All other alternatives would run foul its aesthetic integrity and historic importance.
Chad	Daniels	There are about 40 million better ways to spend the money.
Susan	Daniloff	I am seriously concerned about the impact on birds with any of the Build options. I am also dismayed about changes to the historical structure of the bridge. I feel that the current methods in place to deter suicide attempts should be continued.
Daniel	Daniloff	I am of the opinion that the bridge should remain as it is period. I am taken by the fact that the bridge is suffering from apparant deferred maintenance with rust eating through the towers as well as the main cable. I can only imagine the condition of those surfaces we cannot easily see. Perhaps it is time to dissolve the political organisation called The Golden Gate Bridge and Transportation District. The bridge has been under seige since "Transortation" was added to the districts tasks.....robbing peter to pay paul. The bus and ferry systems have never paid for themselves, but rather have taken monies from a formerly financially solid enterprise.

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theadore	danson	there are way more pressing issues, like a movable barrier between outgoing and incoming traffic.
theadore	danson	the barriers look ugly and block the view of the city
theadore	danson	the visual aspect of the alternatives is horrible. when people take pictures, there would be this ugly fence blocking the view of the city.
theadore	danson	to much money to install. money can be used elsewhere more effectively
Katy	Dashiell	This project is ill advised. There is no guarantee that adding this barrier will in any way actually deter suicide attempts or for that matter actually save lives. The greater danger is that altering the structure of the bridge will cause unforeseen instability. The Bridge is a national treasure. Please do not blight it's grace.

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First	Last	Comment
Vince	Dattoli	<p>Rachel,</p> <p>I could not believe what I was reading this morning, whereby it seems like the GG Bridge, Highway and Transportation District is driving to do something in spite of an overwhelming majority of respondents who say "no"? And, spend \$50M+ in the process.</p> <p>And it will only serve to lessen the enjoyment and majesty of this world renowned functional landmark.</p> <p>I cannot believe that in spite of the fact that you put "do nothing" and several other options on the vote, and that an overwhelming majority said "no", you ignore that, and say, the second most popular option is "so that's what we'll do". That's like having a presidential election, and saying "I know that Candidate A got the most votes, but the next most popular choice is Candidate B, so we'll go with him!"</p> <p>This can only be the work of those who would profit from this modification. To those who are fighting for this, and have lost loved ones, I offer my sincere condolences. However, this will not bring them back. Your enthusiasm for this only speaks to selfishness on your part for both attention and sympathy. It's amazing what the promise of 15 minutes of fame can do to people!</p> <p>And, who the hell is Dr. Mel Blaustein to be the decision maker here? "Anything that will stop the suicides is fine by me." and, "I'm OK with the net . . ." Is HE the person we have to satisfy? Why not just leave it up to him then, and forget this travesty of a "vote"? This whole opera is absurd. Who is really the Decider?</p>
bill	daul	It detracts from the GG's beauty
bill	daul	There should NOT BE A BARRIER...let them jump...spend money on a robot down below to clean up the bodies and blood.
bill	daul	Your board OVER REACTS to every little event...whether it is something that may occur once in 50 years or 100 years...you are so willing to spend other people's money to fix everything...spending 20 million to deter suicides is ridiculous. It costs society a lot less to let them die. Have you studied how many people might get blisters walking across the bridge...perhaps putting in 50 million dollar's worth of soft concrete would prevent this needless loss.

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Christian	Davidson	I think if people want to commit suicide then they should have that right, as stupid as they might be. Why take away the beauty of the GGB with suicide deterrent systems when people are just going to find ways around them anyway?
Laurie	Davidson	I am a former San Francisco resident, a lover of the bridge, so I understand the aesthetic and historical concerns. At the same time, if something can be done to save lives there, it should be done.
Leslie	Davidson	as much as I love the design of the GG bridge if a barrier saves even one life it is worth it.
Darren	Davis	Dear Board I strongly oppose the building of a barrier on one of the most globally recognized treasures of our country, The Golden Gate Bridge. While my heart goes out to the families of those who have taken their lives by jumping off the GGB, we must stop becoming a "Nanny State". These families are looking to place the responsibility of an individual who has attempted to commit/committed suicide on someone else other than the individual and the family themselves. We as people must stop acting as "babysitters" for individuals who are acting irrationally, and reaching out for help. Families always say "they just didn't know" or "had no idea". While this is tragic, it does not transfer the responsibility to the state. If these troubled individuals have decided to kill themselves, a barrier will only stop them from "jumping". They may decide instead to jump off a building, shoot themselves or park their SUV on a commuter train track. For some people who have the desire to commit such a desperate, final act in ones life is a spontaneous decision. However, getting to the GGB is not a "spontaneous" task. One must drive and/or walk out to jump. Therefore, they have thought about jumping. I feel the money that would be spent on the barrier would be better spent by funding suicide prevention programs, better medical treatment and education for those that seek help. Regards, Darren Davis Marin Resident Dialy Golden Gate Transit Rider
Darren	Davis	I feel the money that would be spent on the barrier would be better spent by funding suicide prevention programs, better medical treatment and education for those that seek help.
Ellyn	Davis	I have a friend who jumped from the bridge following post-partum depression. Her young daughter is now being raised by her father. If there was a barrier, she would still be alive to watch her daughter grow up and provide the child with a mother.

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Mark A.	Davis	<p>I am very impressed with your comprehensive impact analysis, yet wonder what would be the impact in saving lives in terms of working citizens contributing to the Bay Area and beyond?</p> <p>Have you consulted with The Bridge director and one of my heroes, Kevin Hines? What about the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK or the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) that supports the Lifeline? www.SAMHSA.gov or www.SuicidePreventionLifeline.org</p>
Mark A.	Davis	<p>As a suicide attempt survivor I had once contemplated jumping the big one while in your great Bay Area. Luckily it was thwarted by keeping busy with business and site seeing instead, but has always been in the back of my mind that as a method I'd consider. My sister Jennifer died by suicide and in the mental health work I do, I know far too many people who have died, survived or been affected by the loss of family or friends. September 27th will be my 20th HIV-testing anniversary and my recovery now is focused on living with HIV, bipolar II (the sequel) and other health conditions in addition to being in recovery from drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. I look forward to visiting in April for the American Association of Suicidology Conference - www.Suicidology.org - and it would be great if you could present us with good news that a barrier has been selected for the good of people and careless votes from no-change people don't prevail. We build a wall on our borders to keep people out, but not a simple solution to keep people alive. Your great bridge is not alone in barrier needs. And with the foreclosure and veteran suicide rate hick, the bridge will become a busy place for people to fall from our graces. I wonder if anyone could be charged with those deaths as murders because nothing was done to intervene...</p>
N.L.	Davis	<p>I object to any architectural changes to the bridge mainly on aesthetic grounds. The high costs are also a factor. I do not believe that the bridge is responsible for suicides. If it is determined that something really must be done, I would suggest closing the bridge to pedestrian traffic at certain times (those times when statistics show most suicides leaps occur--perhaps in nighttime hours), and increasing suicide watch in the open hours.</p>
Justin	Davisson	<p>Any barrier should not block the view of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. The view from both sides of the bridge is what makes it such an amazing landmark.</p>

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First	Last	Comment
Philip	Daws	The entire proposal is unacceptable. I am still struggling with the fact that the city spent \$2 million dollars studying alternatives, and one is to build a net five feet below the deck to catch people, who can then jump from the net. My understanding of these suicides generally occur at night and at times of minimal supervision/traffic. None of these alternatives creates an insurmountable barrier, in fact I don't see how any of these alternatives even slows anyone down who is determined to take their own life from the bridge. Another source of fatalities on the bridge is traffic-based given the commute route and lack of barrier. Since 1970, 36 people have died in traffic accidents on the bridge, the last occurring in 2001. Through a mix of policy and monitoring, traffic accidents have been reduced threefold since the 1980s - why can't the same approach be taken to reduce suicides? It is further my belief that the construction of a suicide barrier would significantly alter the original thin deck design engineered to flex in the high winds of the bay opening. There is not adequate proof that the structural integrity of the bridge will not be affected. Finally, the cost of these alternatives is much too high for the city and surrounding counties to bear. Tolls have already been raised to a barely tolerable level and there is simply not a spare \$20+ million dollars lying around that couldn't, by the way, otherwise be used to continue to maintain the bridge and ensure its safety.
Philip	Daws	All of the alternatives necessarily alter the original look and design of the bridge in the negative, a design which is world renown no less. This bridge has been named fifth on the list of favorite architectural structures by the American Institute of Architects, one of the Seven Wonders of the Engineering World by the American Society of Civil Engineers, has been visited by royalty and world leaders and remains one of the largest tourist attractions in the world. Erecting a barrier that alters the view of this classic structure is a crime in itself, but takes away from the experience that millions of tourists are able to have on a yearly basis. I don't think any of the designers of the bridge envisioned having people look through windows off of their structure. I am certain none of these structures would be contemplated by Joesph Strauss, Irving Morrow, Charles Ellis or Leon Moisseiff.
ken	dawson	spending millions of dollars on this project is a waste of money. the 18 individuals, on average, that take their life on the bridge yearly, would probably find another way to accomplish the end result that they seek. this is a knee-jerk response to a larger problem that does not address the true issues of depression and personality disorder.
KEVIN	DAY	Protect our bridge views. There are better ways at protecting society from suicide, like patrols. What is next protecting the Marin Headlands... If you need to spend the money a traffic barrier could help people that want to live stay alive.

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Bonnie	De Clark	<p>A suicide is a dreadful thing and the pain it leaves in the survivors subsides but never totally goes away.</p> <p>As a former volunteer for suicide prevention I know that taking ones life is a permanent solution to what is usually a temporary problem.</p> <p>Those who man the hotlines know that when that phone rings it's a cry for help. But those who truly want to kill themselves will find a way that a barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge will not prevent. A better solution would be to spend that precious money on finding ways to help those in pain before they make that horrible decision.</p>
Digne	de Lenea	The least obtrusive is Alt. 3 although from the seashore it may be seen. However, the bridge has a classic design that should not be tampered with.
Digne	de Lenea	The present railing is functional except for desperate people. Are we to design all guard railings to function for the one per month jumper at \$1-million per jump? I think the whole proposal is ludicrous. I suggest putting the money into mental health
Elaine	de Mello	This is a critical issue. Research demonstrates that bridge barriers stop suicide deaths from that location and reduce the overall rate. With so many people jumping from the Golden Gate, there is no other ethical choice that to construct some kind of barrier. We are looking to do the same for such bridges in the Northeast, but none are as lethal and popular as the Golden Gate. Thank you.
flavia	de oliveira	Building a suicide barrier will not prevent people from committing suicide, it will only make them go elsewhere to commit suicide. Spend the millions on mental health access, and drug/alcohol rehab centers rather than waste it on a barrier. And what if you build the barrier, and someone cleverly figures out how to jump off anyway? Will the grieving relatives of the decedent sue the District for failing to prevent the suicide? This project is ridiculous, and the waste of funds a travesty.
john	deal	I dont have a problem with the visual aesthetics of any of it. The cost is too great when there is no budget to take from.

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John	Deckert	A majestic view and exhilarating experience of the Bay Area for EVERYONE will be destroyed because of the actions of a few troubled individuals. Will you also put a fence blocking the view to the Grand Canyon? Will you also cover the first 5 meters of Old Faithful?
John	Deckert	You've installed blinders on your eyes so now you can install a fence on the bridge.
Decline	Decline	None are acceptable. All would turn the currently enjoyable activity of crossing the bridge as a pedestrian into a prison like experience.
Decline	Decline	The proposed budget for this project should go to increased monitoring of the bridge. The fact that the bridge has become a popular spot for people to commit suicide shouldn't mean that the bridge needs to be gated in, preventing the currently enjoyable trip across the bridge from continuing into the future.
margaret	deedy	Gentlemen: The public is not responsible for the death of individuals who choose to take their own lives - regardless of where or how they choose to do it. Second, the beauty and design of the Bridge should not be changed. All designs will have an affect on the Structural Integrity of the Bridge. Third, the need for a Traffic Barrier is of MUCH HIGHER importance than a suicide barrier - and the cost of a suicide barrier could be better put to use for more people/commuters who use the Bridge everyday to get to and from work. Raising the tolls, and EVEN considering a suicide barrier makes little business sense - this is an emotional outcry from a few .
Peggy	Deghi	Have more foot patrols.
Peggy	Deghi	If someone wants to kill them self they will do it somewhere else. You can't suicide protect everything or you might as well put everyone in jail.
R	DelaRosa	The proposed designs would inflict too heavy a toll on a beautiful historic landmark.
R	DelaRosa	Please use the \$25-50 million proposed costs for enhanced foot patrols on the bridge and increased mental health services for suicidal people rather than creating an unsightly landmark in the Bay Area.
Kitty	Delgado	This bridge is a symbol of our City. It is a beautiful tourist attraction, but it means more than just that. Suicide is terrible, yes, but a barrier is a band-aid fix that will end up costing us millions. People bent on suicide will find other ways.
alan	dellario	Public funds should not be spent on this matter absent a showing that the cost over the life of the project is less than the cost for public safety to respond to a jumper.

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First	Last	Comment
Mitchell	Delving	<p>NO. No no no no and no.</p> <p>Destroying the visual and cultural aesthetic of one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world is a bad idea.</p> <p>1) The proposed barriers will not deter the people they are designed to save. People with no hope and who are determined to commit suicide will find some other, less visible way. The argument that these human cattle-rails will provide a deterrent is sheer folly.</p> <p>2) Not cost-effective. 50 million in undetermined funds is an extravagant allocation, and again, will not solve the problem.</p> <p>3) Uglifying the bridge and preventing average bridge-goers from taking in a world-class view will reduce the quality of many thousands, no hundreds of thousands, of lives than the very small numbers the barriers are designed for. The argument that any amount of money is justified by the saving of even one human life is again, sheer folly.</p> <p>4) Building a barrier is unpopular. Again and again, a very vocal minority is driving this initiative. The numbers show that the majority of people do not want a barrier. Period. Again, the ends do not justify the means.</p> <p>5) Building any of the proposed barriers is a waste of time and money. Should any funds actually become available for the worthy cause of suicide prevention, they would be much more effectively spent in stepping up a human presence, surveillance, crisis personnel, and psychological intervention and support services.</p> <p>This is not what the designers of the Golden Gate Bridge intended. This is not what the majority of the bridge-using public wants.</p>

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Mitchell	Delving	<p>The world class reputation of the Golden Gate Bridge is that of one of the Wonders of the Modern World. It was named "the bridge that could not be built." It is an engineering marvel, and a feat unrivaled in its day. This is the image that should be cultivated.</p> <p>People do not think of the bridge as a suicide magnet except by the very small minority of those bemoaning the loss of their loved ones, who paid no attention to making their lives worth living when they had the chance. The real numbers of bridge users, and the real numbers of people who commit suicide annually, do not bear out the need for building any of the barriers proposed.</p> <p>In the interest of saving the lives of people who indeed are desperate enough to consider suicide, it makes sense to increase the human presence of helpful individuals and agencies trained in intervention and social support on site - and not driving away people who may very much be in need of help.</p> <p>Not herded like cattle.</p> <p>All this talk of building a suicide barrier makes me want to kill myself.</p>

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First	Last	Comment
Iana	demartini	<p>Regarding suicide barrier -- we feel strongly against it. Reason -- if an individual really wants to kill themselves, then that is their choice. Hate to sound so cold, but sometimes talking, counseling, etc., just is not enough for the person who so desperately is unhappy with life. We feel that you should concentrate on a movable barrier for north & south bound traffic. How many innocent people have left for work or returned from work on an ordinary day and have been involved in a head-on (with permanent physical/mental damage) or fatal major accident on the bridge. They didn't want this - but it happened. We think you should consider a SUICIDE BARRIER FOR THE NORTH/SOUTH BOUND LANES OF THE BRIDGE. Thanks</p>
D Maria	Dement Demetriou	<p>You have got to be kidding. You would actually spend 50 million taxpayer dollars to try and keep a few idiots from killing themselves which they will do anyway.</p> <p>This nation is doomed...</p>
Maria	Demetriou	<p>What a colossal waste of money. With toll prices going up and a proposed fee to travel on Doyle drive you are proposing to spend \$ on this. If you have that amt. of \$ spend it on repairs to Doyle drive or the bridge.</p>
Maria	Demetriou	<p>The structures you have up there are ugly enough do not add more.</p>

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ken	demmer	I am emphatically opposed to creating a suicide barrier on this country's most beautiful, iconic bridge. When will this ludicrous attempt on raising fees,taxes,etc for the working class stop? Why must those who drive across this bridge to WORK for a living, to pay taxes, to supplement every other program for those who do not contribute economically to society constantly be assaulted with additional fees? A person who wants to commit suicide will do it regardless. They will hurl themselves from any number of our cliffsides and mountains to their deaths. There are numerous other ways someone intent on doing away with themselves will do it. If the GGB Authority is so concerned about those possible suicides, then volunteer your time @ a Suicide Prevention hotline. Or better yet, forgo your salary and paint this beautiful bridge. What are you doing with the money? I am against any change to the bridge.
Brian	Dempsey	No Build because if somebody is going to commit suicide then any form of a barrier will not stop someone. I know because I had a friend commit suicide. Spend the money on fixing the Marina Ramp or retrofit the structure.
Brian	Dempsey	I am not afraid to say what others may fee is not politically correct...but personally I don't care if people jump off the bridge, i just don't want to spend MILLIONS on altering a National Treasure!
Gary	Denison	We must put human life ahead of all other matters. Even if we save but one person it is worth it.
patricia	dennehy	I think it will not change the appearance of the bridge and is too important to care if it did.
Kate	Denney	I feel suicides could be adequately deterred by investing similar sums of money to expand existing prevention programs such as bridge patrols or lookouts. Each proposed modification to the GG Bridge is a detriment to the structure. The benefit would be felt by a few individuals, the loss by the entire Bay Area and tourists from around the world.
Isabel	Dennis	I believe a suicide barrier would ruin the aesthetics of the bridge.
Isabel	Dennis	Particularly the vertical alternatives would have a strong negative impact for visitors and cyclists, like myself, whose greatest joy is the view from the deck of the bridge.
Isabel	Dennis	The bridge is a symbol of San Francisco, and installing unappealing barriers will negatively impact that image.
Suzanna	Dennis	I am not sure the best kind of barrier, but any kind of system works for me, so long as there is one in place.

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David	DeNola	<p>Denying the fact that suicide barriers on bridges do nothing to prevent suicide is like denying the scientific evidence for global warming. Denial of the facts reminds me very much of the denial we afflicted families go through as our loved ones slip away toward madness, or despair, and then suicide. "It can't be happening to us; not in our family..." That's all I have to say about facts and statistics.</p> <p>I lost my son to suicide a year and a half ago. He jumped from a freeway overpass. He suffered from bipolar disease, whose hallmark is the astounding impulsiveness that results in the destruction of a human being and the soul of that person's family. With many bipolar people the right intervention at the right time, sometimes at a precise moment, can save a life, or extend it. Whe I hear the crass and callus comment that someone who wants to commit suicide will do so, barriers or not, sooner or later, I want to tell them about my son's experience. He detailed his suffering and hopes massively in his journals. The one thread that links all his writing is this: He wanted to live! More than anything on earth he wanted to live. That his demons finally got him has nothing to do with desire; it has to do with the terror of living when all hope is gone. Listen to me when I tell you: no one wants to die, especially those who suffer among the non-sufferers and can distinguish between the two.</p> <p>But allow me to come back to that word "extend", as in extend life. Even though it is an absurdity to think that most of those who attempt suicide once will eventually succeed, what do we do about those who keep trying? How many people have experienced the death by cancer of a loved one, whose life was extended a day, a week, a month, a year by a drug that acts as a BARRIER to the disease? How many of you lovers of beauty out there would not give anything just to enjoy one more day of life from that person you sove so much? Would you deny that to us? Our son lived years beyond what he may have lived because on 3 separate occations, at the right moment, he had his family, or a friend, and in one case just a simple phone call from a cop he didn't know, who told him his family loved him, and he awoke to reality and turned his car around and did not drive off that cliff. It doesn't take much to stop a person from that terrible act.</p> <p>And let me ask you this, all of you who love your view from the bridge-would you trade that view for the lives of your sons, and daughters, and husbands and wives? Would you be willing to suffer for the rest of your lives the guilt and horror and grief of losing your children to suicide?</p> <p>Maybe you think I'm just an emotional, grieving father and can be dismissed with compassion or maybe anger for emotional black mail, but I assure you that if there is one thing I know about, it is denial, and I'm not the one who is in it.</p> <p>I leave off with this thought: I believe it was the artist Matisse who when asked if he had a choice between saving a priceless Rembrandt from a fire, or saving a cat, said he would save the cat. The GG bridge is not golden; it is on fire.</p>
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First	Last	Comment
Kevin	d'Entremont	<p>As I finished writing this, a man next to me asked if was for this "stupid" idea. I said I was, considering my son had jumped to his death. His answer: "Well, I don't give a damn about your son". May God help us.</p>
Kevin	d'Entremont	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the bridge is a world class work of art; to disfigure it for reasons extraneous to its role as a transportation structure is unforgiveable. 2. the costs are excessive given the limited benefits; obviously one does not put a value on life and yes some suicides may not happen on the bridge but this is a drop in the bucket compared to the world wide suicide rate 3. from a personal point of view, people have the moral right to take their own life; it is theirs (and mine) and they and I have a right to so choose; while obviously, the bridge has a right to prevent people and things from dropping from the bridge, suicide itself should not be in the perview of elected officials. 4. the whole issue is being driven by individuals endeavoring to paint their opponents as being morally repugnant; suicide may be regrettable in most instances but it is an individual and family/friends matter. 5. I do not think any amount of negative input will prevent the disfiguring of the bridge because the decision makers are more afraid of the emotional response of the suicide barriers advocates than the more reasoned response of the opponents.

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samantha	DePetro-Wysuph	i have heard people say building a barrier would not solve the underlying mental health status of suicidal people. This is true, but people who have never received mental health help might need to jump and be caught by a net or something in order for them to be 51/50-ed and receive the help they need. It would be good if a mental health professional could be on-site wandering around doing interventions. Many suicidal people don't realize that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problems. Prevention is key, but not everyone has equal access to healthcare that could prevent suicide. Even if one person is saved then it is worth it!
roan	derow	well, it is very funny to hear people in commission talking for ten years about a barrier to stop suicide from happening. ten years, how many died during that time : considering numbers which varies from 23 to 80 a year, we got like an average of 50 a year time ten wow 500 already jumped. how much was paid for those commission to talk about it? then we might see who is really responsible for doing nothing!!!
Kay	Derrico	Keep as much of the esthetics as possible while saving lives from suicide.
Kay	Derrico	Suicide is preventable.
Paul	Deuter	The look of the bridge is classic and should not be changed.
Paul	Deuter	No build would preserve the current look of the bridge.
Jennifer	Dever	Although the report clearly states these alternatives would not directly impact wildlife, the construction process would. It is not worth risking further damage to the sensitive ooastal shrub/scrub region at the staging area.
Jennifer	Dever	The GG bridge is the most beautiful bridge in the country, if not the entire world. Therefore, any modification would be aesthetically unacceptable.
Jennifer	Dever	None of the 5 alternatives is without problems - each modifies either the look of the bridge (net barrier) or the view from the bridge (additional barriers/new barriers). They all negatively impact the visual and aesthetic value of the bridge.
Jennifer	Dever	The GG bridge is a cultural ICON. It is incredibly imperative to preserve its original design in its entirety. Any modification will certainly impact the design and even a slight impact is unacceptable.
Jennifer	Dever	The staging areas would risk impacting several sensitive plant species, and most likely increase the persistence of invasives.
Jennifer	Dever	The EIR/EA draft was comprehensive and I feel adequately addresses potential problems, but does not speak to the urgency of the matter. This bridge is something that should NOT be modified. The impacts are too significant, and I am not sure that the report really spells this out.

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Patrick	Devine	The physical barriers significantly detract from the the aesthetics of the bridge. In particular, anything that rises up above the pedestrian sight lines could potentially impact people walking and/or cycling across the bridge.
Patrick	Devine	It shouldn't be the policy of the highway and transportation district to physically attempt to prevent suicides unless there is a direct impact to public safety at large (ie. pedestrians falling into traffic). Suicides have been happening for much longer than the bridge has been around, so any of the alternatives is unlikely to sway a persons mind whether to take their own life. It's only likely to cause them to attempt a different, more disruptive way such as jumping in front of CalTrain/BART/Muni.
Gretchen	Devinsky	Any alternative aside from no-build would tarnish the bridge's appearance. As it is a major world tourist attraction, as well as being the symbol of the City of San Francisco, that's potentially a significant impact.
Gretchen	Devinsky	Please use the money for suicide prevention outreach which could help all potentail Bay Area suicides - BART train jumpers, those who use guns or other means, and those who might jump from any number of tall structures, not just those who consider using the GG Bridge.
Richard	Di Jorio	Those wanting to kill themselves will simply find another way to do it. This is a waste of money. Perhaps Newsome can use this money to feed criminal illegals and assist them to find criminal employers to hire them!
Richard	Di Jorio	Those who are proposing this should resign! They arent representing the public at all!
John	Diamante	Third, last pick: nonvisible, non-marring net.
Louis	Diaz	The GGB is a great architectural wonder. Do not alter.
Louis	Diaz	As a psychotherapist with over 30 years experience and having served over 2000 patients none of whom to my knowledge ever consummated a suicide I would like to offer the following thoughts. A very prevalent thought for an impulsive suicide is by car accident. The GGB would be a romantic way of doing it because of the brilliant esthetics and design. It does serve as a magnet for peoople with suicidal ideation so a better way would be to beef up suicide prevention teams at the GGB. The alternative is that the suicidal person will simply find another venue to kill themselves. A determined suicide can't be prevented. A diagnosis of Depression or Bi-Polar and substance abuse are the biggest warning signs for potential suicide attempts.

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Patrick	DiCarlo	This whole idea is just not fair to the Bridge, to the people who built her or to the idea of the icon she has become. I am sorry, but people who want to kill themselves, will. Lets not ruin a beautiful bridge because over the course of such a long period of time many people have chosen to use the site to kill themselves. Why should we all pay for these (former) human beings choice?
Carla	Dickerson	No build
Carla	Dickerson	No build
Carla	Dickerson	No build
Carla	Dickerson	No build
Carla	Dickerson	No build. We're better off spending that money if it's available on retrofitting current structures to get ready for the "big one".
Carla	Dickerson	No build. We're better off spending that money if it's available on retrofitting current structures to get ready for the "big one".
Carla	Dickerson	No build.
Carla	Dickerson	No build.
David	Dickes	<p>Why are you wasting taxpayer money on this proposal? Please use the money on a moveable barrier to prevent accidents on the bridge. The people driving across the bridge don't want to die - the jumpers do!</p> <p>Provide the jumpers with a small platform under the bridge so they don't distract the drivers or others walking across the bridge. Give them some privacy. My guess is that a good number of potential jumpers would talk themselves out of it if they were in a private place. If in a public place they may be feeling additional pressure because of the people watching.</p>

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Janice	Dickson	<p>My brother committed suicide jumping from a bridge in Cleveland. He took great measures to find a location that would be 'successful'. It would not matter if the GG bridge had barriers- a person who is in pain and not seeking help or is, is going to find a way or place. I do not believe that a barrier is going to deter the ultimate reason for creating a barrier and that is the act of suicide. So if it does not occur on the bridge is not relevant. GG bridge is a beautiful structure and needs on going maintenance that requires much funding. The number of attempts on GG bridge is a fraction of the number of attempts elsewhere in the area. I think resources could be better spent in the 'counseling' area and crisis centers throughout the city. Do not ruin a landmark and use the resources to help those in need in more meaningful ways than a barrier. It won't stop them.</p> <p>Janice Dickson, RN</p>
Chris	Diederich	<p>this will destroy the landmark -ugly. More lives would be "saved" by using money for suicide prevention around the nation (hot line, counselors, etc.)than by this barrier</p>
Christine	Diehl	<p>the images of proposed barriers that I saw did not really portray how the net approach would look from different angles, so I felt I couldn't vote for that option. Both of the horizontal options literally made my skin crawl. The horizontal lines clashed horribly with the vertical lines of the bridge. I can't even imagine why anyone would support that idea. My concerns with the replacement of the existing handrail in the vertical design was the clear windows. On principle they seem like a great idea, but in ten years I imagine they will be scratched/tagged/etc. and less attractive.</p>

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Helga	Dietrich	The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully investigated as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative already stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be further studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken. What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!
Helga	Dietrich	The visual impacts of the five listed Build Alternatives are unacceptable.
Dorothy	Diez	Visual impacts are too great with all of the build alternatives - it is not acceptable, do not ruin the Bridge. It is a waste of public money.
Dorothy	Diez	This comment is transcribed from a telephone call to Mary Currie on July 25
Gordonna	DiGiorgio	While I think it tragic that some take their lives by leaping off the bridge, I think placing a 'barrier' will only deter jumping from the bridge, not the potential suicide victim committing their act of desperation. How many people die each year from overdosing? Do we take all medications off the shelves? You get my point. Please leave the bridge alone.
Jennifer	DiJoseph	A barrier to suicide, no matter if it interferes with current residents' ideas of bridge aesthetics, is obviously needed. How shocking the lack of compassion and empathy from our affluent, entitled, "progressive" neighbors. The fact that "MY" view will be altered? Why is that even a consideration?

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Victoria	Dillon	My father was one of the 1,300 people who committed suicide on the GGB. He would have done this regardless, so my opinion is to leave the bridge alone. Spend the money on counseling people with mental illness. The bridge is for all to enjoy - the sixth option. Thank you.
James	Dilworth	Alt 1 & 2 are just awful. - Alt 3 isn't too bad... glad you got that in there. Review others' comments on SFGate http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/08/BADF11LBMR.DTL
James	Dilworth	Looks like a poorly spent \$2million IMHO. Annoying that it is broken up into 20 separate PDF docs... could you not have made it available in HTML, or at least one PDF!
James	Dilworth	
Winston	Dimaano	First I believe railings will not be an effective way to prevent suicides. There is no convincing evidence which shows this would lead to prevention. The costs will of course be passed along to taxpayers, as well as drivers, increasing tolls even more. With so many options of where to spend our money, this is not a priority. People will find other alternatives to kill themselves.
Robert	DJ	
Robert	DJ	Waste of money. But you guys probably don't care even if the majority thinks this is a waste.
Jacob	Dlay	In favor of adding a movable barrier between the opposing lanes of traffic
Jacob	Dlay	Terrible waste of money
J	Do	No alternative appears to be visually appealing

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J	Do	While well intention, I do not believe such a barrier will deter suicides as a whole. Perhaps there will be less at the bridge, but if an individual is so emotionally distraught to want to kill themselves, they will find other means. As such, this does not seem worth the investment. It will not be saving lives, just redistributing where suicides happen and is therefore not worth the money nor the aesthetic alteration. Thank you.
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
don't	do it	don't do it!
Marie	Dobrow	It is criminal to even consider putting up any barrier of any kind on the Golden Gate Bridge. The bridge is a national treasure and should be enjoyed by all how have the good fortune to see it up close and in person.
Marie	Dobrow	I am not encensative but if an individual is determined to end his/her life, they will find a way to do it. One can only hope ones family or close friend can identify the desparity and get help before it is too late.

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Adolph	Dockus	<p>What are the naysayers thinking? We live in an area that seems consumed with preserving life forms.....trees, fallow deer, coyotes, cats..you name it.... etc. etc....What about human life?????????</p> <p>It is unbelievable that the majority thinks we should leave the bridge as it is.....!! What a wonderful legacy for "the city" that claims to have an overwhelming concern for life..albeit...non-human..</p> <p>Come on, people.....WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HUMAN LIFE HERE.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>How dare you thinking that it is more important to preserve a "pretty bridge" rather than preserve one, ONE, human life.....</p> <p>Shame on you.....</p> <p>I suspect this project will die....considering the preliminary data.....</p> <p>When you vote against the retrofit.....I hope you will have some remorse...for another death.....!!!!</p> <p>you see, I feel, that saving one life is worth a whole hell of a lot of resources.....more than one fallow dear....@!!!</p>
Marialice	Dockus	<p>We are becoming a nation of no personal responsibility. We cannot as a nation protect every single area and every single person.</p>

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		<p>Last year on 7-26-07, I lost my oldest friend. He was 41 years old and I'd been friends with him since I was 11 or so years old. To this date, my heart is broken and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't find myself sobbing in tears thinking about him. I am outraged that this bridge was even constructed in the first place without safety precautions. Since the beginning of time, when man was introduced to the concept of currency, his priorities have caused him to be driven into the pit of spiritual darkness. To those of you who have the power to make the final say, if your not on the side of preserving life, you are on the side of terminating it! Be warned, there is a very high price to be paid.</p> <p>Peace and love in Christ Jesus</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>John Adrian Dodge</p>
John	Dodge	
Chelsea	Dodgen	As a mental health provider, the evidence is clear that if a barrier were put up on the bridge, lives would be saved. It's that simple. As a community that prides itself on compassion for human suffering, it seems completely outrageous that a minor cosmetic change to the brige would be more important than preventing deaths.
John	Doe	No to a suicide barrier of any description. The money can be better spent elsewhere on resources for people who wish to live.
Jordan	Doeing	I disagree with this idea since first, jumpers will just jump off something else, Second even worse, they will crash their cars into others. And I looked at those barriers in the paper, it would not take me long to climb over it. Also I would just jump onto the net climb to its end and jump off that.
Pamela	Doerr-Kashani	please do not use a net- it won't stop someone as they can climb over the edge also

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Jane	Doherty	While the net would decrease the amount of overall visual change to the bridge, I don't see how it would absolutely deter people, as it would just be a second jump for people to make...you jump, hit the net, then just crawl to the edge and jump from there, which is why I chose the 2 alternatives I did 1B and 2B. The reason I chose the B version on each was because of the inward turning tops. Building it taller is helpful, but having it curve inward poses a TRUE barrier that creates better prevention.
Jane	Doherty	Has anyone really stopped to think through this clearly? Considering the fiscal state of the state, nation, and individuals (onto whom the cost of this project will most certainly be passed)this doesn't seem like a project that anyone should be taking on right now. Yes, I believe that although it will change the look of the bridge, something needs to be done. It would be nice to NOT have the #1 suicide location in the world. But financially, I just don't think it should lead our list of projects in the area.
judie	doherty	I would vote to have a removal barrier between the North and South bound lanes to prevent head on collisions . We need to protect those that want to live 1st.
judie	doherty	How many people jump and kill themselves vs the # of accidents and injuries for people who want to live??
Philip	Doherty	a waste of money. instead lower toll charges
Judith	Doll	I don't think you should be wasting money on a project like this. If people are determined to commit suicide, they'll find an alternative to the Golden Gate Bridge. If you're determined to spend money for suicide prevention, donate to existing suicide programs that are in need of funding.
Judith	Doll	I don't think you should be wasting money on a project like this. If people are determined to commit suicide, they'll find an alternative to the Golden Gate Bridge. If you're determined to spend money for suicide prevention, donate to existing suicide programs that are in need of funding.

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Susan	Dollberg	I do NOT want to see our beautiful bridge changed. What happened to personal responsibility? Foot patrols should be used instead of physically changing the appearance of the bridge. What would these changes do to the stability, sway,etc. during storms and high winds???
Susan	Dollberg	See above.
Stephanie	Dolloff	I think the alternative 1A creates a safe barrier without destroying the aesthetics of the bridge. Definitely overdue.
Caroline	Dombey	I strongly urge an amendment to the bridge's current structure to stop the suicides. As a society, we must help ones less strong. In my 28 years of living in Marin, I am appalled that this issue has not been addressed. The net looks the most inoffensive, and in time to come will not be a blight on the landmark status of this monument.
Paul	Dombey	We as a community must come together to stop the GG Bridge from attracting people who are ill to jump to their deaths. Not to act gives a green light to anyone temporarily struggling, and sends a message that we care more about how this monument looks than its glorified suicide reputation.
Megan	Dominici	I don't care which alternative is used, as long as something is done. The lives of so many people lost jumping from this bridge are much too valuable to not do something.
Megan	Dominici	Please do something to prevent more lives from being lost!!!!
tricia	donahue	aesthetic seems a shallow stance when a barrier could safe lives
Lawrence	Donaker	Can anything be done to capture wind and generate electricity from the long bridge's cross section, such as from the net or vertical sections?
Brent	Donaldson	no more deaths
Brent	Donaldson	no more deaths

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Brent	Donaldson	no more deaths
Brent	Donaldson	no more deaths
Brent	Donaldson	no more deaths
Brent	Donaldson	no more deaths
Christine	Donaldson	SAVING LIVES IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN AESTHETICS!!!
Christine	Donaldson	If people are upset about lessening the aesthetic appeal, hire ana architect that will create an attractive barrier.
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
Ian	Donaldson	no more deaths
David	Donery	Although I am very empathetic to those who have lost a loved one through suicide, it is my feeling that people will find a way to carry it out. What a shame it would be if an expensive system was installed and in a short time people learnd how to circumvent it. My grandfather committed suicide, and he wouldn't have been deterred if one avenue was removed.
Margo Komenar	Donovan	Since the bridge design already has vertical lines in its structure between the towers, building a visually compatible barrier that is created to look like an extension of the current descending vertical lines would not detract from the beauty of the bridge, and could accomplish the goal of acting as a barrier. My vision is an overlapping sweep of vertical lines that begins at hight 6 or 7 times the 4 foot hand rail. The material used would need to be flexible enough to maintain movement necessary for stability in high winds or earthquakes. A netting system below would be an additional precaution. A loud noise like you hear leaving a store with merchandise that has not had the theft guard removed, could be installed to go off at movement on particular places in the barrier.

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Rita J.	Donovan	<p>Seems we need some "expert" advice from psychiatrists. What are the chances that the GG Bridge suicides would have used another means to commit suicide if there had been a bridge barrier?</p> <p>Aren't we in a nebulous area here about how many lives such a costly barrier might even save?</p>
Jessica	Donsky	I am very excited for this news and support on building a barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. My family and I lost my cousin, Matthew Whitmer last year to the bridge, and being that I live in the North Bay, I cannot stand the thought of going back to San Francisco. I hear and see other peoples view points on no alternative, but in the end, we are people, trying to survive with others, and help others. This would help, this would should support for our society, and would give closure to those who continue to feel pain and loss from those gone to the bridge.
Kristin	Dontrich	I just watched the documentary The Bridge. I was surprised that the railings on the bridge were so low...almost making it an easily assessible means. I'm guessing that the proponents for your project are worried about disturbing the aesthetics of the GGB??? If so, the nets seem to be the least altering alternative. I'm wondering if the horizontal system may still enable individuals to climb over the rail...
Carolyn	Doran	It does not make sense to spend \$50 million for this, when we need more desperately an oncoming lane barrier for those who WANT to live. I agree with the SFChron reader who suggested more trained personnel out walking the sidewalks. We cannot make the world bullet-proof for everyone. We need to look at the impact of these structural changes on the greater number of people, not just the few.
Hans	Dorstel	aesthetically, the bridge should stay as it is.
Hans	Dorstel	Alternative 3 is the only aesthetically acceptable one because it doesnot interfere with the field of vision.
Hans	Dorstel	The budget should hardly have the 25 or 50 million US dollars available for such a project. Let's spend this money - if we should have it available - on our educational system and on our deteriorating infrastructure. Suicide candidates will find a different way to end their life.
Petra	Dorstel	All the fencing alternatives are very unattractive - giving the impression of being in jail when looking out onto the beautiful view.

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Petra	Dorstel	Same as above - the only alternative that does not destroy the view is #3. Also why spend so much more money when the least expensive is the best choice???
Petra	Dorstel	I don't think any money should be spent on fencing in the Golden Gate Bridge BUT IF YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING PLEASE CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE 3!
Roberta	Dossick	A suicide barrier should be built.
Riley	Doty	I would like to retain the original rail system while adding to its height.
Riley	Doty	The need for a suicide prevention barrier comes from the recognition that the bridge is a suicide magnet. I understand that was the case with the Eiffel Tower and Empire State Building after they were opened - and that physical barriers ended that situation. Probably the only reason the same response did not occur at the GG Bridge is the fact that the bodies don't splatter on the pavement in a public area. But it is still equally wrong to ignore in this case as in those. Superficially people first think (as I did)that someone determined to commit suicide will just find another time and place. But that turns out not to be so. Impulsiveness and a temporary state of mind loom larger in this equation than one would first think. I recall as a child grappling with the suicide of a member of our church. My father explained to me that someone can be a good person but may become depressed and kill themselves. I was terrified for awhile that I might impulsively do the same - and I struggled for assurance that I never would. Long years later I walked on the GG Bridge. I have not been at all consiously worried about suicide personally, but there was something about that low railing that just seemed disturbing and wrong to me. I ended up only walking about 1/4 way across and returned very troubled and uncomfortable from what I had expected would be a fun experience. I would like for there to be a public fund for grass roots people to contribute voluntarily towards the cost of a barrier. I don't have a lot of money but I would like to contribute to that.
Michael	Doud	Leave the bridge as is.

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Michael	Doud	<p>It is accepting death as we accept life.</p> <p>For those who jumped and stayed alive, obviously it wasn't meant to be, you are still alive. Thinking that creating a barrier is now their new mission in life, they are misled, they haven't looked deep enough.</p> <p>For those who died, that was their path. For those who miss them, I am sorry for your loss and acceptance is where yours (and their) freedom lies.</p>
Doug	Dougson	dont change it..
Doug	Dougson	I am assuming 1A - this alternative will have the lowest impact on the aesthetic...raise the railing by 2ft and see if that deters people.
Doug	Dougson	Spend the money somewhere else...
Kevin	Dowling	The Golden Gate Bridge is an iconic symbol of San Francisco. The bridge district spends a lot of money to paint and light the bridge and any kind of barrier would ruin that. The District should look at restricting public access to walk on the bridge. I was shocked to learn that people could walk across the bridge. The District needs to ask why people jump off their bridge and not the Bay Bridge. IT'S BECAUSE OF ACCESS! It is the same view of the the City. Public access could be maintained through tours for visitors. I know that people recreate over the bridge-- I think restricting this could be better than a barrier.
Stephanie	Downey	Although I checked Alternative 1A as a first choice any option other than no action and the net would be preferable. From the descriptions the verticle and horizontal systems would not impair those walking or biking across the bridge. The systems also do not seem to impair a person's view. It is critical to act on a method that would improve the chances of saving lives.

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Stephanie	Downey	<p>Working for an organization dedicated to preventing suicide and ending the stigma of mental illness, I support restricting the means of access by which people die by suicide as a vital and effective approach for saving lives. This includes the construction of suicide prevention barriers on bridges such as those being considered for the Golden Gate Bridge. Numerous scientific studies examining the effectiveness of bridge barriers and other means restrictions support this position.</p> <p>The barriers will work by giving individuals and those that care for them time; time to change their mind and for someone to intervene. Despite many myths and misconceptions suicide is often an impulsive, ambivalent act, and many who attempt suicide do not want to die they just want to end great psychological pain. Another misconception is that those averted from a suicide attempt will just find another method. Scientific studies raise doubt about this premise. Once barriers are built at one location it has been found that deaths do not increase at other nearby bridges. Building the barrier and reducing the number of deaths by suicide and media coverage; which would help to lessen the image of the Golden Gate Bridge as a suicide magnet. Please build the barrier; save lives!</p>
Andrew	Downs	I strongly support the installation of a barrier. There is nothing sacred about the current 1937 railing and those who complain will get used to it. The lives saved (even though some would choose other methods of suicide) are worth it.
Elizabeth	Doyle	A barrier will save lives.
leah	Doyle	No Build.....because a suicide will find a way to complete what they want to do and instead of the bridge jump they will use the subways and that is disaster and disruption for the whole city
Michelle	Doyle	If someone wants to commit suicide, they will find a way to do it -- on the Golden Gate or somewhere else. So, why should tax payers fund a 40-50m project and change the way the bridge looks? This seems nonsensical. I'm shocked this is even being considered.
Patricia	Doyle	I am absolutely FOR a suicide barrier, having read the article in the NY Times magazine. This article made the issue a "no-brainer" for me. I would encourage you read it yourselves, and to make it available to this constituency. My vote would be for any alternative EXCEPT the net, and EXCEPT doing nothing.

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Tony	Draga	<p>Those set on killing themselves will find a way, if not the bridge then some other way. This is a waste of time and money.</p> <p>We need to spend resources on those who want to live. The movable barrier to prevent head on auto accidents, is far more important. This has been talked about and studied for as long as I can remember. Let's cut the crap and get it done now! Let's save these lives!</p>
Brian	Dragomanovich	There is no substitute for personal responsibility. Please do not alter the aesthetics of the one of a kind GG Bridge!
Chris	Draper	We must not alter the historical bridge. It is as it should be.
Chris	Draper	While it's a terrible shame that more than 1,300 people have taken their own lives, this bridge represents the whole Bay Area. We must live up to its history.
Rosa	Dreety	The Golden Gate Bridge is an historic structure and should not be altered in any way except for the placement of a barrier to avoid head-on crashes in the middle of the Bridge.
Rosa	Dreety	The Right to Die is our final right. No one has the right to take it from us. Although I do not believe in violent means of self-deliverance, I believe the Bridge is a non-violent means of ending one's life should one choose to do so.
Mark	Dreger	I disagree with putting a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge, because I do not think it will serve as a deterrent to suicide nor reduce the number of suicides each year. Suicidal individuals will quickly learn that the Golden Gate Bridge is no longer a location where suicide is possible, and it is not reasonable to assume that just because they cannot jump off the bridge, they will no longer be suicidal (especially in the long-term - when everyone is aware of the suicide barriers). Suicidal individuals will merely seek out another means of killing themselves. Other means, like intentionally overdosing on medications, for example, may fail and leave the individual brain damaged for life. If suicides are stopped on the Golden Gate Bridge, their numbers will merely go up elsewhere. Also, if elsewhere, they might not be able to receive adequate help (e.g. via help telephones, etc.). This would merely be a "feel-good" measure, that would not have its intended effects. Do not get me wrong, more help should be available to suicidal individuals, but this is just not the right way to do it.
Emily	Drennen	BUILD SOMETHING. IT IS A TRAVESTY THAT SO MANY PEOPLE NEEDLESSLY DIE.
Emily	Drennen	BUILD SOMETHING. IT IS A TRAVESTY THAT SO MANY PEOPLE NEEDLESSLY DIE.

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Diana	Drew	<p>If we added a net system to the bridge, people could jump down to the net. Once they got on the net, the person could simply jump off the net and down into the water, resulting in a suicide.</p> <p>With a horizontal system added to the outside handrail, people could possibly climb up the rail like a ladder and jump in.</p> <p>I think the best choice would be to build a vertical system to the outside rail because people could not climb up vertical poles very easily.</p> <p>Any of the five choices would look worse than the original architecture, but fortunately would save many lives.</p>
Ella	Driscoll	The photos of the barriers shown in the Chronicle all look like concentration camp barriers. If there is to be a physical barrier, can't beauty be an option?
Ella	Driscoll	The bridge is a national monument and now has form, function and beauty. It is a world wide icon. If there has to be a barrier, don't do it by spoiling the structural appearance. an inconspicuous barrier , a net is feasible, and certainly, engineers can come up with a durable material that won't frighten away visitors, while protecting those who wish to end their lives here.
Ella	Driscoll	Who will want to visit an ugly barrier contained bridge which convey a message of suicide rather than one of the natural beauty of the Bay and Marin county and San Francisco?
Stacey jack	Drucker duane	I think the vertical extensions would not interfere with the aesthetic of the bridge, and could save many lives. I have read that the bridge was originally designed with higher handrails, but they weren't built. Please raise the rails - it will save so much heartbreak.
Eric	Dudley	The view is secondary to the saving of lives of potential impulsive suicides.
Pat	Duff	all of alternative except NO Build are visually unacceptable
		<p>Dear sir or madam, I believe that the cost of any barrier system will exceed the benefits. If one wants to commit suicide, they will find a way. If the public is determined to spend \$10 - \$40 million on suicide prevention, those dollars could be spent in better ways that would reach more folks contemplating suicide, particularly given the fact that the GG bridge is the site of very few suicides compared to the rest of the city. In terms of pure benefit, taxpayer dollars would be better spent on a center divider system, thus saving the lives of truly innocent victims. Pat Duff</p>

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Carol	Duke	<p>Put the money to use on suicide and drug counseling instead--a million dollars for the next 50 years could be spent more wisely. For example, having a station at the bridge and other locations where disturbed individuals could sit in front of a T.V. screen and talk with a trained person (who is in a sealed, protected off-site room) might bring comfort to the impulse-driven person. Now suicide prevention does a service via telephone, but is always cash-strapped and the telephone may not be the only method that best serves the disturbed person. Others w/ life-threatening illness or other reasons to wish to terminate their life should continue to have a method which does not put others at risk. This is the case in many vehicular accidents, and in railway crossing impediments (as in the catastrophic case where the driver of the car left on the tracks created a collision that resulted in multiple deaths of innocent people).</p> <p>There are now barriers that extend from the bottom edge of the bridge that could possibly be extended.</p> <p>A net could create an "attractive nuisance" that could possibly be a worse solution, attracting dare-devil behavior or attention-getting behavior of a disturbed individual seeking to be "rescued" with all the attendant "sound and fury" of the rescue team. And even worse, what would be the tragedy ---and bridge legal liability-- if either of those possibilities resulted, not in successful (and expensive rescue), but in failure to rescue and unintended death. All that would be needed to insure that the "attractive nuisance" is realized is T.V. airplay of a rescue or a film glorifying the experience to have people drawn to the city to have their "15 minutes of fame" and glory. The only barrier that could have absolute deterrent effect would destroy an iconic structure that gives a great deal of pleasure to those millions of people who cross it awed at its magnificence. This is an important consideration, not to be belittled by those whose who have had a family member or friend who was drawn to the bridge to die. Their grief is legitimate and painful, but wouldn't they have preferred to have the person in pain have legitimate treatment options before all hope was abandoned? Carol Duke, Marriage and Family Therapist.</p>
Jane	Dumont	<p>We cannot afford \$50 million for a bridge barrier. I would rather see the money go to education and mental health programs. If a person is so inclined to take their own life by jumping into the ocean, there are so many places to go. Will you put a barrier along the entire California coastline?</p>
Peter	DuMont	<p>Partial e-mail to KQED "Forum" show 2008-7-9: Why is it a question of "either-or?" Both a barrier AND support for mental health prevention programs are important. An aesthetic barrier on the Bridge will be a major public statement. Like the bridge, it will carry important SYMBOLIC value far outstretching its physical limits; spreading the message of compassion and public responsibility throughout the world. Peter DuMont STAR ALLIANCE Foundation for Peace Berkeley ***** General comment re your website: Please add a clear home-page sentence or hot-link guiding people with little time to spend directly to the helpful visual comparison pages of the draft EIR, pp 13-17.</p>

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Peter	DuMont	I was pleasantly surprised by how attractive Alternative 2B is. What it loses in clear view above, it gains in clearer view below by removing the more massive and opaque existing lower rail. Hooray for that one. Though the aesthetics of Alternative 3
Peter	DuMont	Please see "Forum" e-mail excerpt above.
Peter	DuMont	None.
Peter	DuMont	None.
Peter	DuMont	As above.
Peter	DuMont	Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment and help choose Alt. 2B (first choice, at least pending response to above concerns) or possibly Alt. 3. Hope you will make changes suggested promptly to aid further public input.
Alan	Duncan	All of these barriers detract from the aesthetics of a world landmark and will not deter determined people from their selected fate.
melba	duncan	As a survivor of a serious suicide attempt in 2005 I speak from a place of knowing what it is like to not be yourself in crisis so spiraled down that you take your life. I nearly lost mine and had considered the bridge while I lived in the bay area. Make it safe, it will save lives. It will restore the bridge to being a place of transport and beauty and not a shrine to death for the mentally ill who are drawn to it. There really should be no controversy. make it safe from those who cannot help themselves in those moments. They may find another way to live instead. It is the opnly humane thing to do. I am endlessly grateful that my life was saved.
Margaret	Dunkle	Safer and better prevetion against impulse-suicides. Also attractive.
Joanne	Dunn	Safety is the most important issue for the Bridge, we owe it to all Americans and tourist to have a safe bridge, one that no one can jump off, or be hurt on. To deter people who are looking for an escape, this should not be a bridge for jumpers. I strongly feel we need to do something to make it impossible for people to die from jumping off the bridge.
Joanne	Dunn	I just know safety is the most important issue for the bridge.

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Tim	Dunn	the 10' fences are visually atrocious and destroy a unique and sublime aesthetic experience. it should be noted that although 20 persons on average commit suicide off the bridge a year, another 700 persons on average commit suicide in the greater metropolitan area. the fence will devastate a beloved icon but will not stop suicides.
Kim	Dupuis	People who are going to commit suicide in such a grand manner plan it in advance. If the bridge is changed so that it is no longer an option these people will just change the location for their suicide. You may be able to stop them from committing suicide on the bridge but you will not be able to stop them from committing suicide all together. This is a waste of time & resources.
Theresa	Duran	Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, & 2B are UNACCEPTABLE due to their significant negative impact on bridge aesthetics and potential impact on birds. I'm not totally convinced that Alternative 3 avoids those same problems, but it seems the least offensive of the four Build options.
Carol	Durazzo	Take Golden Gate Bridge is too accessible for people contemplating suicide. We definately need a barrier.
David	Durkee	This project will seriously damage the aesthetic value of one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. Just as San Francisco is trying to bring the movie business back to town, that they have chased out with regulations and high costs. The barrier would have zero effect overall on suicide.
David	Durkee	There are no alternatives to this waste of taxpayer money. You can't save lives. "Saving lives" is a fallacy. Everyone dies. No exceptions. It's up to people to choose how to live, and if need be, when and how to die. That's sacred.
David	Durkee	I can't believe you guys spent \$2 Million of OUR bucks on this worthless study. And I'm dismayed that you setup a web page that clears all my comments when I click on the link to see said worthless study.
David	Durkee	I think I'm done. I can tell you that there are 30K plus deaths from Firearms in this country a year, and 55% of those are suicides. This barrier will have zero effect, except to line the pockets of corrupt politicians and contractors.
David	Durkee	Waste of money. I hope the corruption cash you stole was worth it.
Mary	Duryee	Thoughtful report. Extremely important to create a suicide barrier. I totally support that. Would be great if it did not impede one's line of sight from the bridge -- the net system seems the most reasonable.
Carolyn	Dyer	Please do something to prevent suicides from the bridge. The "No Build" alternative is unacceptable.
Susan	Dynek	the bridge is a beautiful and historic architectural sculpture and is views are truly awesome, it would be criminal to change it.

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Susan	Dynek	the net is the least visually/aesthetically detrimental
Susan	Dynek	any of the "solutions" are an expensive and in very bad taste - why not use the money to fix Doyle Drive or toward pothole repair anywhere in the bay area or any number of health or education related improvements - people will commit suicide somewhere if they want to go that route- there has already been way too much money spent on this vanity project - the people urging it would spend their energy in a more positive way trying to help humanity live a meaningful life - it is one's right to die or live as they want without harming others physically.
Susan	Dynek	ugly
Susan	Dynek	all the ones and twos ruin the view (in the words of Marvin the Martian
mary beth	eadie	Thank you for seeking public feedback. The expense of any proposal to avoid the death of an individual who wants to kill themselves is not something I want to spend money on. The net seems more financially reasonable if something must be done.
Cynthia	Eastin	Do something!
Thomas	Eastin	Something needs to be done. "No Build" should not be an option.
Christopher	Eaton	We definitely need to build some barrier.
Nancy	Ebbert	Maintaining verticality is more aesthetically pleasing.
Nancy	Ebbert	Absolutely needed!! Will be life-saving and life-altering.
gretchen	eberle	This money is better spent on uses for the greater public good. Some folks like to blame their problems on the bridge when they should be looking at themselves for solutions.
Marlina	Eckel	I think that you cannot sanitize the world enough to prevent suicide. What about the Bay Bridge, the San Rafael-Richmond bridge? It does not make sense to build these barriers, especially at the costs.
MaryBeth	Eckis	visually and aesthetically, I think that the alternatives with the transparent panels, are not a good idea because wouldn't it be extremely difficult to keep them clean?
David	Eddy	All of the teenagers in Marin County know the GG Bridge is an easy out for overstressed hormonal teenagers that are random acts of impulse, not chronically suicidal.
Judy	Edghill	Please don't build, if someone is going to kill themselves, they will do it one way or another, and for you to spend all that money and time and effort and change the look of the bridge is a huge unnecessary waste!!!
Theresa	Edison	I believe the net will attract thrill seekers as well as garbage, creating an unsightly mess.

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Nancy	Edmondson	The vertical systems are consistent with swimming pool enclosures, as they discourage climbing. However, any physical barrier, or a net, is better than nothing.
Dan	Edwards	I have limited information on the differences btw the alternatives, but I find it vital to use the most effective alternative in the long-term. It's hard to consider the \$ issue of building these alternatives when one considers the financial loss associated with each suicide.
E A	Edwards	No amount of add-on physical barrier will prevent human beings from jumping, if they are determined to do so. Please don't change the bridge.
Soraya	Efishoff	No build should not be an option. Saving lives and preserving an iconic image from potential deaths.
Beverly	Egan	Save lives!
Joan	Egbert	To spend millions of dollars to prevent any suicide on the bridge is sheer folly. It's not the bridges fault is it? Do you want to shut down the Grand Canyon in case someone wants to jump off? No. No. Do nothing to the bridge. If not the bridge, they will find another way to die. Please don't ruin the beautiful sights from the bridge as well as the bridge itself because of a few mentally ill people.
Andrea	Eichhorn	We cannot protect everyone from themselves. While some suicides may be prevented, they may not be. The investment can be better used to provide suicide prevention.
Aron	Eidelman	Maintain the aesthetic (paint and stylize the system to match the rest of the bridge). Try to make the system as simple and noninvasive as possible, but make sure this doesn't compromise effectiveness.
Judy	Einzig	PLEASE do NOT put up a barrier that ruins the view for pedestrians walking and cars driving across the Bridge. This view is one of the treasures of San Francisco. Please do not wreck it with a visual barrier. The only alternatives you've proposed that don't wreck the view are the net and no intervention. Thank you.
Marc	Eis	This project will not stop those who wish to commit suicide from doing so, it will only move them, and the problem to some other less visited spot. The money proposed for this project could do so much good in helping those in need find real solutions. I feel that this gives the message to "go commit suicide somewhere else", not "we want to help you". Which is another tragedy.

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Susan	Eisen	With determination one can crawl out of the net and continue the jump, unless any number of bones are broken when hitting the net, i.e. a broken neck in a dive, broken legs in a feet first jump and/or broken spine. All other barriers would have to be greased to prevent climbing, or have a grid the size of chickenwire. Besides there are other bridges and cliffs all over the area. G.G. bridge is simply the most available site for suicide.
Beverly	Elcewicz	I think the vertical system to the outside handrail appears to me the most effective because the height of the bridge would discourage people to climb onto the handrails to jump. This would also give witnesses time to call the authorities for assistance.
Beverly	Elcewicz	I am happy to see people recognize this issue as a serious one and are trying to implement strategies to help.
jason	elepano	The environmental analysis does not adequately address the historic nature of the bridge. Additionally, the impact of any changes need to study the impact to wind resistance. Engineering analysis on the changes to resonant frequencies of the structure
jason	elepano	The Golden Gate Bridge is historic, and visual/aesthetic changes should not be made, except to improve/sustain the functionality of the bridge (e.g., retrofit for earthquakes, repairs, wear and tear, etc).
jason	elepano	The Golden Gate Bridge is historic, and visual/aesthetic changes should not be made, except to improve/sustain the functionality of the bridge (e.g., retrofit for earthquakes, repairs, wear and tear, etc).
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on cultural resources such as mental health specialists.
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on cultural resources such as mental health specialists.
jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on public transportation and parks that benefit all, not just a few dozen a year that choose to end their lives.
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jason	elepano	Money spent to change the bridge would be better spent on public transportation that benefit all, including plant and animal species of California.
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jason	elepano	Do not change the bridge. If money is ever found for this type of thing, it is better off spent for mental health specialists and public transportation.
Gregory	Elkinbard	please avoid turning GG into a jail with bars for millions of users just to prevent 30 people a year from taking a deliberate action to end their lives. The rest of us deserve better.
Robert	Elkjer	People will always find ways to commit suicide. Is the govt going to put its finger in every hole in the dike? There are risks all around us---even beautiful, manmade risks. I don't want a government babysitter. Put up a barrier, and tourists will be walking across a cage...not a bridge. Locals will be driving across a cage...not a bridge.
Karen	Ellingboe	I believe it is important to add a suicide barrier to the bridge.
Kenneth	Ellingsen	My wife and I are opposed to any suicide barriers. Would like you to intall the moveable road divider and enforce the 45 mph speed limit on the bridge. I was born in San Francisco and have lived in Marin 25 years; worked in Southbay, first traveled the bridge in the 40s. Leave the beauty as it is now.
Amy	Ellingson	The Golden Gate Bridge is an engineering and design triumph. All of the proposed barriers will mar its beauty. Please use the funds to provide more bridge patrol monitors and suicide prevention programs rather than ruin the beauty of this landmark. Suicide is a terrible tragedy. People kill themselves by many other means--guns, prescription drugs, etc. However, we still haven't enforced gun control, and we have no means of controlling prescription drugs obtained through multiple doctors. In short, there are ways to curtail suicide, but there is no way to prevent it. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES TO OUR BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE. What's next, barriers on the Great Wall of China?
Amy	Ellingson	The care and maintenance of the bridge is already very costly. It seems that extra patrol monitors would be a more cost-effective solution.
Jay	Elliott	Our priority should be to make the roadway safer and our investment should start with a moveable barrier that protects drivers. This bridge should not be altered at great expense to protect a handful of people who want to commit suicide. My concern is that no matter what modifications we make and despite how much money we spend, we won't be saving lives. It's delusional to think we can. If someone is serious about suicide, they'll manage it someday, somewhere and there's not much we can do about it.
MARGARET	ELLIS	I DO NOT FEEL THE BARRIER WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM THAT PEOPLE ARE FACING AS THEY CONTEMPLATE SUICIDE.

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pete	ellis	do not build , it ruins the aesthetic design. People will find numerous other easy ways to end their lives conveniently. Even since this barrier was proposed , there have been more easy ways to commit suicide created, all available with a couple mouse clicks on the internet. work on suicide prevention instead.
Ted	Ellis	I believe that there should not be a barrier but the walkways should be closed if folks are that worried about potential suicides. Other than that 40 to 50 million dollars should be spent on prevention.
Tom	Ellis	Isn't it time to do something to stop all of these preventable deaths? Please act now!
WARREN	ELLIS	Don't spend our money on this. If you want to save lives, build the moveable barrier on the roadway that you have been talking about for years.
Diane	Ellsworth	we should not build any barrier. If we spend money on something it should be a barrier between the north & south lanes
Diane	Ellsworth	this should not be a priority in times of tight money
Darcy	Ellsworth Yow	I actually don't really care all that much about the aesthetics, but do believe that a barrier of some sort does need to be built.
Paul	Ellsworth-Yow	I favor a physical barrier over the net option as it will be more effective.
Jennifer	Elu	The bridge should remain as it was designed.
Marilyn	Embrey	No Build: This is what has allowed 2000+ and counting to die. Not effective.
Don	Emmal	All the alternatives will have aesthetic consequences.The one with the least invasive outcome would be the net;assuming it is safe and effective
Don	Emmal	All the alternatives would have huge impact on the look of the bridge and the views from the bridge except for the net.The net would have minimal negative visual effects.
Don	Emmal	The goal is to prevent impulsive suicides; a caring attitude towards life and its' preservation is the primary cultural goal!
Don	Emmal	The net would acknowledge the reality of jumping from the bridge while providing a way to truly prevent successful jumps thereby enhancing the value of life.
Don	Emmal	With the net alternative the recreational impact would be negligible.
Don	Emmal	It seems thorough and acceptable.

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Don	Emmal	I Believe all the public meetings are over now, Some form of suicide prevention system needs to be constructed. I think the net is the best option because it will be effective and not diminish the beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge!Thanks.
Carol	Emory	You are being influenced by a vocal minority. Please realize that over 75% are against any barrier on the bridge.
Jerry	Emory	Please don't build a barrier on the world's most beautiful bridge. It would be a tragedy. Unfortunately, if a person is intent on committing suicide, they will find a way to do, barrier or no barrier.
Jeremy	Engler	this sounds like a complete waste of money. people will just find something else to jump off of or another way to kill themselves. how about helping Muni or fixing streets before helping people who don't want to be helped?
Karen	Enriquez	I'm sorry for the ones left behind to ask "why" after the death of a loved one. I have been touched by someone committing such a selfish act. However, the GG bridge is magnificent and should not be altered to stop people from jumping.
Bryan	Ericksen	removing the existing handrail would be an aesthetic improvement.
Bryan	Ericksen	Alternatives 1 and 2 run the risk of tourists climbing on them, bending thin metal bars
Jill	Erickson	I care more about having a barrier than I do the aesthetics. Thank you.
Lee	Erickson	the GGB is a national treasure ans should be left unmolested.
JON	ERICSON	No Build NOW until you have the best professional advice on whether building such a barrier would save lives....or merely change the venue of the suicide.
Carolyn	Eriksson	We cannot protect man from himself.
Tim	Erin	Use money to hire Deterrent patrols instead.
Renee	Erle	Net has no visual impact and is less expensive. Horizontal barrier easier for tourists to look through.
Renee	Erle	My grandfather jumped 50 years ago, destroying our family. Just last year my mom's middle-aged friend and my daughter's high school age friend jumped. I doubt any of these people would have killed themselves if it were not for the "easy out" over the low rail. WE NEED TO GET THIS DONE NOW!

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Melissa	Escaron	<p>Hello. I am a Staff Environmental Scientist for the California Department of Fish and Game. I see that bird impacts are being considered as part of the environmental document. I urge you to carefully analyze the potential for bird entanglement (nets) and strikes (windows), including potential effects on young falcons learning how to fly. How will impacts be minimized or avoided? Thank you.</p> <p>Melissa Escaron Staff Environmental Scientist California Department of Fish and Game</p>
Neil	Eskind	<p>This whole exercise is just a silly waste of money. Let's not ruin the looks of the Bridge and spend public money for a needless project which will have no benefit. Unfortunately, those who want to kill themselves will just find another way, like jumping in front of traffic or using violence which may endanger or take the lives of others in the process. A public agency needs to keep its eye on the ball, do its job efficiently, and not try to become the solution provider to all of the world's problems. This money could be far better spent in finding ways to more efficiently operate the Bridge and keep toll costs from continuously increasing. A barrier system to prevent head-on collisions should have the highest priority for Bridge improvements.</p>
Julie	Esposito	<p>Who exactly will keep that site panels clean?</p>
Julie	Esposito	<p>A barrier is not the answer, it is just the answer that the families' of the victims want so that they can blame the suicide on the lack of barrier, not the fact that their family member was mentally ill. IF the money is put towards mental health programs, we can possibly help prevent the suicide and the devastation to the family. By the way, I have 3 friends who committed suicide by shooting themselves and I have a friend who did jump from the bridge. There was no stopping any of them. They would have found an alternative method. The barrier just makes people "feel better" that they could have done something. Instead, let's look at mental illness for what it is related to suicide: despair, depression, no turning back, no alternative all awhile their brain is telling them that they have no option. To think that a barrier would stop them is naive and like putting a band aid on a river- the water will find and alternate route. Treatment before and acceptance that mental illness is real instead of embarrassing, "not real" and something you can get over is wrong. And simply putting up a barrier so that the rest of us can feel better is even worde.</p>

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Kristen	Esterheld	I think the net system would be a good idea because it wont take away from the beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge as much as a higher fence. If some one were to jump into the net it would hopefully scare them enough into getting mental help because they would see their attempted fate below. Also, having or adding surveilance cammeras on the bridge to watch for attempted jumpers may be useful. They would jump into the net and it would be caught on camer, once it's caught on camer and they are still found alive they person could still have a chance to get the appropriate mental attention and should be forced to recieve the appropriate attention. In a way it could help the people that need serious attention because they have acted on their depression and may still have a chance to live and get the help that they need to continue to live the life that they deserve.
Kristen	Esterheld	I went to school with Casey, I was not close with her but it still hits home to know that someone you spent every day at school with could do something like this. To think about what her family and close friends are going through dealing with her death is heart shattering. To take your life away in such a horrifying way and forcing your family to think about it for the rest of their lives is awful. She and many other people who have jumped and considered jumping have such bright lives ahead of them they just need to seek the proper attention. Prevent it before it happens and if they do get the the point of actually trying to jump at least there is some potential to save them. Jumping off the bridge is such a sure way to end your life compared to swallowing a bottle of pills or slitting your rists, at least there is a chance of surviing from that, there is no way to survive by jumping off the bridge. By not having the barrier it's providing a sure fate of death to the people that are serious enough about jumping. There is no coming back once you have made that decision to jump. If you swallow pills or cut yourself at least you still have a chance to get help before you die. By having the net put up you still have that chance to survive and it would severly decrease the suicide rate. Why let the Golden Gate Bridge, one of the most amazing structures in the world, have the reputation of being the place for the highest suicide rate? Help prevent future suicides. Please build the net system. I'm sure there have been enough people that have been effected by the suicides that even if full federal funding wasn't given that many fundraisers could take place to help make up the difference.
Shirley	Etemadfar	I fervently feel that we shouldn't spend this amazing level of resources to construct a barrier on the bridge. I have great empathy with the families of individuals who choose to jump from the Bridge. However, that said, it should not be our responsibility to help so few with so much. I'd rather be forced to spend my money for medical coverage for those who can't afford it; to help the poor put food on their tables; or assist the homeless. Fifty million dollars could help many, many more people.
Robert	Etzler	Leave well enough alone. We wasted billions in Iraq killing people now some want to waste millions here at home trying save someone from themselves. Enough already. This is San Francisco not Dallas Texas! Live and let live. Money should be spent to those wanting to live not wasted on those who for whatever reason have demons they wish to rid themselves of.

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Jane	Euler	The GG Bridge is known worldwide. Do not change the look in any way. Any changes could impact the structural design of the bridge, would require more maintenance dollars and ultimately would not be worth the extreme cost to build and maintain. There are phones in place for those who aren't sure they want to go over the railing. For those who want to, they would still find a way. Don't waste the money.
Leigh	Evans	We can certainly spend the funds on improving lives of people in the Bay Area. For the few who want to end their lives, nothing can be done to deter that if the will to die is strong enough. PLEASE! Do not waste money on this ineffective project.
Tom	Evans	It appears that the barriers added onto the existing railing (vertical or horizontal) do the best job of keeping the historic look of the bridge while providing this important safety feature.
Liz	Ewing	I believe that if a person is so distraught, he or she will find another way to end their life.
Dan	Ezekiel	Of course the high rails are unsightly compared to a 4-foot rail. But, I think the low rails were a major design error by the architects of 70-80 years ago, and it's our responsibility to correct this mistake. I disapprove of nets, due to the magnitude of efforts required to retrieve jumpers. I think if the bridge were designed and built today, it would have high rails and that's what I support.
Dan	Ezekiel	I am a mental health professional employed in the public sector. I understand the intense and irrational nature of ambivalent severely depressed individuals to make regrettable decisions in a crisis, or based upon a passing impulse. I know that a sizable portion of the jumpers acted impulsively. And, that's why a barrier is needed. In most cases, suicide is not a rational decision; therefore, our decision regarding building a barrier shouldn't be based upon supposedly rational suicidal individuals. Such analyses miss the mark completely.
Linnea	Faeth	Do not change the look of the bridge.
Linnea	Faeth	So what a few people jump!? Why do we have to save people from themselves?
Anders	Fairbanks	Vertical seems to blend in more with the existing structure of the bridge. I disagree with anyone who says it looks like prison bars - it just looks like a fence.
Anders	Fairbanks	This really should be done. I hope that the many, uniformed voices who claim "if they want to jump, let 'em do it, because they'll go somewhere else otherwise" do not drown out what experts and studies have posited.

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Linda	Farnam	Visual, economic, psychological disaster in the making. Cost = \$38,000 per suicided over 70 years...RIDICULOUS. Center crash barrier for those who want to live a MUCH BETTER idea. Have cameras, foot/bike patrol. Less obstrusive and less \$\$\$.
Linda	Farnam	I will personally work to replace every director on the Board if this goes through...that goes for you Charles McGlashing for Supervisor of Southern Marin as well. Don't at be bullied by the vocal minority.
J	Farnsworth	Despite the popularity of jumping off this bridge, there are millions of other high places in the world from which a voluntary fall will end your life. There is no reason to build this barrier. It will not stop anyone from hurting themselves, who wishes to do so. Please do not waste your time and money on this project.
Carol	Farrant	I think the bridge should be left alone. People come from all over the world and include it as a "must see" when they visit San Francisco. Looking down over the railing is half of the view/fun. Leaving the bridge alone has no visual/aesthetic impact. In light of the fairly recent events (demonstration concerning Tibet), it seems that if someone is really determined there is nothing you can build that will stop them.
Carol	Farrant	I simply find the Net System to be the least visually offensive. It does not obstruct the view. I have not read the report, so my comments obviously have to be taken in that light. If the net is made out of something that cannot be easily cut by a pocket knife or scissors, it should do the job as well as anything could. Plus, it could serve double duty as protection for the folks working on the bridge. Right now workers string up a rather unsightly net. Why not have permanent employee protection painted to match the bridge.
Linda	Fassig	I lived in the city for 15 years and now live in Tiburon. I driving over the Golden Gate Bridge every week because it is so beautiful but if a barrier will save lives. I don't really care what it looks like. Our neighbors are devastated by the suicide of their daughter.
Joe	Fay	we DO NOT need a suicide prevention barrier. Please allocate funds to other road and Bridge improvements. The suicide prevention can be accomplished with volunteers patrolling the Bridge.
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Florence`	Fee	<p>The FACT is that the GGB DOES draw suicidal people to it, and we as San Franciscans simply cannot ignore that reality. Whatever option we choose, PLEASE let us not continue to "help" people end their lives, (often due to dispair over a mental disorder for which they have received no treatment), by our inaction and inertia. Remove easy ways to commit suicide, and fund and support effective treatments for mental illness. After all, mental health is one part of overall health, along with physical health.</p>
Florence`	Fee	See above.
Jeff	Fehr	50 million dollars to stop someone who doesn't wish to be here -- someone who can find an avenue of escape anywhere. With 50 million dollars, I wonder what the city/county/state could do to help the families and children who are struggling to be here, teachers and schools that need funds, and programs to help the communities. Building a suicide prevention bridge is an insult to the community and tax payers who will pay for it.
Ernst	Feibusch	<p>stop screwing around with the aesthetics of the bridge.</p> <p>If someone want to jump, let 'em jump.</p>
Paul	Feigenbaum	I favor the complete replacement of the rail with the horizontal bars with a winglet on the top. I think it improves the view, prevents suicide, and matches the interior bike rail.

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paul	felton	<p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!</p>
Porter	Felton	<p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!</p>

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paul	felton	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.
Porter	Felton	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.
Tony	Felton	<p>ALL the alternatives for suicide prevention strategies are foolish and unneeded. In a purely Darwinian concept, people who commit to, and proceed with their own suicides, are serving the human race in a way that takes them out of the breeding pool. While this sounds hard-hearted, particularly to the bereaved who are left behind with grief and a ton of unanswered questions, it is still the best for all the rest of us, as a group...</p> <p>At a time when the Bridge Authority is so hard pressed for funds that it is perpetually running in the red, an additional expenditure such as this is simply not justified. It is unfortunate that hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent on this effort in fact-finding endeavors, but that should not make this a self-fulfilling project.</p>

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Eduardo	Fenili	<p>This is a bad idea to begin with. It is the same as saying that removing a weapon from a persons hand will cause them to not be violent.</p> <p>The barrier will do nothing but 1. destroy the look of a world landmark 2. remove tourists and 3. cause suicide victims to find alternative ways to hurting themselves.</p> <p>Suicide is not an impulse.</p>
Elizabeth	Fenner-Lukaitis	People are dying, do something
Cherielyn	Ferguson	The net is the least obtrusive and is the best choice among the alternatives. Please work as hard as possible with those opposing the barrier to educate them about the impulsive nature of some suicides, the fact that the majority of people discouraged from jumping do not go on to find another means, and how devastating suicide is to families. I wish opponents could better measure the transient loss of their treasured view against the permanent loss of a spouse, child, or parent.
James	Ferguson	It is important to have some barrier on the bridge, but it also is important to minimize the visual impact of the barrier and to maximize the sense of openness for pedestrians.
Juan	Fernandez	I don't believe it's our responsibility to build barriers to people who chose to take their lives. Give them an alternative to suicide via hotline, etc and then let the individual make the decision whether or not to jump.
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Juan	Fernandez	I don't believe it's our responsibility to build barriers to people who chose to take their lives. Give them an alternative to suicide via hotline, etc and then let the individual make the decision whether or not to jump.
Jeanine	Fetterly	<p>My husband of 32 years committed suicide - impulsively, because an easy means was available. He was not mentally ill, visibly depressed or on medication. Our families were shocked and devastated! Yet I vehemently OPPOSE destroying the integrity of the magnificent Golden Gate Bridge, a World landmark and a joy to millions of people. To drive across it - or walk or bike - and enjoy an unrestricted view of our spectacular Bay Area is a right that should be preserved. NOTHING should be placed above the 4' railings making those on the bridge feel caged in.</p> <p>I'm in favor of other deterrents and with the 50 million or more saved in barrier construction there could be more surveillance cameras, guards stationed on the bridge.... And for those who run out and jump quickly and impulsively - well, it is ultimately THEIR choice. Suicide, whether well planned or impulsive, is usually a selfish decision and millions of people should not be made to suffer because a few choose to end their life in a dramatic way. Its not the responsibility of the Golden Gate Bridge District to protect people from themselves!!!!</p>
kaye	fichman	I prefer the more open designs but would be willing to have one of the designs that maintains the current guardrail if it would save money not to remove it. It is likely that some money would be saved by not needing the Bridge Patrol for suicides. The net would require recurring costs of taking people out of the net. In any case, the main thing is that we act humanely and create a suicide deterrent as soon as possible.
Kaye	Fichman	My choices are the ones that have the most aesthetic appeal to me. The vertical design is similar to the Bloor St. Viaduct barrier in Toronto, Canada. Leaving the existing handrail could give someone "a leg up."-so I favor removing the handrail but if cheaper to leave it, so be it.

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Rick	Fieber	I do not feel that any of the systems contemplated will detract, visually, from the span. I do have concerns about the horizontal net. What happens if the net fails, or if, during rescue of a person, there is an accident? A tall guardrail (vertical) would stop most attempts, but the truly, truly determined might find success without danger to rescuers.
Rick	Fieber	The GGB is such a beautiful structure and so widely photographed and shown, I can't imagine the anguish a parent/brother/sister/child would go through everytime he/she sees a photo of the 'beautiful' span, knowing a loved-one ended their life there. As a parent of three young kids, and knowing how tough growing-up can be in Marin, I could never stand to look at the bridge should one of my kids commit suicide there. I've felt this way long before reading stories of parents' anguish. Think about how tough it is to enter a room where a loved-one died a natural death. Then think of how ubiquitous photos of the GGB are. How difficult would it be always see such photos, let alone cross the bridge every day!
Patricia	Fields	The statements that suicidal people who may be prevented from jumping off the bridge do not use an alternative method to die simply has no validity in fact. There is no way of knowing this. But we do know that a median barrier prevents head on collisions. Note the example of the median barrier on Highway 37.
Patricia	Fields	No money should be spent on a barrier. Use the money to build a median barrier, provide alternative transportation, or rebuild Doyle Drive. Did anyone consider reducing the toll, or more suicide patrols? Stop the hysteria about suicidal people and concentrate on the people who want to live.
Donald	Fike	The beauty of the original structure should remain intact.
Donald	Fike	An ill conceived waste of financial resources at a time when drivers are seeing tolls increase at an increasing rate. Don't do it!
Marilyn	Filbrun	I am concerned about the cost of this given the current budgetary issues of the District and the challenges of high gas costs and the potential cost of improving Doyle drive. Your first obligation is to transportation. Marin has poor public transit options other than the commute hours. When you get all this resolved and have reserve in your budget then you should talk about the suicide barriers. In the meantime, you could close the walkways to pedestrians. (The north bound walk is full of unhealthy car exhaust anyway)
Adam	Filly	Let's not deface a national monument please. Suicide is tragic, but there are better means of prevention.
Adrian	Fine	Net is least visually intrusive. Also, if it is made to be very painful for jumpers, I think it would ward off pranksters and real suicide attempts.
Francie	Finn	thanks
Kevin	Finn	Thank you

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David	Fiol	Any addition to the bridge will consume physical resources, which is unwarranted in this age of limited resources and environmental degradation. Any barrier also will, in my view, impair the aesthetic value of the bridge. I value the unimpaired views both horizontally and vertically to the water, as I'm sure many, many others do.
David	Fiol	At a time when the District is hard-pressed to make ends meet, it should focus all time and resources on its core function: maintenance of the existing structure. I urge the Board to quickly and conclusively reject plans for a suicide barrier and attend to its primary responsibilities.
Hollie	Fischer	If people was to kill themselves, they'll find another way, bridge or no bridge. Don't ruin the look of the bridge because of a few people. If they want to jump, let them do it. You should donate the money to suicide education in school... or to schools in general. Do you know how BAD our local school system is?
Hollie	Fischer	Don't ruin the view of millions for a few.
Ann	Fish	I donot think a net is sufficient. I have known patients and friends who have suicided and fear the horizontal bars are necessary.
Teresa	Fisher	I understand that the Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Bay Area, and I would not want to diminish its beauty, but a state landmark should not be one of the most well-known sites for suicide attempts. That diminishes its beauty right there.
Masaru	Fisher, M.D.	see below
Masaru	Fisher, M.D.	I am a board certified psychiatrist who works for SF City and County. As raised by many before, the millions of dollars would be far better spent on other suicide prevention/depression treatment services. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will find a way; a barrier on the GGB would only potentially dissuade people from suiciding at that site and not dissuade them from their suicidal ideations overall.
Amy	Fiske	Having been a long-time Bay Area resident (1980-2005) and now a frequent visitor, I love the views from the GG Bridge. And I believe that alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B would preserve those views while providing much needed protection to our more vulnerable members of society who might need it.
Amy	Fiske	As a clinical psychologist, I am deeply aware of the devastating effect of suicide--not only the taking of an individual's life, but the effects on family, friends, community. I am also aware of the life-saving impact of bridge barriers that have been in place in New Zealand and other locales. I applaud your efforts to explore viable options for a barrier on our beloved Golden Gate Bridge.

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John	Fitzgerald	Commuter and visitor toll money can be put to better use than engineering, constructing, and maintaining any such barrier.
Karen	Fitzgerald	<p>I prefer the vertical system because it is harder to climb. The outside handrail might also help. Earthquake safety is also important.</p> <p>I think things that slow them down would help security to do their job.</p>
Karen	Fitzgerald	I think the net is not a great idea, because people could still jump, and then crawl.
Kathryn	Fitzgerald	<p>I strongly support building a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge because this would save two dozen lives annually, and because the environmental impacts would be minimal. Any of the proposed barriers would be superior to the "no build" option. I have selected Alternative 2A as my first choice, and Alternative 2B as my second choice, because I believe that these two alternatives would be most effective in preventing suicides.</p> <p>All of the plans adequately preserve views by leaving space between the cables or bars, and by including transparent panels. A slight loss of views is a very reasonable price to pay for a project that will save human lives.</p> <p>As suggested in the DEIR, the transparent panels should be treated with a U.V. coating in order to deter bird collisions.</p> <p>I agree with the DEIR that the construction activity itself would have only a minimal impact on wildlife and vegetation, since most of the construction would occur in areas that have already been heavily developed by humans. I agree with the mitigation measures proposed in the DEIR, such as flagging native plants in sensitive areas, and educating workers about environmentally friendly work practices. Since the affected natural areas would be geographically small, mitigation measures could be accomplished at relatively low cost.</p> <p>A suicide barrier would enhance the Bridge as a recreational resource since the barrier would spare tourists the traumatic experience of witnessing someone jump off of the Bridge.</p> <p>The Bridge Board should choose the plan that is statistically most likely to prevent suicides, if studies has been done on this issue. I prefer plan 2A because it appears to be the most difficult to climb (since it has no horizontal bars or cables that could be used as a ladder).</p> <p>Although I am submitting my preferences regarding specific aspects of the project, I want to emphasize that the most important objective is to build the barrier SOON. Do not allow minor disagreements about the details</p>

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		of the project to delay construction. The sooner we build the barrier, the more lives we can save.
Marie	Fitzgerald	Please keep the same. WASTE OF MONEY
Marie	Fitzgerald	Please keep the same. WASTE OF MONEY
Marie	Fitzgerald	Please keep the same WASTE OF MONEY

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Marie	Fitzgerald	Please keep the same. WASTE OF MONEY
Marie	Fitzgerald	Please keep the same. WASTE OF MONEY
Marie	Fitzgerald	Please keep the same. WASTE OF MONEY
Rebecca	Fitzgerald	Please do not destroy the beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge. Please do not spend the money on any of the alternatives.

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Suzanne	Fitzgerald	A vertical rail would seem to be harder to scale than a horizontal one, and the present 4-foot rail is inadequate. I cannot think of the Bridge as beautiful, knowing of the many deaths it has led to, and that it will continue to do so if no barrier is built. We must not ignore this need!
Patrick Mike	Fitzgerald, Sr. Fitzpatrick	I join the Democratic and Republican parties, the S.F. Board of Supervisors and the MTC in supporting a suicide barrier on the Bridge. Patrick Fitzgerald, Sr., past Secy. S.F. Democratic Party
		At \$50,000,000 that puts the average suicide cost at \$40,000 based on 1,250 suicides since the bridge opening in 1937. I realize this barrier may be a deterrent to some impulse suicides but what percentage are impulse. Last year 35 people leapt, greater
Janet	Fjeldstad	There are so few things in life that we can control. I do not believe we should revise the few icons of beauty in this world, shared by so many around the world, to attempt the prevention of the behavior of a few unfortunate people.
Annette	Flachman	Ridiculous to spend millions to prevent a few people from committing suicide by jumping from the bridge. If they're bound and determined to commit suicide, they'll commit suicide. The officials in this country, from small districts to top government, seem to have an agenda to waste tons of money they don't have on projects that benefit very few. Let's stop wasteful spending and start being realistic.
jim	flack	A very small percentage of all the suicides in the Bay Area occur on the bridge, therefore, on balance, we should spend the resources elsewhere to be more effective.
jim	flack	A very small percentage of all the suicides in the Bay Area occur on the bridge, therefore, on balance, we should spend the resources elsewhere to be more effective.
Anne	Fleming	I think all of the build alternatives are quite attractive. I find the no build alternative unattractive because it is a visual reminder of the continuing suicides on the Golden Gate Bridge
Anne	Fleming	My first two choices are to replace the railing. I think the current railing is quite visually "heavy" and blocks the view for anyone not tall enough to see over it (especially children). replacing the railing (2A/2B) with a visually "lighter" lighter railing improves the view for them. In addition, it prevents the current danger of a child being held up to see over the railing (which I have seen happen at many times on the bridge) and falling off.

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Anne	Fleming	All of the build alternatives (1a,1B,2a,2b) improve the cultural status of the bridge. They would remove the stigma of being the number one suicide spot in the world and instead the bridge could symbolize compassion and helping others at their most desperate.
Anne	Fleming	I use the bridge frequently for recreation (walking, biking and driving) and none of the barriers would harm my experience in any way

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Anne	Fleming	<p>I am submitting a response to the report submitted by Garrett Glasgow. PLease note I have also previousuly commented on the Draft EIR as well.</p> <p>John J Moylan, President Golden Gate Bridge District P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station San Francisco, CA 94129-0601</p> <p>August 22, 2008</p> <p>Dear Mr. Moylan,</p> <p>We are responding to a report sent to you by Mr. Garrett Glasgow regarding the evidence for the effectiveness of a physical suicide deterrent system on the Golden Gate Bridge. We have significant concerns about this report as we feel it paints an inaccurate picture of the evidence and does not reflect the view of the majority of researchers on this subject. Mr. Glasgow asserts, "To date, every study on the effectiveness of suicide barriers has been inconclusive." However, the authors of these studies would disagree with him. Every author of all published studies on the effectiveness of suicide barriers has concluded that his or her study supports the effectiveness of bridge barriers to save lives. The evidence for the effectiveness of suicide barriers is similar to the evidence for the health dangers of smoking (which were long disputed as not conclusively proven): no single study can conclusively prove the case, but the collected results of study after study point to a clear answer.</p> <p>The medical literature is clear that reducing access to lethal means (such as building bridge barriers) is an effective method in preventing suicide. In the largest review to date (published in the Journal of the American Medical Association), Mann et al. concluded "these studies demonstrate the life-saving potential of restricting lethal means." In addition, the three other scientific reviews, including one that specifically looked at suicide by jumping, concluded that means restriction is an effective method of suicide prevention. , , Finally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has concluded that means restriction is effective and includes it as one of its National Goals for Suicide Prevention (Goal 5: Promote Efforts to Reduce Access to Lethal Means and Methods to Self-Harm)</p>

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		<p>The overwhelming evidence that reducing access to lethal means is an effective method of suicide prevention strongly supports the effectiveness of bridge barriers, particularly one easily accessible and as close to a large population center such as the Golden Gate Bridge. However, there are several studies on bridge barriers in particular, and all authors conclude that their study supports the efficacy of suicide prevention barriers. Glasgow quotes these studies out of context or otherwise minimizes their findings. In the end, Glasgow ignores the large collection of evidence and instead focuses on the fact that no single study can prove the case (which would be unusual in such an area of public health research).</p> <p>A striking example of Glasgow quoting a study out of context comes from the study by Riesch et al Glasgow writes, "Reisch et al. (2007) test the relationship between suicide by jumping and the accessibility of bridges and conclude "[b]arriers on bridges may prevent suicides but also may lead to a substitution of jumping site or method" (p681.)" However, the sentence is not from the conclusion of the paper. It is on the first page as part of the introduction. In fact, it is the very question that authors are attempting to answer "how many suicides would be prevented and how many suicides would still occur with a substitution of method. The authors report, "Regions with high rates of bridge suicides were identified and compared with regions with low rates, and the analysis revealed that only about one third of the individuals would be expected to jump from building or other structures if no bridge was available." Their report suggests that only one third of people would substitute a new jumping site. The authors' actual conclusion is "The results support the notion that securing bridges may save lives."</p> <p>In addition, Glasgow minimizes the findings of the other studies on suicide barriers. He states that Pelletier and Bennewith's studies do not support efficacy of bridge barrier, when both authors conclude that their studies do, in fact, support this efficacy. Pelletier's study at the Aurora River bridge in Augusta, Maine did find a 9% decrease in the suicide rate in Augusta after the construction of the barrier (which was greater than the 3% decrease seen in the surrounding area). While this decrease did not achieve statistical significance (i.e. there is still the possibility that the decrease was due to chance), it is another piece of evidence supporting the effectiveness of barriers. Pelletier reported his conclusion, "On the basis of this study, the safety fence seemed to be effective in preventing suicides." Bennewith et al. found a statistically significant reduction in the rate of male suicide by jumping after the construction of the Clifton River Bridge. In addition, there was an overall reduction in the suicide rate by jumping, though it did not reach statistical significance. Bennewith concludes, "This study provides evidence for the preventive role of barriers on bridges." Reisch and Michel looked at suicides off the Bern Meunster Terrace after the installation of a safety net and found a significant decrease in the number of suicides by jumping. They concluded, "The number of people jumping from all high places in Bern was significantly lower compared to the years before, indicating that no immediate shift to other nearby jumping sites took place." They had an additional interesting point, "An installation of a physical barrier has an effect which reaches beyond physical obstruction. It may be perceived as a sign of care."</p> <p>Similarly, Glasgow states that O'Carroll and Silverman's paper does not unequivocally prove that the Ellington suicide barrier saved lives. Of course, no single paper can offer unequivocal proof, and the authors would be imprudent to claim that theirs did. However, the authors did find that constructing a suicide barrier</p>

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		<p>on the Ellington bridge eliminated suicides at that bridge while there was no increase in suicides at the nearby Taft bridge (which is easily visible to from the Ellington bridge). In addition, the suicide rate in the Washington D.C. area fell after construction of the barrier. The authors did not feel that their study could offer unequivocal proof but did again feel that their study supported the effectiveness of suicide barriers.</p> <p>In addition to the above studies, studies by Beautrais , Rosen and Seiden all looked at the question of preventability and suicide by jumping and concluded that their study supported the efficacy of barriers. All told, there are eight separate studies looking at the question of whether bridge barriers could be effective, and all of the authors feel that their studies support this efficacy. There are no published studies of bridge barriers that do not support this efficacy. This is in addition to the huge body of literature on the efficacy of means reduction in general. Glasgow states "no existing research has been able to rule out the possibility that suicide barriers simply lead people to commit suicide in another place or way." Again, the picture is similar to the case for the health dangers of smoking or the existence of global warming. No single study can prove the case, and it is impossible to completely rule out the possibility of the opposite scenario. However, the collection of a large body of evidence clearly points to the answer that smoking does cause cancer, global warming does exist, and a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge would save many, many lives.</p> <p>Anne Fleming, M.D., M.S. Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry University of California, San Francisco San Francisco, CA 94110</p> <p>David Elkin, M.D. Clinical Professor of Psychiatry University of California, San Francisco San Francisco, CA 94110</p> <p>Mann JJ, Apter A, Bertolote J, Beautrais A, Currier D, Haas A, Hegerl U, Lonnqvist J, Malone K, Marusic A, Mehlum L, Patton G, Phillips M, Rutz W, Rihmer Z, Schmidtke A, Shaffer D, Silverman M, Takahashi Y, Varnik A, Wasserman D, Yip P, Hendin H. Suicide prevention strategies: a systematic review. JAMA. 2005 Oct 26;294(16):2064-74.</p>
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		<p>Gunnell D, Nowers M. Suicide by jumping. Acta Psychiatr Scand. 1997 Jul;96(1):1-6.</p> <p>Daigle MS. Suicide prevention through means restriction: assessing the risk of substitution. A critical review and synthesis. Accid Anal Prev. 2005 Jul;37(4):625-32.</p> <p>Hawton K. Restricting access to methods of suicide. Crisis. 2007 (Suppl 1): 4-9.</p> <p>Summary of National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action. SAMHSA http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/suicideprevention/strategy.asp</p> <p>Glasgow, G. Report on the proposed Cold Spring Canyon Bridge Suicide Barrier. Feb 5, 2008.</p> <p>Reisch T, Schuster U, Michel K. Suicide by jumping and accessibility of bridges: results from a national survey in Switzerland. Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2007 Dec;37(6):681-7.</p> <p>Reisch et al. 2007</p> <p>Pelletier AR. Preventing suicide by jumping: the effect of a bridge safety fence. Inj Prev. 2007 Feb;13(1):57-9.</p> <p>Pelletier 2007.</p> <p>Bennewith O, Nowers M, Gunnell D. Effect of barriers on the Clifton suspension bridge, England, on local patterns of suicide: implications for prevention. Br J Psychiatry. 2007 Mar;190:266-7.</p> <p>Bennewith 2007.</p> <p>Reisch T, Michel K. Securing a suicide hot spot: effects of a safety net at the Bern Muenster Terrace. Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2005 Aug;35(4):460-7.</p> <p>Reisch and Michel 2005.</p> <p>O'Carroll, PW, & Silverman, MM. (1994). Community suicide prevention: the effectiveness of bridge barriers. Suicide Life Threat Behav, 24(1), 89-91; discussion 91.</p> <p>O'Carroll and Silverman 1994.</p> <p>Beautrais AL. Effectiveness of barriers at suicide jumping sites: a case study. Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2001 Oct;35(5):557-62.</p> <p>Rosen DH. Suicide survivors. A follow-up study of persons who survived jumping from the Golden Gate and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridges. West J Med. 1975 Apr;122(4):289-94.</p> <p>Seiden RH. Where are they now? A follow-up study of suicide attempters from the Golden Gate Bridge. Suicide Life Threat Behav. 1978 Winter;8(4):203-16.</p> <p>Glasgow 2008.</p>

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Comment

emily	fletcher	the suicides must be stopped

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Renee	Flower	Alternative 2A provides enhanced visibility to pedestrians and motorists while preventing suicides. Alternative 1A preserves the original handrail and provides an aesthetically elegant suicide prevention barrier that does not detract from the original bridge design.
Don	Fluitt	I think it is absolutely absurd to spend the MILLIONS of dollars to create this barrier while the budgets of mental health clinics in the various counties in the bay area are being slashed. Spend the money where it will save more than the 20 people a year that commit suicide off the bridge.
William	Flynn	The beautiful Golden Gate Bridge is not causing anyone to commit suicide. Please leave it beautiful and avoid squandering a lot of money on it.
chris	fogle	Please Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs.
John	Fogle	All the barriers are ugly and ruin the aesthetics of a beautiful structure. Having walked and driven across it hundreds of times, I can't imagine how awful they will look.
John	Fogle	All barriers are too expensive, especially considering that, according to the EIR/EA report, in 2005 there were 58 people stopped from jumping and 23 who did. That means the present measures for suicide prevention work 72% of the time. This is a respectable number and proof they the present measures are working and nothing further needs to be done.
John	Foley	Please bear in mind that this survey of public opinion is flawed in favor of a suicide barrier. People who want the barrier are much more likely to participate in this kind of survey. Regardless of what this survey indicates, most people want the bridge left alone, and that includes me. By the way, I am lifelong resident of Marin, and I do care deeply about this.
Susan	Foley	All alternatives I have seen are ugly.
Susan	Foley	All alternatives are ugly.
Susan	Foley	Do not build this thing, any of it.
Susan	Foley	Do not build this thing, any of it. It's ugly and wasteful of public money. Suicide prevention programs will do a lot more good.
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Susan	Foley	Do not build this thing, any of it. It's ugly and wasteful of public money. Suicide prevention programs will do a lot more good.
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
bill	folla	no build
J.	Folla	The Golden Gate Bridge is an iconic, historical site known around the world and should be left in it's original form.
J.	Folla	To spend 40 to 50 million dollars in these fiscal hard times is ludicrous, but is outrageous at any time. I'm all for helping people who turn to suicide in desperate times, but you could probably help them more by using this kind of money more directly. Many would just go somewhere else to do the deed. Lets be responsible emotionally and fiscally. If we have that kind of money, let's put it to better use.
CB	Follett	<p>With 50 million one could certainly have many years of foot patrol to prevent suicide. And then another 50 million when folks start jumping from the west side. How many injuries and death annually on the bridge, how many in the bay area? There is still no barrier between the two sides of the bridge.</p> <p>Do not change the bridge. Do not alter its appearance. It is an important landmark. Do not add extra weight to the bridge.</p> <p>I feel strongly about this. I feel badly for those who jump. I wish they had other ways of healing themselves, and I don't think the barrier will help them. Use the money to help them.</p>
Sandy	Fong	Horizontal System may be easier to climb than Vertical System.
Shelton	Fong	No Build.
Shelton	Fong	No Build.

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Austin	Ford	<p>Spending priorities and operational costs, Tolls are high enough. Support prevention programs to work at the cause / root of the problem.</p> <p>You can't stop evolution and survival of the fittest. If someone wants to kill themselves, they're going to. Don't be concerned about the location and method, prevent the situation altogether.</p>
Joyce Blu	Foreman Forman	<p>While I value all life - putting a barrier in place will not deter someone who is suicidal from finding another option (even if it is a fleeting suicidal moment).</p> <p>Placing a physical barrier impacts everyone.</p> <p>Would this mean that all bridges, everywhere will have fences built 30 feet high? Is there a barrier at Niagara Falls? If anything, building a barrier creates a notion that suicide is a possibility.</p> <p>The horizontal system would not work - as it is basically putting STEPS that can be scaled to walk up to the top!</p>
Blu	Forman	Although I am impressed with designs as they are not as horrible as I had anticipated, the truth is that any increased barrier (unless invisible) will diminish the aesthetic quality of the bridge.
Blu	Forman	none
Blu Blu	Forman Forman	<p>Its a very expensive wasted effort that will not change the outcome for mentally ill people one iota. Please stop this wasted effort and focus on dealing with mental health issues before they lead to the act of suicide. The concept of a functional suicide barrier on the GG bridge is a farce. There are so many other ways to kill oneself. Even if one those "barriers" prevented someone from attempting to end their life there, once they have reached the point where they have resolved to die, they WILL find a way to end their life.</p>
Blu	Forman	None.

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Blu	Forman	Wasting scant public resources on this foolish project removes more money from the budget (or puts us more in debt, as it were). Even if California could afford this, the money could be better used for public parks and recreation. Improvements which everyone can benefit from possibly will have an overall positive affect on people's mental health which may even lead to less suicidal people anyway.
Blu	Forman	None.
Blu	Forman	When the report comes out I will evaluate it.
Blu	Forman	none yet
Blu	Forman	When the report comes out I will evaluate it.
Blu	Forman	SAA
Judith	Forman	The visual impact will be minimal. But I don't really care how it looks. If it saves lives, that's much more important.
Judith	Forman	Alternative 1B seems to me to have the smallest impact on the appearance of the bridge.
Judith	Forman	Adding these safety features does not damage or alter the bridge's historical significance in any way, so I don't see a problem. San Francisco is a beautiful city. The Golden Gate is a beautiful bridge. By saving lives, the new safety features will make
Judith	Forman	Adding safety features to prevent suicides has no impact on the land or recreational use of the bridge, as far as I'm concerned. I've never heard of anyone jumping off the bridge for fun!
Judith	Forman	The only biological impact I see in this is the prevention of suicides.
Judith	Forman	The environmental analysis seems perfectly adequate to me.
Judith	Forman	It's about time!
Paul	Forrest	Any kind of barrier would detract from the visual/aesthetic appearance of the bridge and the views of the city, and spoil it for the many many tourists who visit the bridge every year.
Jack	Forrester	PLEASE!! do not spoil this beautiful bridge with such a ridiculous practically idiotic notion of deterring suicide.
Jack	Forrester	I could climb right over that new fence and kill myself. especially if i wanted to kill myself
Jack	Forrester	it is a hideous realization of moronic liberal notions. ruining our most treasured landmark.
Jack	Forrester	we want to have abortions and put up suicide barriers? what's wrong with you guys?
Jack	Forrester	an abomination of one of the seven wonders of the world.

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Jack	Forrester	so people will just have to jump off the bay bridge instead. great.
Jack	Forrester	it will hurt the feelings of the local wildlife that have grow accustomed to the beauty of the bridge.
Jack	Forrester	don't build anything.
Jack	Forrester	ridiculous. absolutely insane.
Jack	Forrester	You guys won't quit until you've destroyed one of the most beautiful cities in the world. we're a laughing stock. in europe too. don't give me this, oh, we're a more european city. we're not. the parisians think we're a joke. start acting like adult
Lynne	Forrette	Culturally, we should let people kill themselves in a more humane way and spend the millions of dollars on hungry children and adults living in California. To spend that kind of money to save 38 people is ridiculous. Talk about no bang for your buck!! Surely that money can be spent on our California culture in a more positive way! This all sounds too political to be rational.
Alice	Fort	I don't know which option is the best. I leave that up to experts. It's critical to do SOMETHING!! If it saves one life it's worth it. Please don't let another person die from jumping from the GG Bridge. Do Something!
Michael	Fortin	Do not destroy the greatest landmark in the Western US.
karen	foster	I am not an engineer and so am not sure which barrier is the most feasible. I believe strongly that toward a goal of suicide prevention, the most effective barrier should be erected ASAP.
William	Foti	I thought I did already. You Bozo's seem to want to do this even though the vast majority do not want the Bridge changed at all. It's as simple as that. Your charge is to preserve and protect the Bridge as it is. And I still think you will put traffic fatalities into the picture by making any changes when the person decides to jump into oncoming traffic.
William	Foti	It's not your money, you don't care. It's not supported by anything other than small interest groups, you don't care. Put it to a general vote? you don't care even though the majority of the people are against it. You even had to admit that it is a deterrent, not a foolproof solution after my call to you. How much do we pay you to be so foolish? I think you all should resign in shame for continuing this at all.

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Judith	Fouchaux	All of the alternatives will detract from the beauty of the bridge and will not necessarily cut the number of suicides. There are other spots for suicides that will undoubtedly get more use. Why destroy the beauty of our bridge? Better to use the money to get at the source with better social resources for people in trouble.
Toni	Fourte	Visually, barriers be they on or below the bridge would be a ugly and a constant reminder of a negative situation (death). When people visit the bridge, it is a positive event. The barrier is contrary to the purpose for the visit. Putting a net below the bridge could make jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge a new extreme sport.
Toni	Fourte	We should not be burdened with the cost of prevention. If someone decides to jump, let them jump. The consequences should fit the situation.
Keith	Foy	Fencing make the bridge look like a prison. People can jump off of netting once they have jumped onto it from the bridge. Tax payer money can be better used to provide counseling to those in need.
Antonia	Fraker	I prefer alternative 1A because: 1) It includes the handrail that is currently on the bridge, and maintains the historical aspects of the bridge, 2) It has a top to the barrier that curves inward, making it very difficult to get over, and 3) the horizontal bars allow a pedestrian to see the entire skyline of San Francisco in one view.
Antonia	Fraker	This is crucially important. Thank you for working on this.
S. C.	Frame	Please do not destroy a world class landmark with ugly barriers!! Safety nets on buildings in Europe have been very successful without destroying the design integrity of the buildings.
S. C.	Frame	It is not possible nor necessary to baby-sit every person for any conceivable harm. The U.S. should be more like Europe where the populace is expected to TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE'S OWN ACTION AND NOT BLAME ANYONE ELSE.

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Buffy	Francisco	<p>The net seems the most non-intrusive [visually] solution. Other significant structures in the world have deterrents [in Paris and London, as examples]and San Francisco can demonstrate that it,too, IS a world-class, caring city. Aesthetics are important, but at the cost of human life?</p> <p>All it takes is knowing one person whose life has been impacted by a person who has taken his/her life in this way. And anyone who has experienced loss can comprehend the implications of that loss...</p>
Buffy	Francisco	I appreciate the opportunity for public comment on this issue. Too often, there is too little attention paid to the "common" view and voice. Thanks for a chance to express my opinion!
Ei	Frank	Other suicide lures such as the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower and Mount Fuji in Japan all have barriers. The Goldeb Gate Bridge should have a barrier to save the lives of people in need of help? e I favor the Net System as it is the least costly and does not obscure the view.
Ei	Frank	Other suicide lures such as the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower and Mount Fuji in Japan all have barriers. The Goldeb Gate Bridge should have a barrier to save the lives of people in need of help? e I favor the Net System as it is the least costly and does not obscure the view.
Stephanie	Frank	Money would be better spent on counseling services/ programs to prevent suicide. This would save more lives than just those who attempt from the bridges.
Barbara	Franks	<p>I am Alaska's Field Liaison for the Suicide Prevention Action Network -- when a person takes the "jump" from the bridge, there are no alternatives, those left behind will feel the impact. My son took his exit to life by suicide and it is a daily hurt in my heart. As an advocate for suicide prevention. Look back, get the help you need. You are important. Peace be with you.</p> <p>Barb</p>
Douglas	Frantz	The idea to spend an incredible amount of money, change the look and structure of the bridge all in the wake of raising the toll and a budget crisis is completely out of line. The annual cost of a barrier for upkeep will continue to drain the funds to support the bridge. The amount of money spent for the number of attempts does not add up to being cost effective. Those that want to commit suicide will find a way to avoid the barrier.

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First	Last	Comment
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		I do not think it is the responsibility of GGB to prevent suicides.
Michael	Franz	People will just find another way to attempt/commit suicide.
Yvonne	Frazier	the net
Anne	Frederick	Who has run the cost comparisons to all this effort with simply training people (who need work) to patrol the bridge, two or three at a time and really do something to help people who are suicidal rather than simply forcing them to find another means of killing themselves. This is, once again, bureaucracy feeding on itself, or feeding the contractors who will make money doing the work.
Karla	Fredler	can't you come up with something less ugly and less obstructive of the views of drivers? Who wants to drive in a tunnel? And the plexiglass barriers will quickly look awful--clouded, smudged and stained.
Amy	Freed-Regnier	The idea of suicide frightens most people. I think many people respond with anger and resentment to that which they fear and do not understand. I hope that the opinions of people who suffer with mental illness, such as myself will weigh more heavily than the opinions of those who are reacting with resentment and fear towards a subject which they know nothing about. Suicide is preventable, it is an act of impulse and the bridge has become a symbol of death, grief and loss instead of the triumph of architecture it was meant to be. Help stop the suicides. Please please please fence the bridge.
Daniel	Freeman	For 40 million dollars, you could fund a suicide patrol to the tune of \$1 million per year for forty years.
Daniel	Freeman	This seems to be less about preventing suicide and more about sweeping it under the rug so we don't have to think about it. People don't decide to kill themselves because someone built a bridge, people already had their reasons and decided to pick a method: bridge, blade, bullet, pills.
Julie	Freestone	Something must be done so the no build option is not an option.
Joan	French	In other locations where barriers have been erected, suicides have dropped to zero. We need to follow best practices and save lives
Joan	French	Let them jump!
Joan	French	Let them jump!
Joan	French	Let them jump!
Joan	French	Let them jump!

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Joan	French	Let them jump!
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Josh	Frey	Should the acts of a few spoil the aesthetic enjoyment of a bridge known throughout the world? NO! If suicide is contemplated they will figure out a way around any barrier.
Josh	Frey	My uncle climbed to the top of the bridge before the roadway existed. Nothing is more beautiful than this icon.
Morgan	Friberg	No build - save \$40-50M. You'd probably collect by raising the fees wouldn't you? What a mess.
Morgan	Friberg	People will kill themselves, no matter what, if they want to. Say a 'Physical Suicide Deterrent System' was 100% effective (which we all know it would not be), people will find other means. Perhaps the old fashioned way - gun, hanging, gas in car, etc. It would be a wast to build a structure.
bob	friedlander	We have lived in Marin for 17 years. People continue to die in suicides and in traffic deaths and you do nothing. It is one study after another and nothng gets done. DO SOMETHING-STOP STUDYING AND GET A BARRIOR UP TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM JUMPING AND GET A CENTER DIVIDE ON THE BRIDGE TO PREVENT DEATH AND INJURY FROM CRASHES. STOP TALKING AND DO SOMETHING.
Chris	Friedman	A friend of mine committed suicide with a gun this week. Their was no indication of his intent in the days leading up to his suicide. I don't think a barrier of any design on the Golden Gate bridge is a solution for suicide. It's not the structure - thats just the tool, ie a gun. Please do not change the aesthetic nature of this national landmark, people will commit suicide if they have committed to it in their own mind.
Ednah	Friedman	I don't have the patience to read the Draft EIR/EA so am unable to pick my preference EXCEPT to say that I do think we should have a suicide barrier but not a net.

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Mark	Friedman	<p>I believe the money should be allocated for mental health care.</p> <p>Also, I believe there are certain times when the brige is used to be jumped from. Perhaps this can be studied and perhaps access to the bridge could be controlled by allowing foot/bike traffic at certain times, avoiding times which are more attractive to would-be jumpers.</p> <p>A fee should be charged which could in a few instances defer people from coming onto the bridge to jump, but also, staff collecting the money can be trained to look for the classic signs of would-be jumpers.</p> <p>Good luck with your decision making process!</p>
Stacy	Friedman	Extra railings will not affect the experience for me. Must be done!!!
Darcy	Fields	People come from all over the world to see our bridge, the aesthetic value should not have to be changed for the few people who choose to jump each year from the bridge. As long as we have good patolling on the bridge during high traffic hours when a jump
Janet	Frishberg	<p>Cultural resources: What about the negative impact to our culture that comes from having young lives lost to the bridge?</p> <p>Visual/Aesthetic: After someone you love jumps from the bridge, you never see it again in the same way. It is no longer a thing of beauty.</p>
Janet	Frishberg	Under the cost of doing nothing and constructing no barrier, you should put the number of lives that will be lost over the next 10 years, the costs to those people that care about them, which is a cost that lasts for years and years and which cannot necessarily be measured in dollars.
marilyn	frnsworth	<p>I think this project is a total waste of time and money.</p> <p>Why ruin a beautiful bridge???</p> <p>If people want to commit suicide, they will find a way.</p>

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liz	froneberger	<p>horizontal system can still be climbed, it would appear. If that is not correct, please let me know. The vertical system, it seems to me, would be transparent to those of us driving over the bridge in cars.....and people can still take unimpeded pictures (and take in the views) at either end of the bridge.....The negative environmental impact? Less food for the fish????</p> <p>Obviously I jest; but the ease of access is a painfully bare fact. And people, regardless of age, are not thinking clearly when they jump over the rail.....please listen to suicide experts, not armchair philosophers, when it comes to the science of suicidal behavior.....</p>
liz	froneberger	<p>If we are to make a decision, it must be based on facts, not myths and common misconceptions. The one misconception that seems to be in the media regularly (and has NO factual base) is the idea that people will simply go somewhere else. PLEASE, can we work with whoever we need to work with on this one? The fact that many people believe it does not make it so. If people cite this reason as to why they are against it, frankly, the opinion should be discounted. It is counterproductive for either the media or the Bridge District to continue citing fantasy as the basis of rational argument. What they SHOULD be doing is taking note of the number of people who are using this as the basis of their argument, and doing some education.....not until people are EDUCATED will there be able to be a worthy debate.</p> <p>The financial cost, a one-time event, must be pro-rated over X amount of years in order to figure out a more accurate "cost" projection with regard to lives saved. Furthermore, in order to get an accurate count of lives lost, I suggest we employ cameras -- I very much doubt that only 29 people a year jump from the bridge.....THAT would be hugely controversial, but only because it would more accurately capture FACTS. And the only rationale for NOT filming it, frankly, is that it is in "bad taste?????" If it's happening, and we know it, we are obligated to make decisions about addressing the issue. If it's not happening, then no problem, right? No rational reason for NOT gaining film evidence and chronicling the real scope of the problem....</p> <p>Liz Froneberger, RN</p>
neil	fruman	no net, add height
john	frye	preserve the appearance of this historic bridge. all of the proposed new railings are out-of-place in this setting. alternative 3 (net) is the least offensive of the "build something" proposals.

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john	frye	<p>the "no build" alternative preserves the great views and aesthetics of the bridge.</p> <p>all of the new "bars" designs obscure the views and, in my opinion, none of the alternatives (1a, 1b, 2a, 2b) should be adopted. these have no aesthetics.</p> <p>alternative</p>
Steven	Fugaro	Clearly needed to save lives. The alternatives 2A and 2 B actually improve the views when driving in a car.
Joel	Fugazzotto	While suicide is sad event, a barrier on the bridge won't necessarily prevent a suicide but only force the person to go somewhere else.
Randy	Fugle	Concerning the EIR, it should be addressed that the the 19 GG Bridge Directors have a community responsibility to joint he other institutions that have constructed fencing to stop suicides from their structures. From the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower and other buildings and bridges that have put up fencing to stop suicides. This public responsibility should have been addressed more completely in the EIR.
JOHN	FUHRMAN	--I just read an article in the LA Times about this proposed project. At first I felt bad about my reaction---THIS IS THE DUMBEST THING I HAVE EVER HEARD OF, GOVERNMENT OUT OF CONTROL, WASTING MONEY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MINISCULE FEW--(on average less than
Kimi	Fukutome	Do not build suicide barriers on the GG Bridge. Spend money on education and counselling. Spend the money on the traffice divider on the GG Bridge - this would probably save more injuries/lives in the long run.
Chloe	Fulton	as it stands now everything is to easy to get over and i don't want it to happen again.
Jack	Fulton	<p>Am born here in '39 & always loved the bridge. In poling the neighborhood and friends it is near unanimous against the suicide barrier. We ache for those who've lost a family member or lover but feel our lives in general are far over-protected.</p> <p>The median barrier to prevent head-on collisions and accidents</p> <p>would be a wiser investment.</p>

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t	g	It is ridiculous to think than MILLIONS of people should have the pleasure experiencing The GG Bridge in all its glory without obstructive railings of any sort. If people want to commit suicide by jumping of the GG, they will surely find a way around obstacles. 38 or so people should not ruin such a magnificent bridge/experience for millions. DO THE MATH!
Doré	Gabby	Any method that will deter suicide!
Maria	Gabby	I believe the great majority of people enjoying the bridge are the thousands from afar, in the city, across the bay, (on boats) and this view will be largely unchanged by a barrier. Also suicides do not just impact the family, they impact an entire community, for years to come as evidenced here in so marin where 2 kids have jumped in past few years.
Geoffrey	Gainer	Any 'build' proposal besides the Net System will render the bridge experience more cage like.
Geoffrey	Gainer	The Add Net System might even make the bridge experience more comfortable. My wife, who has had some acrophobia since 9/11 might even lean on the rail.
Geoffrey	Gainer	Some of the best public views of San Francisco, Alcatraz, and of course the Golden Gate itself are from the Bridge. Any inclusion of glass would distance such cultural icons like a museum display.
Janet	Galea	As a survivor of the suicide of a loved one - I feel strongly that something should be done to prevent the deaths of others in the future.
ROSEANNE	GALLAGHER	PLEASE LEAVE THE MAGNIFICENT BRIDGDE AS IT IS. ANY BARRIER WILL RUIN ITS APPEARANCE. THE VIEWS WILL BE OBSTRUCTED WITH ANY BARRIER FOR PEDRESTRIANS AS THEY WALK THE SPAN. THE COST IS TOO MUCH. IF A PERSON WANTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE IT SHOULDN'T TURN INTO A BURDON FOR ALL OF US. SUICIDE HAS OTHER METHODS FOR INTERVENTION FAR MORE EFFECTIVE RUINING THE MAGNIFICENT GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. SOME PEOPLE WANT SUICIDE, ITS THEIR RIGHT. NO BARRIER!
Allen	Galvin	I don't believe the beautiful architecture of the bridge should be altered. Where does it stop? Do we treat all citizens like childrento prevent suicides?
Allen	Galvin	This Bridge is San Francisco! I don't think it should be altered in anyway. If people are going to commit suicide then they will find a way.
Allen	Galvin	Tourist will have to look through bars and motorist will have obstructed views as they cross the bridge. I love the view of my city from the bridge and don't want to lose that.

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bruce	ganong	<p>As a Marin resident and daily commuter to the city, at least 3x per week I ride my bike to work from Kentfield. Crossing the GGB twice in the same day on my bicycle is one of the highlights of my day. Erecting any kind of barrier on one of city's truly great landmarks is a BAD IDEA. IF the GGB Transit Authority believes that it has the social responsibility to prevent suicides and they are intent on spending their customers money to do so then direct the money into programs designed to increase awareness about the bigger problem.</p> <p>NO BARRIERS!!!</p>
James	Garahan	<p>Some quick preliminary thoughts: The "nanny state" has to have some limits. Banning beef sales would save infinitely more lives than this proposal. But we don't ban beef, or smoking or drinking liquor. 30,000 children die every day on this planet of preventable diseases. Yet we don't stop our lives until every last person on the planet is free from want or disease. We, the tax paying citizens have a RIGHT to go on living our lives with a BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE which gives us enormous pleasure and aesthetic soul healing. We have numerous resources for suicidal/depressed people. If some don't have that shed of responsibility to all of us to take advantage of the available help so be it. We do not owe these people FORTY MILLION DOLLARS or any other amount. This forty million could do a lot more for this planet if it were spent on sick and dying children in the third world--but that is not an alternative. Sorry to say the obvious truth--these proposals are a silly waste of my hard earned money. And they destroy something truly beautiful--this would be an unforgivable desecration whose evil would not be outweighed by any "good" that would come from it. Who are the authorities to say that these people would be better off if they survived. By the way, I don't want to listen to any survivors who have not fully monetarily reimbursed every agency, hospital, doctor, cop,..that had anything to do with the fact that they are still alive. STOP THE NANNY STATE !!!</p>
Robin Arturo	Garci Garcia	<p>I think building a fence on the golden gate bridge would be a bad idea, first of all if a person wants to commit suicide they will do it with or without a barrier or by any other means, Secondly it would ruin the beautiful view of San Francisco, that is soo famous and draws millions of tourists. I think creating a net system that extends horizontally without ruining the view or allowing any suicide attemps/accidents would be a great idea. I also think that funding for suicide prevention programs/centers and making them more accessible to the public is also a good idea to ease the problem.</p>
		Any material or devices to the bridge will not be tolerated by me.

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Arturo	Garcia	The raised railing is horrible. The net is a little better but can easily be tampered with by those who really want to die.
Arturo	Garcia	It's a shame. As a suicide survivor(pills) I feel horrible that my actions or potential actions will disturb this great bridge.
Arturo	Garcia	Having to explain the raised railing to my children won't be something I look forward to.
Arturo	Garcia	N/A
Arturo	Garcia	N/A
Arturo	Garcia	N/A
Arturo	Garcia	N/A
Arturo	Garcia	It was good but never should have been done. We don't need a barrier.
Arturo	Garcia	That whenever *any Form of Government* becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government. I have the right not to put up with your shit. Don't fuck with me.
frank	garcia	The golden gate bridge is the most beautiful bridge in the world and should remain the way the designers meant to be. If someone wants to kill themselves they are going to jump somewhere else or do it anyway. Why ruin a classic bridge with an ugly screen or more unnecessary mesh, glass , posts, vertical or horizontal handrails ,etc that obstruct the view and more expense..Lower the tolls instead..Crazies are going to find a way to jump anyway, they will find a way..they should be put in a mental institution and get some counseling instead..PLEASE DONT RUIN THIS CLASSIC ART DECO BRIDGE.
Linda	Garcia	Anything that impedes the current view is unacceptable. Bars (vertical or horizontal) above eye level would be the worst. A far higher priority is a movable lane barrier to prevent head-on collisions. If the money must be spent, the latter should be a top priority.
Lorena	Garcia	Use money for mental health services...it's barrier isn't going to stop someone who's already made the decision to end his/her life. The money will be better spent giving people resources to seek help.
Phil	Gardner	I feel the horizontal system will be less of a distraction for motorists, although more easily climbed than the vertical system, it should still be a sufficient barrier.

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Phyllis	Gardner	The Golden Gate Bridge is a world wonder that attracts people from everywhere. To take away the vistas from millions for an unclear deterrent from suicide (there are other ways; jumping from the GGB just happens to be a romantic one) would be a foolish waste of money. While I certainly feel for the family of victims, society could spend that money better in general suicide prevention programs. Are you going to eliminate CalTrans?
Phyllis	Gardner	I believe that vertical barriers are the most severe impact on motorists, while horizontal barriers impact walkers.
Phyllis	Gardner	No build, my preferred alternative, has no impact.
Phyllis	Gardner	No build, my preferred alternative, has no impact.
Phyllis	Gardner	No impact of no build.
Phyllis	Gardner	No impact by no build alternative
Phyllis	Gardner	No impact by no build alternative
Phyllis	Gardner	Not qualified to assess
Berton	Garey	<p>The Bridge is a work of art; altering it would be a sacrilege. A suicide barrier might prevent a few suicides, but if someone were determined to die on the Bridge and you erected a barrier, they could just as well jump into traffic instead of over the rail. Or would you then consider a barrier on both sides of both walkways? If so, you'll have managed to cage the millions of people who love and enjoy the Bridge to possibly deter a few who might want to use the Bridge to end their lives. Better to spend the money to employ a small squad of people trained to spot potential jumpers and intercept them.</p> <p>My bother was a suicide, and while the pain never really goes away, it's clear being thwarted in one venue would have only turned his attention to another. If someone had been there to talk to him, that would have made a difference.</p>
Arthur	Garin	It is not the bridge's fault that some people want to end their life without waiting for its natural end. These people are unpredictable and to create some physical obstacles for them at specified locations makes no sense, just a waste of resources!
Arthur	Garin	Anyway, our planet is overpopulated and overtaxed and abused by human populations, so voluntary exit of anybody from polluting existence should be welcome.
Rob	Garner	Alternate 2B is the most attractive and invisible of the alternatives, and will not be looked upon as an "add" to an outdated and unsafe current system
Rob	Garner	This will definitely impede those who's culture includes suicide. They will need to find other alternatives

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Rob	Garner	Completely removing the existing railing and installing a new system, Alternates 2B or 2A, will open up the field of view and create a modern, open sight of the water. A down side is that this may create a visual distraction to drivers, as the existing vi
Laurie	Garrett-Cobbina	I am concerned about the visual/aesthetic, however, I am more concerned with human life. Any barrier is often enough to deter a suicide attempt. I would support any alternative to the non-physical suicide deterrent in place now.
Monica	Garwood	<p>If there is a robbery at a store, security cameras would be installed. A thief could still rob another store, but not making any move to prevent a reoccurrence seems absurd.</p> <p>If one is diagnosed with cancer, chemotherapy will often follow. The cancer may continue to spread, and other illnesses could still terminate their life, but refusing treatment seems counter productive.</p> <p>If over a thousand people have committed suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge, a barrier should be built. A person with a suicidal ideality could still end their life other ways, but opposing a barrier is asinine, ignorant, and senseless.</p>
Lorraine	Gast	Please spend the millions on schools, counseling and public safety. If we put up a barrier, then we must ban all other ways of committing suicide (sleeping pills, etc.). The bridge is the most photographed man-made structure in the world. A barrier would look awful.
Angela	Gates	I think all of the proposed barriers would save lives without any impact on bridge aesthetics.
Jason	Gates	Generally ugly and cumbersome. Especially the ones involving REMOVING the historic handrail. How could you? The fact that most options block the views from the Bridge and will impact the view of the Bridge when viewed elsewhere is sad.
Jason	Gates	The vertical bars in alternatives 2A and 1A are downright ugly - they look like jail bars. That's not a view ANYONE wants when they're on the bridge, whether they're planning to kill themselves or not. Alternative 3 is the least invasive and would least alter the look of the bridge.
Jason	Gates	I don't believe any barrier will be really effective in deterring suicide, even "impulsive suicides" especially on a location like the GG Bridge. If someone is determined, they're going to do it no matter what the barrier. People can and do find a way. Please, leave the Bridge alone.

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Mark	Gebert	If net system extends far enough out from bridge, this should act as both a visual and a physical deterrent while maintaining most of the bridges visual/aesthetic appeal. Current pictured prototype of net does not look like it extends far enough out from bridge to deter those who want to partially climb down bridge and jump to clear this net.
Michael	Geiser	The "No Build- Continue Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Program" option is not acceptable. We have motorcycle helmet laws, seatbelt laws, and laws regarding child car seats. It is time for the GGB to be designed responsibly for public health and safety.
John	Geisler	I am a retired psychiatrist and am opposed to any suicide barrier for the GG Bridge. If the potential suicide jumper can't jump off the bridge, all evidence shows he/she will find another means to make a suicide attempt. There is no scientific evidence that putting a barrier on the bridge will lower the suicide rate for the county or the state.
Geminate	Geminate7	You're wasting the taxpayer's money. If it isn't the bridge it is a building, mountain or cliff. One who chooses to kill them-self will just do so elsewhere, you can't stop them, they won't be stopped. "Oh no, I can't die jumping off this bridge, gee I guess I will just forget the whole thing!" Come on, are you all stupid enough to believe that? Actually it would be a kindness to provide those who desire to die a place where if they jump, they are sure to die. Take that away then they will probably choose places where they will end up killing people that get in the way, while they end up heavily damaged but not dead. Suicide should be successful at first attempt and not involve or jeopardize the safety and lives of others. Let's encourage those who want to die that there is at least one safe place where they can go where no one will interrupt them, no one else will get hurt, and they are guaranteed to die.
len	gensburg	Any of the other barriers would be better than no barrier. I think it is barbaric that we continue to allow people the take their lives on the spur of the moment, when suicide have been so successful on other bridges and buildings. Stop talking about a barrier and build one. While you dither, people die.

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Peter	Gerdes	<p>I'm disturbed by the inadequate discussion of the need for the project. Whether or not a project should be avoided because of a too large environmental impact depends significantly on the need and importance of the project.</p> <p>This report doesn't cite any of the massive economic literature on the value of a statistical life or otherwise show that a suicide barrier is a cost effective way to save lives compared to other alternatives, e.g., improving highway signs and barriers.</p>
Alta	Gerrey	I would have appreciated simple pictures of the choices. I want a barrier so I checked both #s 1 & #2, but have no idea what they look like. Can you just put a picture on your website of the drawing without going through pdfs and razzamatuzz?
Karl	Gerstenberger	Through counseling or prescriptive drugs many of these suicides could be prevented. Perhaps it would make more sense to build a mental health awareness free clinic at all the pedestrian entrance points. Suicide prevention counseling and other solutions
Lela	Getzler	there is no excuse for NOT putting up a barrier. too many lives have been lost already!!!
Kamal	Ghei	As a physician seeing many patients with suicidal ideation and attempts, i feel that it is our duty, as residents of San Francisco, to deter easy access for people who are contemplating suicide. Places with suicide barriers have shown a decrease in suicides.
Silvana	Giana	Please do not change the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge.
Edward	Giannelli	people are going to jump if they wish anyways... Being from the Niagara falls area people jump to their deaths all the time no one has blocked off the view of the falls. I think it is assinine to mar the Golden Gates charisma with a silly fence or un- attractive netting system. Jumpers will be jumpers, If that's what they wish to do I say let them.
Alex	Gibson	The safety net alternative would not affect the aesthetics of the bridge and would all but eliminate the impulsive jumpers. The latter make up the vast majority of suicide attempters.

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James	Gibson	Ultimately, no solution will be foolproof and prevent someone from choosing to take his or her life. I would be in favor of increased monitoring and added suicide callboxes to help with prevention. I run across the bridge with some frequency and it breaks my heart to think that the bridge would be altered in any of the alternatives proposed. Each of the options compromises the beauty of the bridge whether it is from the span or viewing the bridge from the many vantage points around it. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion here in this medium since I cannot attend the public hearings being held.
Kay	Gibson	I believe a deterrent would dissuade that vast majority of suicide attempters who act on impulse. Money well spent.
Terry	Gibson	Alt. 2A impresses me as the best compromise between an effective barrier to the impulsive category of suicide attempters and the aesthetics of the bridge. Alt. 3 has almost no visual impact but is, perhaps, a less effective barrier. Also "net jumpers" will require someone to fish them out of the net. However, I prefer 3 to no barrier.
Terry	Gibson	As the recent NY Times article points out, a significant percentage of suicide attempters are impulsive. These people would be deterred by a barrier.
Joel	Giefer	If they want to jump, let them. Save this money for other projects to keep the bridge beautiful and functional for all others.
Kelly	Gifford	
Fred	Giles	The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful structures ever designed by man. It should not be altered under any circumstances, notwithstanding the good motives of barrier proponents.
Gail	Giliberti	It's fiscally irresponsible for the city to spend significant funding on additional deterrents for suicide for the GGB. There are deterrents in place that should be sufficient for most. The most determined to commit suicide will sadly find a way to complete that task.
Nadia	Gillett	Don't build a suicide barrier. All the possibilities are ugly and would ruin the bridge.
Nadia	Gillett	In order to ascertain the effectiveness of a suicide barrier you would have to interview the dead. It is quite likely that many if not most of the suicides would have chosen other means of committing suicide had the Golden Gate Bridge not been available. Studying those who were unsuccessful suicides at the Golden Gate doesn't prove anything. The argument that suicides at the Golden Gate Bridge only could have taken place at the Golden Gate Bridge is absurd.

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Rita	Gilmore	That the Bridge District would even consider/study/review/propose the subject of suicide barriers under circumstances where there are so many pressing and serious matters affecting the millions of users of the Golden Gate Bridge as a whole as well as the users of the District's alternative forms of transportation, i.e., the dilapidated ferry system, is a complete and utter travesty of justice. The Commissioners should all be impeached for not considering and weighing the interests of the Bay Area as a whole. If the manner in which I have responded to this Survey is not what you were looking for, rest assured it is an indication of my very strong beliefs and opinions on this issue. And, I have not and never have been lacking in compassion!!!!
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Malcolm	Gilmour	Implementation of the net "scheme" would accomplish the objective of the suicide barrier while preserving the architectural integrity of the bridge.

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Teal	Glass	Although I have lived in SF for over four years now, I only recently walked across the bridge and was appalled at the fencing that was just temporarily put in place. Putting up fencing completely destroys the view and the experience. It made me depressed just looking at it!
Teal	Glass	It doesnt matter wether they are vertical, or horizontal, the bars make you feel jailed. Option three destroys the view of the ocean and sea life below.
Teal	Glass	People come from all over, both the U.S. and foreign countries, to view the beautiful golden gate bridge. I wouldn't lay foot on that bridge with the bars.
Everett	Glassburner	The Goldend Gate Bridge is a national landmark and is famous internationally. Please do not change its appearance in any way.
Kelly	Gleason	I don't believe that erecting physical structures at great expense is the most effective method of preventing suicides on the golden gate bridge (or anywhere else...). Suicide prevention programs, non-physical prevention strategies, and better mental health care are the key factors here, and investment in those strategies will yield far better results and positively impact more people than any of the above plans.
Meg	Gleeson	<p>I see no reason to spend that much money in an attempt to prevent suicidal jumpers. If someone truly wants to take his/her own life, it will happen; from the bridge or elsewhere. If he/she is not fully committed to the act, the current intervention methods are adequate.</p> <p>In general, the public and governing bodies need to stop taking so much responsibility for individual actions - if those actions pose no harm for the general populace. The repercussions of a suicide are deeply personal for the family and friends of the deceased, but have no impact on the balance of the population.</p>
Mark	Glickstein	Assuming no one could jump from the netting system and someone who was in the netting could be retrieved without extraordinary difficulty, I feel this is the best.
Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	n/a

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Ron	Glutzer	n/a
Ron	Glutzer	While I sincerely empathize with the loved ones left behind to grieve the death of a friend or family member who has committed suicide by jumping from the GGB, and wish it were not so that any person should ever feel the need to take their own life, while I wish such pain on nobody, I am wholeheartedly opposed to the use of public funds and other resources for the building, promotion or preliminary evaluation (e.g. this EIR/EA study), of this proposed bridge project, and am furious that so much money and energy has already been spent. Any available funds, energy, time and other resources could be much better spent helping those individuals and family in our city who are fighting and struggling to live, and/or on education, and/or on a myriad of other needed programs, including bolstering human-centric outreach efforts aimed at suicide prevention well before the suicide arrives at the place and moment of their act. While I appreciate the sentiment and sympathize with the motive, it seems a badly directed use of scarce and valuable resources to me, and I would vote against this and against any elected official who supports it.
Eric	Glover	These options destroy the beauty of a national landmark, making it look like a jail or cage.
augustus	goddard	Of course, I am deeply sympathetic to the problem of those who wish to end their lives, but despoiling this beautiful symbol is not the solution. This bridge represents Sf and the US to the world, and for us to admit that an ugly barrier needs to be grafted on as a misformed appendage is an admission of failure.
Patricia	Godinez	How about asking Ruth Asawa to put a team together to beautifully weave a barrier. Then we'd have safety and art. She live on Castro Street above 24th.

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Keri	Goforth	<p>This is ridiculous, this is our treasure here in California. Why do we have to modify it. If these people want to commit suicide they will. The average american life is worth \$6.9 million, that doesn't account for the pain and suffering of a family member. Now if someone successfully commits suicide you (rather the taxpayers) will be negligent! You yourselves have pointed out that these people aren't making a choice it is an illness, remember that when you spark your defense against these lawsuits. Who's to say they won't just use the Bay Bridge? Maybe someone will sue because you took away their ability to commit suicide off this historical landmark????</p> <p>I say you have to leave it alone. Pull it off the table with the "costs too much, needs more planning" theory. Was there ever a vote for it? I think the taxpayers should have their say through more than a comments section/opinion poll.</p> <p>I don't live in the city now, but I used to...this is such a shame.</p>
Nita	Goggins	<p>Every time I look at the Golden Gate Bridge, I think not of how beautiful it is but how a friend of mine jumped off of it while he was depressed. This person brought so much joy and laughter to everyone around him and deeply cared for so many people, including the beautiful children and wife he left behind. We have all felt moments of desperation in our lives - let's not make it any simpler for people to end them!</p>
Antoinette	Golbus	<p>It would be a bonus if we could make a system that will not "ruin" the aesthetic of the bridge.</p>
Antoinette	Golbus	<p>I have attended the funerals of three young people who threw themselves off the Golden Gate Bridge. Knowing teenagers and their rash behavior and also knowing a survivor of a bridge jump, I am strongly in favor of building a suicide barrier. We are compelled to do this.</p>

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Ari	Gold	<p>I grew up in the city and rode my bicycle across the bridge almost daily with my mother. We would stop and look across the bay, the wind in our faces. My mother is gone now, but I still have that beautiful view.</p> <p>Please do not destroy an American landmark, and diminish the joy of the millions of people who walk and bike across the bridge, by erecting a barrier.</p> <p>Spend money on mental health resources to prevent suicide. A physical barrier is ridiculous. 10 people have drowned this year in the Russian River. Will you pave the Russian River too?</p>
Lorrie	Goldin	<p>I would be happy with any of the barrier options. 1A and 1B keep the classic look of the original railing. The horizontal system does not conjure up an association of prison bars (though if it makes it somehow easier to climb the horizontal rungs, I'd go for vertical). But all the barriers are fine. The net is NOT a good option for the following reasons: (1) people can still kill themselves if they get down to that level, and they can injure themselves falling 20 feet, making life considerably harder; (2) rescue options involved will traumatize rescue workers and tax scant resources and compassion, especially when it backs up traffic; (3) the net may well become a different kind of magnet--for pranksters and daredevils.</p> <p>As a point of survey research, I am curious and dismayed by the decision to put "No Build" in the number one position. Any pollster will tell you that position on a ballot significantly influences choice. Please consider revamping for the remainder of the comments period. At the very least, it would be an interesting and almost zero-cost experiment to see if this survey suffered from such subliminal prejudicing.</p>

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Lorrie	Goldin	<p>I was not always in favor of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. Here's what changed my mind.</p> <p>Three years ago a colleague shared that his friend's 14-year-old son, traveling between school in San Francisco and home in Marin County, got off the bus one day after school and walked to the railing of the Golden Gate Bridge. Some things were troubling him, and he put his leg up over the railing, preparing to jump. Then he took his leg down, caught the bus home, and told his mother, who sought help immediately. He's fine now.</p> <p>My daughter was 14 at the time I heard this story. Any lingering ambivalence I felt about the barrier evaporated. So much of the barriers to the barrier have to do with our failure to identify not only with the person who is suffering, but with the hope that lies beyond one moment. A bridge barrier will not save every life, but it will buy precious moments that will save many lives.</p> <p>The evidence is overwhelming that the vast majority of people who are stopped from committing suicide do not go on to kill themselves. Some will, but most do not--impulses pass, circumstances change, help is found, the balance toward affirming life over death shifts. A barrier will save not only most of the would-be jumpers, but the families, friends, and communities who are always devastated in the wake of a suicide.</p> <p>If the choice were between spending \$40 million on a bridge barrier versus \$40 million on excellent mental health services, I would choose the latter so that more people could be helped. But it's not as if there's an existing pot of money that will get transferred back and forth between important competing causes. Both need commitment and will, and right now the time is ripe for the commitment and will to erect a suicide barrier. Refusing to do so out of a false hope that the money will reach those in need some other way is misguided.</p> <p>Several years ago, a toddler tragically fell to her death from the Golden Gate Bridge in a freak accident. She had somehow slipped through a narrow gap between the curb and the roadway. Funds were immediately found to close the gap, although this was the only such death to have ever occurred and there was almost no chance it would happen again. Arguably, the money could have been better spent since it was unlikely that more such tragedies would occur. Nonetheless, an infinitesimally small risk was quickly remedied.</p> <p>True, this remedy did not obscure any views. Nor did the loss of life involve mental illness or teenagers or difficult or impulsive people.</p> <p>It was a matter of will and empathy.</p> <p>So is the bridge barrier. Suicide is not a freak accident, but a real and preventable risk. Imagine if it were you</p>

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		<p>or someone you loved about to swing a leg up over the rail. You might then find the money and the ability to get used to a slightly different fabulous view.</p> <p>Lorrie Goldin</p>
elaine	goldman	I think that we should keep the visual/aesthetic value of the GGbrige but still build a barrier that will deter potential suicide jumpers.
Chuck	Gomez	Leave history alone. Is Mt. Rushmore next...
Chuck	Gomez	\$ can be much better spent. Is there still a war in Iraq?
Chuck	Gomez	Enough dead birds in trash nets...
Chuck	Gomez	Stop making/finding problems. Fix bigger ones.
Patrick	Gonzales	The options that include horizontal and vertical rails to deter suicide attempts will destroy the view of and from the bridge. The bridge is enjoyed both from a distance and up close by millions of tourists and residents each year. Why block the views of those who walk along the bridge? It's part of the GG Bridge experience.

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Cristina	Gonzalez	Suicidal people will just use another method if there is a barrier on the GG bridge. Speaking from past experience, if one method fails. . .it is because they are calling out for help or they move on to another method that works. My cousin tried ODing on sleeping pills and moved on to taking his life with a gun. Family intervention, constant observation, etc could not stop a determined adult. . .neither could a barrier on the GG bridge.
Jenny	Goodall	The proposed designs do not obstruct the view and are actually attractive.
Erica T.	Goode, M.D.	Main questions about 2a and 2b are 1)durability? 2)tamper proof? Could some athletic person like Kevin Hines climb 2b and scale over, since horizontal system is theoretically more climbable?
Jim	Goodman	The bridge is historic and should be left as is. If someone is going to commit suicide they will do it with or without a barrier on the bridge. The only thing saved is the embarrassment (ie: publicity) of them jumping from the bridge, but they will still be dead. They won't decide against suicide just because they can't jump from GGB.
Bob	Gordon	Only Alternative 3, the net system, is acceptable. The other alternatives seriously detract from the bridge's aesthetics.
Sandra	Gordon	If a person wants to commit suicide, he or she can do so any other way. I appreciate the view of the bay while driving over the bridge which will be hindered if a barrier is erected.
Galina	Gorodetsky M.D.	I'd like a combination of 2B and Alternative 3 that would prevent suicides and also looks good aesthetically and visually.
Hans	Goto	I believe that the GGB District should utilize the suicide prevention team better, including the \$5,000 bicycles you all bought for the team.
Joshua	Graber	The barrier will greatly diminish one of the most beautiful landmarks in the world.
Carolyn	Gracie	I have practiced psychiatry in SF or Marin for 27 years. I think that a barrier would prevent some completed suicides, and that some people would not go to find another way to kill themselves. Experiences in other cities, such as Toronto, Ontario, Canada have born this out. It is time to disassociate suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge in our eyes, and those of the world.

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		<p>The editorial article in Sunday's IJ is typical of the kind of nonsense unrealistic "do gooder" approach that makes this newspaper one the worst I've ever read. The only reason I take it is I'm afraid someone I know will die and not know it.</p> <p>To actually spend \$40 million to prevent the possibility that 30 people might jump is a total waste of money that we cannot afford! You must realize that if someone wants to end it all they will find a way to do it.</p>
Keith	Grady	
Susan	Grady	<p>Besides the obvious aesthetic problems, it is ridiculous to believe it will actually prevent someone from killing themselves if they have made up their minds to do so. That kind of money could be put to so much better use!</p>
Susan	Grady	<p>It would be a crime to waste so much money on such a thing.</p>

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		<p>THIS WILL BE MY ENTIRE COMMENT.</p> <p>ALL OF THESE ALTERNATIVES(EXCEPT DO NOTHING) DEDUCT FROM THIS GREAT STRUCTURE! THE IDEA OF A SUICIDE BARRIER ON THE WORLDS GREATEST BRIDGE HAS NO FACTUAL BASIS.THERE IS NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE 30(APPROXIMATE) PEOPLE WHO JUMP EACH YEAR WONT JUST GO SOMEPLACE ELSE AND COMMIT SUICIDE.HAVE ANY OF THESE SO CALLED EXPERTS ANSWERED THAT QUESTION. THEY CANT WITHOUT GUESSING BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY TO KNOW SO YOU HAVE NO FACTUAL BASIS OR REASON UPON WHICH TO PROCEED.</p> <p>AT \$40-\$50 MILLION THIS BOODDOGGLE GETS MORE OUTRAGEOUS.</p> <p>IF YOU PROCEED WITH BARRIER IM SURE THE GENERAL THINKING PUBLIC WILL WANT YOU ALL TO CONSIDER MOVING OUT OF THIS STATE. IM WILLING TO BET OVER 80% OF OUR CITIZENS WILL TELL YOU NO BARRIER. I SUGGEST YOU LISTEN TO THEM AND DO WHAT THEY WANT WHICH IS--- DO NOTHING MORE THAN YOU ARE ALREADY DOING.</p>
GARRETT	GRAHAM	
Justin	Graham	It's a shame we will need to have impact on the bridge aesthetics, but it will save lives.
Justin	Graham	I would prefer any alternative instead of No Build. We need a barrier.
lynn	grano	<p>The remarkable and iconic original bridge design stands as a testament to all that is good and beautiful in what humans can create and how they can live in harmony. One doesn't dignify life, or for that matter, add to what makes life worth living by degrading and defacing such a structure to possibly save a few lives with the proposed hideous monstrosities called "suicide barriers". In addition to the aesthetic insult these proposals do to all the people of SF, Marin, and in fact, the world, the cost projections for the various plans are absurd. For far less money, many many new "suicide prevention workers" could be hired full time for many, many years to accomplish the same end. Here's an even better idea-- let those people who are so enthusiastic to build the proposed barriers instead foot all the cost for the aforementioned additional suicide prevention workers. PLEASE LEAVE THE BRIDGE ALONE AND AS IT IS.</p>

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Kathryn	Grant	I'm not from SF & used to live on the east coast, but one of the reasons I moved to the bay area is because I love the gorgeous Golden Gate Bridge &, then, San Francisco. I've always loved SF & cried when my vacation was over--that's when I decided to move cross-country & be where I want to be. The GGB should be left alone--completely!! If people are stupid enough & unstable enough to want to kill themselves---I say "let them!!". One less idiot in the world. I'm all for saving lives, like in an accident, fire, medical emergencies, disasters, etc., but if some idiot wants to take their life---well, if they find they can't jump off the most beautiful bridge in the world, they will find an alternative--whether it's another bridge, a building, a gun, pills, whatever. If they did manage to jump & didn't kill themselves & were paralyzed/vegetable---then they'd be a burden on their family or the state. Also, if they had planned on jumping from the GGB & found they couldn't, they might become a loose cannon & kill someone & take them with them in another way. You don't know what people will do. The bridge doesn't need the extra weight from the steel netting & it certainly should not be changed aesthetically for any reason. There's something wrong with someone who wants to kill themselves--not matter what the reason-- & it's a sin. I may not be from this area, but I feel just as strongly about this as the locals.
Kathryn	Grant	Please let the most beautiful bridge in the world remain the most beautiful bridge in the world.
Christian	Granzow	Please keep the bridge as is with no barriers or nets.
Charlotte	Grava	If somebody wants to commit suicide, they will find a way to do it no matter what precautions everyone might take. It is ridiculous to destroy the aesthetics of our beautiful, historical, land mark to try to solve the horrible problem of suicide.
Blake	Gray	Today the District announced a \$1 hike in tolls because of a deficit. This is presumably before spending \$25 million for a suicide barrier that the overwhelming majority of Golden Gate Bridge users do not want or need. If you can find the money for a barrier, intended to stop a few people from jumping, spend that money instead for the people using the Bridge as it is intended. Leave the bridge alone.
Blake	Gray	The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most important visual icons in a city where tourism is one of the most important industries. None of these alternatives are as attractive as the bridge is without them.
Blake	Gray	Walking on the Golden Gate Bridge is a tremendous attraction for tourists, and tourism is one of San Francisco's most important industries. No barriers should be erected that would diminish the pleasure of walking across the bridge.
Blake	Gray	Suicide barriers are being forced upon a city whose residents do not want them. Putting barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge will not eliminate suicides; it will simply move them elsewhere. This is not a worthwhile reason to diminish by even 1 percent the attractiveness of one of the city's icons. Nobody flies from abroad to see the Bay Bridge.

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Susan	Greef	From personal experience I know the tendency to suicide can be acute, and responsive to intervention. Therefore I fully support a suicide barrier on the GG Bridge.
		<p>I request the Board to ask the staff to provide you with rankings for each alternative, focused on the three major criteria: cost, visual impact and effectiveness (in stopping successful suicide attempts) as follows:</p> <p>Visual: from least negative to most negative Cost: from least total cost (investment and future operating costs translated to total costs) Suicide reduction effectiveness.</p> <p>Based on conversations with several staff/contractors at the Ferry Building meeting, it appears to me that the net alternative has least visual impact (from the display board summaries, and my own opinion who spends time at Crissy Field and walks across with guests, and spends some time at Ft Baker and Ft Point.</p> <p>The net may be least cost. I hope you can get estimates that differentiate by cost rather than the same range for each. That is not good enough for the magnitude and importance of this decision.</p> <p>Suicide prevention: Dr Blaustien suggests that once landing in the net, it would be a shock, and likely to deter a jumper from serious attempts to climb out or over, certainly before the CHP arrives with the cherry picker.</p> <p>Evidence from Berne is that after nine years, there have been no jumpers compared to 9/year before the net.</p> <p>A 200 lb ball was dropped there to test the net as it folded up partially around the ball, thereby further reducing the ability of a jumper to climb out.</p> <p>I suggest the Board arrange to have a Swiss Police arrange to have a person lowered into the existing net(s) and foto how the net collapses around him, and how successful he/she is in an attempt to get out.</p> <p>With the information suggested on cost, visual impact and effectiveness rating, the choice becomes easier. The net may look the best, or not, depending principally on cost and effectiveness. If effectiveness is not clearly distinguishable between the net and the fence, then cost becomes determinant. And you need better detailed cost estimates of each part of the prep, fabrication, installation and annual maintenance for each of the three major candidates.</p> <p>Good Luck.</p> <p>Donald Green, formerly a member of the SF Mental Health Advisory committee, and served with the OMB.</p>
Donald	Green	
		see above comments.
Donald	Green	If there is any way I might help in trying to raise contributions/foundation grants for the barrier, let me know.
Grant	Green	Barriers on the bridge will not prevent suicides and it is assinine to believe they would. A person who wants to commit suicide will find a way to do it. Suicide is a mental health issue, not a physical barrier issue.

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Judith	Green	Putting a suicide barrier or net on the bridge is the equivalent of putting a mustache on the Mona Lisa. Anyone determined to kill themselves will find a way.
Miley	Green	A barrier is not a solution but a "band-aid" to a much bigger problem. We should invest the money into programs and resources for family/individuals who need help. We must address these problems long before they become life-threatening.
Roger	Green	The Golden Gate Bridge is a masterpiece of design and engineering and a major cultural resource of the Bay Area. Suicide is certainly a misfortune for any family, but the emotional distress of a tiny fraction of the Bay Area's population does not warrant the defacement of a structure that gives pleasure to the entire world.
Reid	Greenberg	Don't ruin the architecture of this bridge with a suicide barrier. Don't inconvenience the many for the benefit of a few selfish individuals.
Megan	Greenfield	I think 1B and 2B would probably work the best since it would be almost impossible to climb over. The vertical ones would help somewhat, but people can still climb over if they really wanted to. Though deterrents are all you really need.
Megan	Greenfield	I think all of these are great ideas. I would love to actually see some action taken to try to help prevent suicides.
Martha	Greenough	It's a good idea.
Martha	Greenough	This can save future lives and help relieve the pain and suffering of the surviving members of families and friends.
Gabriel	gregoratos, M.D.	The problem with the barrier solution is that it will not work. Persons determined to commit suicide will find another way - albeit a less public one - to do it. My heart goes to those who have lost loved ones who jumped and I understand their emotional need to do something with the hope of preventing others from jumping. Nevertheless I don't consider this sufficient reason to spend \$50 m. and visually destroy an iconic structure such as the GG Bridge.
Gary	Grenno	2B offers the greatest safety , least wind restance ,and least weight added to the span. Not to say, I think it looks great!
Gary	Grenno	Any other designs than 2b would show the visitors from allover the world that knowledge and willpower to do great things ,like bulding the bridge, is lost and coruption and stupidty rule over all. Maybe go visit some where else nice, not the sucide death bridge. Show the world we not only know how to do whats right ,but do it best!

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Steven	Grigsby	<p>It is in my opinion that people who want to commit suicide will do it at any cost and it is for that reason, as an San Franciscian native, that I will never support any measure that will deface what I believe to be the "eighth-wonder of the world."</p> <p>In closing: leave the bridge as is.</p>
Andrea	Grimes	<p>I can't imagine helping someone to kill themselves, but that is exactly what we have done since 1937. Shame! I prefer to help save people by adding a barrier that in this case will not take away from the aesthetics of the bridge. And by the way, who cares about aesthetics if one of the world's marvels is a death magnet?</p>
Roger	Grimes	<p>The study is well researched. Compassion should be the operative thinking. We have responsibility for our fellow man whether they are in pain or are psychologically ill.</p> <p>I began advocating for a barrier in 1976. This project is long overdue and would alleviate much pain and suffering for everyone concerned.</p>
brett	grimmelbein	<p>this idea of a barrier is really only a band-aid for the problems that manifest themselves as jumping from the bridge. can no-one OD on pills, cut their wrists or shoot themselves once it is built? and i have been suicidal before. waste of the taxpayers money!</p>
Dan	Grinnell	<p>What a great draw the bridge is. People coming from all over the world to jump. Let them come, hope or help them spend all their money, then LET them jump. It's all pretty calculated it seems to me. Those that wish to kill themselves are going to do it. Or not. For 50 million bucks, you would be a long ways towards putting a train track from SF to Sonoma county, right down the middle of the stupid freeway. Then raise the bridge toll from wherever it is to \$15 or \$20 per car during commute hours. You clowns spend more money on useless studies than you have any right to. Pay some clerk to ask 100 random people on the street and you'll get better answers quicker and with less baloney.</p>

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First	Last	Comment
Sean	Grinnell	Voted for net-solid transparent panel will not be after fog rolls in-disrupts the view...how about extend the railing straight to twelve feet?
Sean	Grinnell	see above
Sarita ariell	Grosser gross	The most important thing is that SOMETHING be done in order to increase the safety of the GG Bridge, in order to deter more potential suicidal people from taking their own lives. Please take action on their behalf.
ariell	gross	it doesn't matter as long as there is a rail
ariell	gross	I honestly do not care about how aesthetically pleasing the rail is. The only thing that matters is that it will save lives.
ariell	gross	I am fully supportive of a suicide prevention rail being built on the golden gate bridge. It is completely necessary for countless reasons. I graduated from high school last month. My senior year of high school was the hardest thing I have ever faced, and then in the middle of it I lost one of my closest friends. I lost her because she suffered from depression and attachment disorder, and she did not know how to handle life. She chose to end her life and jump off of the bridge. I am confident she would be sitting with me today if she didn't have such an easy and discrete option of jumping off of the golden gate bridge. Tears still come to my eyes every time I drive over the bridge or look at it from a close enough view like the marin headlands. Please, I am begging you, don't let anyone else have to go through what I have been through. Add a real railing to the bridge.
eric	grosser	Forget this nonsense and build a traffic barrier between the lanes to prevent head-on collisions.
eric	grosser	The visual impact is I will see millions of our tax dollars wasted.
eric	grosser	What are you talking about? Imagine the cultural impact of not wasting 50 million taxpayer dollars. How about funding an art or music project for schools instead?
barbara	grote	Barriers give people time to change their mind and receive help.
mario	guarneri	My daughter was a close friend of Cassie Brooks- Please consider the saving of even one life for another day the highest priority.

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Amalia	Guerrero	<p>I think that the goal is to implement a way to prevent and eventually stop the number of suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge. In my opinion the Net System would keep the overall design in tact while making it impossible for anyone attempting to jump to hit the water below.</p> <p>Also, the vertical system to outside handrail is also a good concept, and it allows for a clear view on both sides of the bridge. Amalia Guerrero socorroguerrero2010@yahoo.com</p> <p>San Francisco, Ca. July 23,2008</p>
Jennifer	Guile	Please consider the millions of people that celebrate the gorgeous view of the GG bridge and the view from it. Many of the designs submitted make the bridge look more like a prison walkway than a travel destination.
Jennifer	Guile	Suicide is a terrible tragedy. However, my experience has told me that someone committed to taking their own life will generally find a method. Polluting the beauty of the bay and bridge for millions to deter a few people simply does not add up.
John	Guillory	It doesn't have to be pretty to get the job done. just Do it!
John	Guillory	see previous comments
John	Guillory	it is complete
John	Guillory	Get it certified ASAP
John	Guillory	no comment
John	Guillory	None
John	Guillory	None
John	Guillory	none
John	Guillory	None
John	Guillory	None
Paul	Guillory, Ph.D.	These two choices seem to be the best to make it look much too difficult to try. Paul Guillory, Ph.D.
jim	gunn	if something MUST be built then i vote for a net but I am opposed to any barrier on the bridge.

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		<p>I am outraged at the knee jerk intention to put additional barriers on the GG bridge. You have...no, we, the American people have, one of the most magnificent structures, placed in one of the most glorious locations on the face of the earth. Now some officious folks want to forever deny anyone from gaining full enjoyment of the bridge by putting some barrier which will destroy the possibility of experiencing that splendor of that vista. And why???...because a handful of people decide each year to use the GGB as the departure point for ending their lives. It is true, most who jump from the bridge would find other means of killing themselves, were the bridge not available. Why deny those already sad persons the right to experience ending it all in a place of beauty and with probable certainty?</p> <p>Most egregious in all this, is the idea that forever forward, the millions of healthy persons who enjoy the bridge for whatever reasons, will be denied one of the few pleasures still available to lucky folks who come to S.F.....that of walking unobstructed across the great Golden Gate Bridge.</p>
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	The vista is only magnificent if unimpaired. Any further barrier would eliminate the beauty which exists.
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	The impact of any such barrier will reduce, if not destroy the desire to visit the bridge.
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	I see no benefit from any of the "Alternative" offered.
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	My comments above covered this argument
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	s/a
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	s/a
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	s/a
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	have not read the EIR
Sylvia Lewis	Gunning	<p>s/a the entire enterprise would be counterproductive and a terrible waste of money.</p> <p>p.s. we keep an apartment in San Francisco so we are regular users of the GGB.</p>
Rabbi Chaya	Gusfield	I don't care about the aesthetic, cultural or historical...a barrier MUST be put up. SAVE LIVES....
Nina	Gutin	Research is clear that barriers DO WORK in suicide reduction.
Roma	Guy	I believe we can provide both visual/aesthetic and barrier to prevent suicides on the GG Bridge. For me, especially after looking at the design features, the icon value of the GG Bridge is not diminished what-so-ever by installing suicide barrier. The safer the better.

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sharon	guy	<p>I do NOT believe that making changes to the bridge will stop people who are determined to die. There are many ways to kill yourself. They will use another means that does not get the publicity that a bidge jump does...and we won't know about it. The bridge is just a symbol of people's pain, and because the means is so dramatic, we, as a community, are forced to see how isolated and desperate these people. The documentary "The Bridge" was a very touching and telling film. In most cases, others knew that the person was at risk.</p> <p>I would like to see this money used to develop innovative programs to help people who are depressed and suicidal or on school programs to teach kids how to deal with negative emotions.</p>
sharon	guy	<p>We can't afford to do this. Too costly. It's a band aid that does not deal with the real problem.</p>
Cindy	Guyon	<p>I do not support the allocation of an estimated 50 million taxpayer dollars for the possible prevention of two dozen suicides each year. Public funds have to be allocated to benefit public at large rather than a microscopic segment of the public.</p> <p>I also support the individuals right to suicide and therefore find the driving premise of this initiative flawed.</p>
john	guzman	<p>The research is clear most people who are prevented from suicides do not go on to commit suicide. A vertical system would be the best preventive measure to take. Aesthetically it is the best option. As one drives by the lines blur and the view is not obstructed.</p>
john	guzman	<p>I am hoping this project is implemented as soon as is possible. I fully support this plan</p>
G	H	<p>Do not build anything</p>
G	H	<p>Do not build anything</p>
G	H	<p>Do not build anything</p>
G	H	<p>Do not build anything</p>
G	H	<p>Do not build anything</p>
G	H	<p>Do not build anything</p>
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G	H	Do not build anything
A.	H.	<p>The Golden Gate is a valuable and beautiful tourist attraction, historical landmark and is a California icon. Marring the aesthetics of the bridge, and the view from the bridge, by adding prison-esque barriers is not a good idea. Statistically, the number of people that commit suicide off of the bridge pales in comparison to the many pedestrians and cyclists who enjoy the bridge. Should the actions of a few ruin the bridge experience for the masses?</p> <p>Additionally, it seems that the net option would be a waste of \$40-50 million. If someone jumped off the bridge and was caught in the net, there is nothing to prevent them from then throwing themselves off the net before help can arrive.</p>
A.	H.	Some of the fiscal resources that would have been used for barrier construction should be used to increase suicide patrols on the bridge.
Sheila	Habib	do something. that bridge will remain beautiful no matter what you do. look at the statistics, the facts, and do something to prevent suicide
Terri	Haddix	Any of the four (non-net) barrier options is acceptable to me, but I prefer the horizontal to the vertical in terms of simple visual impact. I fear that the net may pose ongoing challenges in maintenance and a hazard to perform the same. The most important thing, however, is that AN OPTION be implemented - to ignore this issue and do nothing demonstrates a profound disregard for human life.
Arlene	Hadi	lives should come before aesthetics. thank you.
Alayne	Haggerty	I don't think there should be a barrier. People will then choose to kill themselves another way, perhaps involving innocent victims if they jump into moving cars/train. It would be a shame if someone wanted to kill themselves but instead ended up getting someone else killed.

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Tom	Haggerty	<p>As tragic as a suicide from the GGB is, it will be far more tragic when someone deterred by a suicide barrier at the bridge chooses instead to leap into moving traffic or drive in front of a speeding train or any number of alternatives that could very likely kill innocent people.</p> <p>Alternative suicides can both unintentionally (such as walking into traffic etc) and intentionally (such as school shooting sprees, or suicide bombings etc) harm others. I can't understand how any rational person can see this as a better choice.</p>
Tom	Haggerty	<p>If the Golden Gate Bridge was only place anyone ever committed suicide and it was a simple matter of putting up a barrier to end suicide, this would be a great idea. Obviously it is not, and forcing someone to find an alternative is just pushing the problem off on others, perhaps in a way that takes innocent lives.</p> <p>Because the bridge is a natural magnet for potential suicides, it offers a perfect opportunity to provide help with the suicide phones already in place. With a suicide barrier, there will no longer be a central place to make it easy getting to these people and instead people will seek out alternatives in multiple locations and means, which obviously could impact others.</p>
Joy	Hahn	There just is not enough money for this. If it could be built and annually maintained entirely with private funds, then I might support a visually-aesthetic alternative. (Please, no horizontals. Hey, why not enclose the whole thing in glass--it's windy as heck walking on the bridge. :-)
Joy	Hahn	P.S. If there are funds available for this, can they be redirected to improving the new ugly Carquinez Bridge? What the heck happened there? Is that CalTrans' or the then-governor's fault?
Randall david	Hake hakim	<p>The bridge is beautiful the way it is. There is no point in changing it merely because a few people are using it for suicide. People who want to commit suicide will find another way to kill themselves. It should not be the responsibility of the bridge district to protect people from intentionally harming themselves.</p> <p>It is unnecessary and a stupid waste of money to ruin the aesthetic of the bridge for so-called 'suicide prevention.'</p>

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david	hakim	Money wasted on a suicide prevention apparatus should be diverted to the Movable Median Project: preventing the deaths of innocent drivers is more important than preventing the deaths of people determined to kill themselves.
david	hakim	Why not just put up a billboard that says, "We like to interfere with the lives of others - don't think about doing anything we don't approve of." A suicide-prevention barrier will have the exact same effect on the consciousness of millions of tourists and others who come to enjoy the bridge and its views.
Geoffrey	Halaburt	All the proposed changes are HIDEOUS from a visual standpoint. I don't understand the push for this at all. I'm sure it's cliché, but wouldn't anyone bound and determined to kill themselves simply find another location to do so (if a barrier were built)
Geoffrey	Halaburt	ALL the options are FAR less attractive/desirable than what we have today.
		I think adding any of the proposed alternatives to the GG bridge is a poor use of very limited resources. Why not spend money on traffic safety, for example, since traffic deaths outnumber suicide deaths by an astronomical amount? I am sensitive to the feelings of those who have lost loved ones to suicide (-- I have, too), but there are far more effective ways to reduce suicide than simply taking away one possible location.
Eden	Halbert	
Holly	Hale	do not build any barrier, extremely poor use of funds much needed elsewhere
Holly	Hale	no build or change to functioning beautiful bridge. waste of funds that could be used effectively elsewhere.
Holly	Hale	no build, waste of funds. presuming to control people is arrogant
Holly	Hale	no build. funds needed elsewhere. keep in good repair
Holly	Hale	no build
Holly	Hale	no build
Holly	Hale	no build
Holly	Hale	no build
Laura	Hale	Please do this ... it will save lives and is the right thing to do for our community. The funds will come. Let's approve the barrier as a first step!!!!

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First	Last	Comment
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J.	Hall	<p>I feel that the bridge, which is famous worldwide and one of the most beautiful (if not THE most beautiful) bridges in world should be left as-is and aesthetically intact. Those who are bent on committing suicide are not going to be stopped by a net or a barrier. They will find a way, even if it means just going to a different bridge. Their numbers are very small compared to the number of people who come to SF from around the world to marvel at the bridge, which is a work of art in many respects. The view from near and far, above and below, should not be impinged upon by so-called suicide barriers, which ultimately will not be a deterrent to anything but the bridge's aesthetics.</p>
J.	Hall	<p>NET: a net below the bridge will not only be ugly from both above and below the bridge, but in some cases might even ENCOURAGE a few nitwits to jump off, thinking the net will protect them. One has only to look at YouTube to believe there are those who will try this. VERTICAL SYSTEM: Will impede the view of walkers and bicyclists, as well as from autos & tour busses. HORIZONTAL SYSTEM ADDED TO HANDRAIL: Still would be a "scar" on the bridge, but might be the lesser of all the other 'barrier evils' in terms of aesthetics.</p>
J.	Hall	<p>The bridge has a long history, and its part of San Francisco. That's what people come to see, including those who live here and love the bridge the way it is. Jumpers have unfortunately also been a darker part of the bridge's history, but a part of its history nonetheless. They are a small minority compared to the hundreds of thousands who come to enjoy and photograph the bridge each year. Human nature being what it is, it's quite possible that making it more difficult to jump off might actually ATTRACT jumpers. I know that when someone tells me I can't do something, it often makes me just that much more determined to do it anyway. So for a person considering suicide, there may actually be a feeling of 'accomplishment' that would go along with defying additional barriers on the bridge, and jumping anyway.</p>

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J.	Hall	Specifically with regards to a NET system, it could give casual tourists walking across the bridge a false sense of security. Especially with teenage males, the false sense of security a net might provide could encourage them to do stupid things (i.e., hanging over the railing, balancing on it, shoving their friends around, etc.), in the belief that a fall into the net would be harmless.
J.	Hall	I don't think barriers actually change the land use or recreation aspects of the bridge, but they would change the look of the bridge and the view from above and below it.
J.	Hall	none
J.	Hall	Nets could possibly prove detrimental to birds that get caught in it.
J.	Hall	none
J.	Hall	none
J.	Hall	I feel that if the Bridge District wants to prevent suicides, the money they plan to spend on physical 'barriers' could be better spent on outreach, counseling services, or surveillance. Surveillance would have the added advantage of helping to protect the bridge from harm from potential terrorists, as well, many of whom are also suicidal.
Ellen	Haller	There's a critical need to build a barrier. A human life is more important than not changing the view.
Margaret	Hallett	I urge action on installing a barrier as soon as possible.
Michael	Hamaker	What a tremendous waste of federal and/or state money. What would these potential suicidal people contribute to society that merits or justifies such an outrageous expense. Let them jump and be fish food and we'll put our tax money to better use elsewhere please.
Michael	Hamill	I believe that the thin vertical system would not detract from the appearance of the bridge.
James	Hamilton	This is not the way to prevent people from jumping. This is poor solution. People will do what they want to do. I think this is a terrible way to use tax-payer money.
James	Hamilton	This is not the way to prevent people from jumping. This is poor solution. People will do what they want to do. I think this is a terrible way to use tax-payer money.

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Jeffrey-reid	Hamilton	<p>-I am one of the fortunate few to stand atop of the north tower.</p> <p>-The international appeal is the absolute uniqueness of our beloved GGB.</p> <p>-Any visual obstruction defeats the original intent of design.</p> <p>-It is tragic a few folks would want to exit this life off of such a beautiful example of engineering, however, it is equally tragic to allow the few to override the wishes of the majority.</p> <p>-Well, words cannot express the feelings of dismay at the prospect of the selfish few spoiling it for the majority. If they want to jump, let 'em. In the final analysis, it is their wish. We shouldn't even allocate the resources to pick them up out of the water. Let the Pacific Ocean take care of them. After all, it is their decision and final wish.</p>
Scott	Hamilton	<p>The real issue here seems to be obscured. If we are trying to prevent suicide this is clearly the wrong answer. People who are intent on suicide will find the most effective means available. The impact of making this bridge less effective will not necessarily reduce suicide overall, just on the ggb. If suicide prevention is the cause, then this money can be spent far more effectively elsewhere.</p> <p>If prevention of death is of paramount importance then this money should be spent on a median. A median will prevent unintended death.</p>
Alec	Hansen	<p>I'm not too sensitive to which one. I think a deterrent is a MUST, due to an article in the New York Times (â€œThe Urge to End It Allâ€, by Scott Anderson, 7/6/08). It convinced me that most potential suicide victims will not just go to the "next best place" to jump. I subsequently verified this with two almost-jumpers who were deterred. Now that I know it will be effective, I'm a strong supporter of some kind of barrier.</p>
Emily	Hansen	<p>You won't stop suicides, the people will just kill themselves somewhere else. Spend the money on Suicide Prevention Hotlines and save the aesthetic of the bridge.</p>
Greg	Hansen	<p>Spending \$50M to negatively change the visual/aesthetic resource that is a global icon is not a wise use of tax/rate payer funds. Greater impact would be made by using a fraction of the money to enhance non-physical suicide deterrent programs.</p>

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Susan	Hanson	Please vote for this project...you do not have to have the money....your vote pending funds found somewhere else will keep this long needed life saver moving!
Blow me	hard	Stupid and ridiculas
Blow me	hard	You people are gangsters
Blair	Hardcastle	If money is going to be spent on modifying the bridge it should first be allocated to creating a better barrier between northbound and southbound vehicular traffic to reduce vehicle collisions.
Mela	Harding	I live in Chicago and opened our local paper and read about the debate over the bridge and deterring suicides. One main argument highlighted in the article was a father who's daughter committed suicide. He believes that most suicides are impulsive and that there should be something implemented to stop those trying to harm themselves. Another suicide mentioned in the piece told of a British lady who looked up suicide sites on the internet, bought a ticket, and flew (mind you, it takes 8 hours to clear the Atlantic from England)to San Fran. After she landed, she found her way to the Golden Gate and jumped. She has to be the prime example of support to why changing the bridge is silly. My opinion is to leave the bridge as it is. I don't believe suicides are impulsive because look at how much planning a suicide contains. Notification, figuring out how they want to hurt themselves, the note left behind. That's planning. If a person will do all of that, they'll cut through a net, get a ladder, or just clear drive off the thing if they want. In other words, it's not always impulse and if they get to that bridge and look down and STILL want to go over- nothing can stop that. There is no one to blame, no problem to fix- the problem went over the edge, it's gone with it's owner and blaming the bridge will not bring that person back. There are a million ways to kill yourself, if your state of mind is at the point where you want to, it's not more likely so because there's a humongous bridge in town. If that were the case, then what about the rest of the world and all it's dangers let alone opportunies at killing yourself, are you gonna put nets on all of that?
Mela	Harding	Maybe there should be guards at intervals or something, and by doing that you've created a couple more jobs and maybe less deaths. I don't know how San Fran's economy is doing but that might be cheaper than the millions it will take to renuvate.
Nicole	Harlow	They are all terrible.
Nicole	Harlow	They are all terrible. Leave the bridge alone.
Tim	Harrington	More study should have focused on whether the bridge actually causes more people to commit suicide or whether the same people would be likely to simply kill themselves in another matter.
Tim	Harrington	The \$50 million that this project is expected to cost might be more effectively spent on other programs to prevent suicides and other public safety issues.
Ivano	Harris	The money could be better spent on programs targeted towards prevention of suicide and/or prevention of head-on collisions on the bridge. Things like aesthetic impact and land use do not matter when the whole goal of the project and funds used is misguided.

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Jeff	Harris	Given the current financial crisis of the GGB fund and the high rates drivers are paying to cross the bridge or take the ferry, I see no justification for paying anything additional to save people from themselves. Unless the bridge is deemed to be a safety hazard, there is no reason to spend the money and mare a national landmark.
Pat	Harris	Whichever barrier creates the least potential for adverse effects to the span, to wildlife, and other concerns should be pursued. What matters most is to reduce the suicide risk.
Pat	Harris	With an effective barrier in place, the bridge will be a symbol of beauty and regional character in an entirely new way.
james	harris jr	I feel that these two choises would not take away the special look of the Golden Gate, and would help in bringing more people from other parts of the world to enjoy the look of the water under them and see passing ships more better.
Bill	Hart	What a waste of money. People will figure out how to jump anyway.
Kendra	Hartnett	I am concerned about the safety impact that increasing the hight/size/type of the railings. There has not been any disclosure on the impact they will have the performance of the bridge.
Kendra	Hartnett	any railing height increase will detract from the bridge design and experience
Kendra	Hartnett	Alternative 3 has the least visual impact
Kendra	Hartnett	It is absurd to install a barrier - people would just climb higher or jump from a different area. A complete and utter waste of \$\$
Rebecca	Hartog	I strongly support a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.
Joel	Hartstone	DO SOMETHING!!!!!! TO DO NOTHING IS A DISGRACE TO THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO. If you don't construct some type of suicide barrier, I hope every major television network runs a one hour feature telling all of America which individuals voted against the barrier, putting "aesthetics" ahead of saving countless lives. For shame! As officials in the public trust, they should be "shown to the world" and held up to public disdain and humiliation for such a vote. If the bridge were owned by a private company, it would be continually sued (I would expect successfully) for maintaining an attractive nuisance, like a swimming pool without a fence. To rely on sovereign immunity to continue a problem that would not be allowed if purpetrated by a private party is a misuse of the principal and betrayal of the public trust.
Yvette	Hash	I think the net would require significant ongoing expense--staff, equipment. It would not be good pr for an injured person to be lying in the net waiting to be rescued.

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FREDERICK	HASS	<p>People who want to commit suicide will.</p> <p>The Golden Gate Bridge does not cause suicides. Guns do not cause suicide.</p> <p>Drugs do not cause suicide.</p>
Joan	Hasselgren	All the systems destroy the visual and aesthetic value of Golden Gate Bridge. The suicide issue is one that can be addressed without adding a barrier to the bridge. If we are going to protect people from themselves, there is no end in the "safety" decisions we are going to make to further erase our freedom of choice.
Joan	Hasselgren	The net is the least visually and aesthetically unobtrusive.
Joan	Hasselgren	Our society is going in the wrong direction and saving people from themselves by creating all our world "safe" is limiting to both our aesthetic lives and our freedom of choice. A better solution is to look at the reasons for people wanting to kill themselves.
Joan	Hasselgren	Free health care will be a solution to much of the suicidal issues for people in this country.
Joan	Hasselgren	The money can and should be spent on enhancing the bridge and surrounding areas.
Joan	Hasselgren	These systems destroy the visual experience for all those visiting and using the bridge.
Joan	Hasselgren	I suppose we should consider whether the net will trap birds.
Joan	Hasselgren	Create a net that won't catch birds.
Ashley	Hathaway	I think most people would agree not to continue changing the face of the Golden Gate Bridge. It is one of the most beautiful landmarks in the world and just because a few people (I know someone who jumped a few years ago!) choose to end their lives by jumping from it every year, it shouldn't be cause for the rest of the world to see this landmark changed forever by an "eye-sore" suicide barrier!
Ashley	Hathaway	I know someone who ended their life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. And even though this is a tragic problem we all face in association with the bridge, I still feel so strongly about not building any kind of barrier! I know so many other people in SF and beyond that feel this way too... and so many that don't express this view to the public! PLEASE DO NOT BUILD A BARRIER!!!!!!!
Katy	Haun	All additions are visually and aesthetically UGLY.

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Katy	Haun	The bars, both vertical and horizontal orientations, are UGLY. The net is UGLY.
Katy	Haun	N/C
Katy	Haun	N/C
Katy	Haun	N/C
Katy	Haun	N/C
Katy	Haun	N/C
Katy	Haun	N/C
Katy	Haun	The environmental analysis is fully adequate.
Katy	Haun	It is simply a colossal waste of money and effort to make any concessions to the prevention of suicide. You've lost track of the point of the bridge. You can't make anyone NOT commit suicide. The best course for you is to maintain the beauty, structure, and safety of the bridge for the people who come to enjoy it, and let those who need to make the last moments of their lives a public affair do whatever it is they need to do. It's really none of your business. Please stay focussed on the issues you can affect.
Chris	Hawkins	I think any barrier which extends virtically like a fence will be so unsightly it will ruin the asthetics of the bridge for millions of visitors and residents who love it the way it is. having a net is the best solution in my opinion.
James	Hawkins	This debate has been going on since I came to San Francisco 40 years ago and yet "beauty" always trumps human life. A slight modification of the asethtics of the bridge to save lives should be an acceptable measure for every thinking and caring people. Get it done. Get it done fast. Forty plus years of debate 39 years too many.
Greg	Haworth	Perhaps we might as well set up a system where anyone who enters the golden gate bridge has a harness locked to them via security guard. This harness is secured by a cable to the railing. when they leave the bridge the harness is unlocked. We don't do this because as selfish as it may seem we'd rather let a couple people kill themselves each month. If we build any sort of barrier, the suicides will just migrate to somewhere else. But maybe that's just what you want. Just hide them away, as long as they aren't on your precious bridge. However, consider that people start going to the golden gate to shoot themselves in the head on the sidewalk, or hurl themselves into oncoming traffic. When tourists start seeing bodies laying dead on the sidewalk, how stubborn will you be about taking down your ridiculous net?
Sharon	Hawthorne	Money would be better spent on mental health care that might aid in prevention of an attempt.

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First	Last	Comment
Gavin	Hayes	This is a waste of money that will deface our most famous and applauded landmark. Where are the preservationists now? What is being proposed is a barrier that will just make it a LITTLE more difficult to jump. Raising the height of the barrier would just make the climb up a little more difficult. The net idea is also a waste. All they have to do is jump down to it and then jump off of there. it would still be fatal. Stop controlling lives and trying to determine ones destiny. This is laughable and oh so San Francisco. I couldn't expect anything less. Leave the bridge alone.
Trevor	Hayman	A visible barrier will destroy the historic look of the Golden Gate Bridge.
		<p>According to the web site www.suicide.org in 2005 there was 32,439 suicides. 52.1% was from firearms 22.2% was from hanging, strangulation, suffocation 17.6% was from poisons and lastly 8.1% from all other methods such as jumping off bridges. What this data tells me is that most people do not jump off bridges to commit suicide and suicides will continue to happen even if a barrier is erected. Its sad to lose someone who has committed suicide no matter how they do this, however a barrier on the Golden Gate bridge will not stop suicides. A barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge will only change the location of the suicide and/or how a person commits suicide.</p> <p>I have been to other historical monuments and I look at pictures of how these places looked when they were first built and over time some of these places have deteriorated or have been changed and all that is left is the picture of how things were. While looking at these pictures I wish I was there to see the historic monument first hand but alas I cannot because it was changed. Please do not change the look of the bridge for myself, my children and my childrens children.</p> <p>Please spend the 40 million on up-keep of the of the Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
Trevor	Hayman	
		My concerns are primarily aesthetic and feel that an intensification of non-physical deterrentcy programs should be put in place and reviewed after at least a year before any physical changes to the iconic design of the bridge are even considered.
jasper	haynes	
		fence should match color of bridge, sturdy metal should be used that will not rust
Grace	Hays	

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First	Last	Comment
Roy	Headwell	People can say the way it is today has failed because about 24 people are still jumping per year...but what about the 30 plus people every year that are talked back because of the people who have the training are right there to help...if a person is going to hurt themself would it not be better that they go to a bridge where people have been train to help or would it be better that they sit alone in there apartment with pills, a gun, a knife, or even a piece of rope. if a person want to kill themself what every you do to that bridge will not stop them, they may not jump off the golden gate bridge, but they will still find away to end there lives...I was on the bridge earlier this year when a jumper was stop...I just think thank god someone was there to pull them back.
Marilyn	Healy	1)The majority has expressed its wishes that no suicide barrier be build. That should be the deciding factor. 2) The monies that would be spent for a barrier (very large sum) should be put into mental health programs to aid people before they reach "the jumping off point."
Marilyn	Healy	It is unfortunate that so much time and money continues to be spent on so many alternative barriers when the majority of people do not want a barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. The bridge is not the problem.
Raymond	Hearey, MD	I am a psychiatrist in the SF area, having lived and trained in SF. I support a suicide barrier. Although I believe the net system is most aesthetically pleasing, I am concerned that it might not effectively deter individuals who would commit suicide. Having lost a friend to suicide from the bridge, I support this important work for the public health.
Teresa House	Hedani	Adding a suicide barrier is long overdue on this bridge. I feel that the vertical elements harmonize most effectively with the existing design.
Lisa	Heier	My cousin jumped off of the Golden Gate Bridge in December of 2006. His body was found one week later. My prayer is that no other family would experience the pain of losing a loved one this way. Thank you, Lisa Heier
victoria	heiges	I hate that this beautiful bridge has become an international suicide icon.
David	Heimann	On balance won't it increase the total number of suicides ? If you drive the bridge every day and you are slightly suicidal it is more likely that a daily reminder of suicide will push you in that direction than the opportunity to jump will.
Max	Hein	Suicide deterrent will spoil this important resource and will be far too expensive. It won't work, either.

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		<p>Everything I have seen and read over the last years has confirmed to me that any barrier would be a costly mistake. There are about 32,000 suicides a year in the US, and while that is a sad statistic (from a recent NY Times article)it speaks to the difficulty in eliminating the issue. Putting a focus on the bridge is the wrong place to address the problem.</p> <p>The dubious beneficial effect a barrier would bring to the issue of suicide would be more than offset by the enormous visual, historic, cultural and social loss a barrier would create. The powerful, positive experience of the openness that the bridge affords to millions upon millions of people would be destroyed. The visual, psychological and social loss to all of us would be inexcusable. The bridge - one of the wonders of the world - would be disfigured forever to make a symbolic but ineffective gesture.</p> <p>All of this already at enormous cost...money that could be better spent on counseling and intervention...what a waste.</p>
Jeffrey	Heller	
David	Hellman	This is a pathetic waste of money. Period.
		I think it is VERY important to do all that is possible to prevent suicide. We should not worry so much about the aesthetics - the bridge and the view will still be beautiful - but instead we should worry about the value of human life. When a person is in such dire straights and is presented with an opportunity to take their own life, they make take that opportunity - let's eliminate that opportunity! Suicidal thoughts are due to an illness that we should help treat. I lost my father to suicide when I was 5 years old and do not want any other child to grow up without a parent. My father reached out for help that day and no one was available. We should put preventative measures in place so that "help" is already there. Thank you!
Pamela	Helman	
Eloice	Helms	spend the money to have additional foot patrols on the bridge

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Robert	Helwing	As much as I would love to see nothing impeding the stunning views from the bridge, the tragic reality of so many individuals committing suicide from the bridge forces a response by society to help prevent such tragedies. In light of this fact, a physical barrier of some sort is necessary. I vote simply for Alternative 1A, the vertical barrier in addition to the present handrail. Due to my fear of heights, I would find Alternative 2A, the vertical barrier sans handrail, to be uncomfortably disconcerting. I feel that the two types of horizontal barriers are ill-advised as somebody reasonably determined to scale them could probably do so relatively easily by using them as a type of ladder. The net system seems to me to also be ill-advised in acting as an effective deterrent to a suicidal person.
Carol	Helzberg	I do not think adding a barrier would significantly change the look of the bridge in any meaningful way, other than to prevent impulsive suicide.
Carol	Helzberg	Don't let this decision be based solely on public opinion - \$50 mil might seem like a lot of money but if it's put in perspective (what does it cost to buy a house in Marin) - it is the RIGHT thing to do. Push for Federal funding as the first source of money but in any case, make this a priority for our bridge, the Bay Area and California.
Charles	Hembree	Please base decision on facts not emotions. Barrier will only cause people to use other means. Waste of money, like outlawing rope to prevent hanging.
Ronny	Hemmerich	I feel that the net system is the least obstrusive and that it would prevent most of the suicides. Some would not jump knowing they will land in the net and those who do anyway would have a chance to reconsider and many of them would not crawl to the edge of the net and jump again.
Ronny	Hemmerich	Don't believe it necessary to have an entanglement system. That would save many \$\$\$\$. I thought of this system years ago. Thanks, Ron Hemmerich
Pam	Hemphill	This is unfair to all of the other people who use the bridge. Glass panels will be constantly dirty and a maintenance nightmare.

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Pam	Hemphill	<p>This huge amount of money needs to go into mental health to prevent suicide and not directly at the bridge, but into education and awareness of depression and impulsivity. Guns at home are far more dangerous than this bridge.</p> <p>1300 suicides over 70 years is a sad thing, but a hugely expensive barrier will not solve this problem.</p>
Chris	Hendricks	Any barrier will deface the landmark and will end up being no more than a waste of money. Those desperate enough to take their lives on the bridge will be redirected to some other means-- likely one that will harm or traumatize others. We don't need "this kind" of solution to a mental health issue.
Maureen	Henke	I don't think the golden gate bridge should get changed. There are a lot of visitors to the bridge each year that come for the views. A vertical system would take away from the views and the overall appearance of the bridge.
Maureen	Henke	If any change is to be made, the Net System seems to have the least amount of visual impact. It's a shame that anyone wants to change the look of the bridge.
Nicolle	Henneuse	This bridge is a beautiful, historical attraction for visitors around the world. Please do not mar the beautiful lines and architecture of the bridge for millions for the few that choose to take their life. It was their choice to end their lives and the cost for such a barrier could be better used for patrols on the bridge.
Nicolle	Henneuse	This bridge is a beautiful, historical attraction for visitors around the world. Please do not mar the beautiful lines and architecture of the bridge for millions for the few that choose to take their life. It was their choice to end their lives and the cost for such a barrier could be better used for patrols on the bridge.
Lisa	Henry	I believe the money is better spent working on people because if someone is going to commit suicide, they will do it eventually or not, regardless of a barrier. If one must be added (which I oppose), then the net is the least detracting from the beauty of the bridge as it should be. I don't want to visually see any difference.
patrick	henry	if we truly have tens of millions of dollars available to pay for this allegedly helpful barrier, lets spend that money on mental health programs that will benefit thousands of individual seeking help and treatment. not spend on saving the few people who choose the bridge to commit suicide.

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patrick	henry	<p>is there ANY proof that those planning suicide won't simply find another method of ending their lives? in front of a bart train or worse? how much will that cost us all in drama and cash?</p> <p>maybe we should eliminate all trains since someone can kill themselves that way?</p> <p>this all makes ZERO sense. and embarasses me that fellow liberals feel this is an appropriate expense of our limited taxpayer dollars. and that so much money has ALREADY been spent exploring this</p> <p>NO BUILD - let's close this debate, please.</p>
Shane	Hensinger	The net keeps the view from the bridge but also stops the crazies from jumping. I'd prefer nothing be built but if we HAVE to build something the net is my first and only choice.
Heather	Hernandez	The barrier proposals would destroy the beauty of a historic cultural resource that is an international treasure.
Heather	Hernandez	If we really want to make a difference in people's lives, then the money would be better spent on non-physical suicide deterrent programs not only on the bridge, but in the Bay Area--for residents and tourists. Enhance the presence and availability of these resources in hotels and tourist areas. Do not destroy the beauty of this structure in a misguided attempt to assuage the grief of the few who have lost loved ones.
Magdalena	Hernandez	<p>I am against a vertical or horizontal deterrent barrier. If someone wants to commit suicide they will find another way to do it.</p> <p>I think the barrier will ruin the visual and aesthetic beauty that is the national landmark that marks the bay area. That may sound unfeeling but the money spent would better be used for the moving lane barrier. We probably see more deaths on the bridge for oncoming traffic then jumpers.</p>
Magdalena	Hernandez	Use some of the money to put in suicide phones to talk to live people.

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Laurie	Herraiz	<p>Please, oh please, read the following article:</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/06/magazine/06suicide-t.html?pagewanted=1&sq=suicide&st=cse&scp=9</p> <p>Bridge-jumping falls under the category of impulsive, lethal and largely PREVENTABLE suicide. Read the statistics of the Duke Ellington bridge in Washington state. Constructing a suicide barrier there dramatically reduced overall suicides in the city. People did NOT find another means, because they were deterred long enough to ride out the urge.</p>
Alexa	Hershby	When it comes to saving a life it does not seem as important to worry about the aesthetics of a structure. When it comes to the Golden Gate Bridge a new rail is not only necessary, but will help in saving lives.
Alexa	Hershby	Please build a rail and save lives!
Donald	Hertzfeldt	As the district proceeds with this endeavor, when securing an estimate for the cost of any barrier, they should at the same time obtain an estimate for the cost of its removal. If the decision is made to erect a barrier, a mandate should be in place which
Scott	Herz	It's a shame people are jumping from the bridge, but its not worth upwards of 50 million to fix. People will find another way to do it. Are we going to spend another 50 million to plug the next "suicide magnet"?
Debbie	Hesse	I like the vertical additions to the current structure as they continue the aesthetic look of the vertical height of the GGB. The Alternative 1A would probably be less costly as it is an addition to existing structure. However, Alternative 21, while adding more cost, makes it all visually uniform. Both good alternatives visually, but most important they provide good barriers.
Tracey	Hessel	I think that all of the alternatives are aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the general look of the original bridge design.
Tracey	Hessel	no build - this is the least aesthetically pleasing to me as every time I cross the bridge I am reminded of the two people whom I have known that ended their lives there.
Patti	Hickle	Tough decisions, but one who is going to commit suicide will do so in any other number of ways anyway...or they will find another bridge or building. A hard fact to face, but hopefully the net approach will win the most approval and everyone benefits.

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Gary A.	Hill	The draft EIR/EA contains very little analysis of the suicide problem generally, but merely assumes that physical measures to further reduce the incidence of suicide at the bridge will be beneficial. This is not necessarily so. The report acknowledges that most potential suicides are prevented by measures already in place. Suppose physical measures make suicide at the GG Bridge all but impossible. It may be then that another place will become the favored place for potential suicides, and that place will not have the system for intervention that the GG Bridge District has now, which appears to be remarkably effective. The total number of suicides may actually increase by forcing the problem elsewhere. Perhaps the GG Bridge District will solve its own problem, but not the problem of suicides generally. I believe the GG Bridge District should leave the bridge as it is and strive to improve the current system for identifying potential suicides and intervening when possible.
Gerry	Hill	Since suicides are a given -- I read the newspaper -- what are the alternative to the Golden Gate Bridge? Coit Tower, high rise buildings in the downtown area, the tower on Twin Peaks, etc? How many persons have been directly impacted (literally) as a result of someone jumping off the bridge? And if one of the above alternatives is used, how many innocent bystanders will be hit by the falling bodies? The money used to study this problem and to seek a "cure" is much better used to address the problems of the individual by supporting counseling, treatment and professional prevention not another lame ornament.
Laura	Hill	Building barriers saves lives. Should be done; humane and cost effective
Peter	Hill	I am OK with the ashtetics of this proposal.
Peter	Hill	I am also OK with this one.
Peter	Hill	Saving 20-35 lives a year is important not only for the persons life, but for the legacy and the trickle down effect of suicide on a persons kids if he or she has them. What is the cost of saving a life. Less than 10% of jumpers, according to studies ever feel the impulse again.
Peter	Hill	It is a good use.
Peter	Hill	It is a good use
Peter	Hill	I support it.

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Clark D.	Hinderleider MD, PhD	<p>I do not support the building of a suicide deterrent barrier, whose very name gives the clue to its deficiency, because it is both bad public health policy and poor mental hygiene care. The President's Commission on Mental Health and The Surgeon's General Report, based on data from the CDC, agree that suicide is an urgent problem needing a thoughtful and considered response, drawn from evidence-based science and medicine. I am a firm supporter of this position. Have statistics relating to the issue changed? It remains that only 30% of the current attempts are completed; that is one out of 500,000 visitors to the bridge, one of 1,500,000 transits of the bridge. Are there new and proven techniques which will significantly improve this number? Current literature demonstrates that about one-third of those with suicide attempts will repeat such within one year; and 10% of those will succeed, with the risk persisting throughout the lifetime. The data from the SF Medical Examiner's Office over the past several years show only 14.2% of those jumping use the Golden Gate Bridge. Are these others not worthy of notice and intervention? There is no doubt that the risk of suicide is related to the availability of means. And there is controversy regarding whether restricting a particular method will reduce the overall frequency of suicide. A recent review, "Suicide Prevention Strategies," in the Journal of the American Medical Association, with 147 references, had only one pertaining to jumping from a bridge, which concluded that with the removing of an intervention, the rate of suicide by jumping in the metropolitan area in question did not change. [Beautrais] Another paper on point notes "...the lack of clear scientific evidence unequivocally proving that the construction of barriers on the [bridge] has resulted causally in an absolute reduction in the number and rate of suicides..." [Silverman] Reisch in his study noted a trend in male subjects of substituting overdosing as the method, when the bridge access was restricted. This is significant in that over 70% of the Bay Area subjects jumping are male. This question of means restriction and its substitution, has never been addressed by the proponents. While a barrier may reduce the actual number jumping from the GG Bridge, the pertinent question is does it have any effect on the overall rate? Those favoring a barrier have not answered the query. The cognizant reviewer will find that it is much preferable, medically, socially, and economically, to fund mental health care and education directed to those who are affected by suicide, both as patients and in their supporting groups, in order to prevent further loss of life and to alleviate the attendant suffering. The barrier to suicide must be erected before the patient ever reaches the bridge, in order to be effective as an intervention. The march to construct a suicide barrier is propelled by politics and ego not by scientific facts and data. There are the politicians who want a face time issue, however inappropriate; and the clinicians whose support is to cover their failures both to help their suicidal patients and to contribute to good public health. In fact, this nescient chorus sings a deadly tune: it is found that there exists a moderate correlation between the number of media reports and the number of people jumping. [Reish] It is time that the sensible citizens and responsible clinicians insist on good mental health care. The construction of the deterrent does not fill this prescription. References Baldessarini, RJ, "Suicide Risk and Treatments for Patients with Bipolar Disorder," JAMA, 290:1517, 2003 Beautrais, AL, Effectiveness of barriers at suicide jumping sites: a case study, Aust N Z J Psychiatry, 35(5): 557, 2001 Berman, A.L. 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		<p>Phones,â€œ Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene, March 1999 Gonzalez-Pinto, A, et al., â€œPredictors of Suicide in First-Episode Affective and Nonaffective Psychotic Inpatients: Five â€œ Year Follow-Upâ€œ Journal of Clinical Psychiatry 2007, 68:242 Gould, MS, et al., â€œEvaluating Iatrogenic Risk of Youth Suicide Screening Programs: A Randomized Controlled Trial,â€œ JAMA, 293:1635, 2005 Injury Center, CDC, Prevention of and Intervention in suicide, 5 Aug 04 Joiner, T, Why People Die by Suicide, Harvard Univ Press: Cambridge, 2005 Kessler, RC, et al., â€œTrends in Suicide Ideation, Plans, Gestures, and Attempts in the United States, 1990-1992 to 2001-2003,â€œ JAMA, 293:2487, 2005 Lindqvist, P, et al., â€œAre suicides by jumping off bridges preventable? An analysis of 50 cases from Sweden,â€œ Accident Analysis and Prevention, 36(4):691, 2004 Mann, JJ, et al., â€œSuicide Prevention StratÃ©gies. A systematic review,â€œ JAMA, 294:2064, 2005 _____, â€œClassification Trees Distinguish Suicide Attempts in Major Psychiatric Disorders: A Model of Clinical Decision Making,â€œ J Clin Psychiatry, 3 Jan 08, e1-e9 Mehlum, L, et al., â€œThe Norwegian Plan for Suicide Prevention: follow-up project 2000-2002, Suicidologi, no. 1 Miller, BP, et al., â€œCreating s Suicide Risk Assessment Tool for use in the Emergency Department,â€œ Abstract NR391, American Psychiatric Association Meeting, 21 May 2007 Mohr, DC, et al., â€œTelephone-administered psychotherapy for depression,â€œ Archives of General Psychiatry, 62:1007, 2005 Nock, MW, et al., â€œCross-national prevalence and risk factors for suicidal ideation, plans and attempts,â€œ British Journal of Psychiatry 2008; 192(2):98- Presidentâ€™s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, â€œAchieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America,â€œ Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC, July 2003 Pruessner, JC, et al., â€œDopamine release in response to a psychological stress in humans and its relationship to early life maternal care, â€œ Journal of Neuroscience, 24:2825, 2004 Reisch, T, et al., â€œSecuring a Suicide Hot Spot. Effects of a safety net at the Bern Muenster,â€œ Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior, 35(4):460, 2005 Reisch, T, et al., â€œSuicide by Jumping and Accessibility of Bridges: Results from a National Survey in Switzerland, Suicide and Life-Threatening Behaviour 2007; 37(6):681ff Seiden, RH, â€œWhere are they now: A Follow-up Study of Suicide Attempters from the Golden Gate Bridge,â€œ Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior, 8(4):1, 1978 Suominen, K, et al., â€œCompleted Suicide after a Suicide Attempt: A 37 Year Follow-Up Study,â€œ AJP, 161:562, 2004 USPHS, The Surgeon Generalâ€™s Call To Action To Prevent Suicide, Washington, D.C., 2001 Hinderleider, Clark, M.D., Ph. D., quoted: Reid, D, â€œDeath Sceneâ€œ, Sacramento Bee, â€œTicket +,â€œ 5 Nov 06 McKinley, J, New York Times, 11 Aug 06 (Link in eMail)</p>
Jarrold	Hindman	This is long overdue. It's unbelievable that places like the Eiffel Tower and the Empire State Building have not decreased their appeal or visitation, but there remains a fear that the Golden Gate Bridge will by saving lives. It's irresponsible and short-sighted.
Laura	Hinerfeld	Any studies done on how many suicide attempts could be prevented with 40-60 million in mental health spending?
Barbara	Hines	I would be satisfied with ANY effective barrier to stop the suicides.
Kevin	Hines	Do we care about birds and plants dying more than human kind suffering and dying? I pick Human Kind and people, mother's father's, sister's brother's friends, lives lost, I almost lost my own at the bridge when I was not in my right state of mind, when I was trying to stay alive while my brain was trying to kill me due to a mental disorder.

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Kevin	Hines	Please choose a barrier/railing not the no build issue (it shouldn't even be on the table. Basically it states: "where going to go ahead and let people die by way of suicide for the next 70 years, who cares" I care and I hope you the board and the people of this great city do the morally correct thing, and do not stay morally bankrupt as you are now.
Nan	Hinze	I am a taxpayer and I refuse to pay for this!!People will themselves regardless!This is pointless and the only landmark SF..you want to ruin it!! I have to commute to Marin and I don't want to pay more money when the price of gas is out of control.It's li
Julie	Hirshen	I am against erecting a suicide barrier on the bridge. A recent article noted, the \$40m could be used to hire more patrols to watch the bridge. I think that's a better idea than adding any type of physical barrier to the bridge. I also think all the designs negatively impact the original beauty of the structure.
John	Hirten	The main aesthetic attraction of the bridge lies in its overall visual aspect, viewed from a distance. The barrier, I believe, would not affect the aesthetics. I believe that for those commuters and for the pedestrians, the alternatives mentioned above will offer only minimal impact on the overall aesthetic experience.
John	Hirten	GGB needs a suicide barrier of some kind.
Vincent	Hoagland	I don't think that any barrier needs to be in place to keep people from jumping.
Carol	Hoang	The build does not make sense and does not solve the problem of people wanting to commit suicide. The build will only be a negative for the bridge and what it has to offer so many people.
marie	hoch	1b feels safest to me. It provides a hand rail to lean on. The pedestrian can look through the horizontal supports for an mostly unimpeded view. 2b does not feel as safe to me, but I prefer it to the prison bars alternative.
marie	hoch	In my opinion, saving lives is much more important than retaining the current aesthics on the bridge. I would be more enjoy the bridge as a pedestrian when the suicide barriers are in place. It would feel safer to me.
William	Hochman	In my view, and I believe the view of most people who have basic common sense, is that if you add a mustache to the Mona Lisa, her appearance will be ruined, or so dramatically changed, that it no longer is the Mona Lisa. So it is also with the Golden Gat
A	Hodges	I commute every day across the GGB and in doing so I spend in excess of \$1000 in bridge tolls anually. Raising the bridge toll in conjunction with increased gas prices puts unusual stress on my family. If the toll goes up another dollar for this nonsense I will be the first to jump. Lowering the already outrageous bridge tolls is more of a suicide deterrent than anything I've seen here.

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A	Hodges	I can't believe my hard earned money is contributing to this study and web site. You should be ashamed.
Aaron	Hodges	The 1000 dollars a year I spend in tolls is contributing to maintenance of this site and a research study? You must be joking? No really, this is a joke right?
		The personal pain of loved ones of suicides is not a public issue. The bridge did not kill them, they killed themselves.
Hillary	Hodges	
		Mac Coffey has it right. No barrier.
Susan	Hoehler	
Mark	Hoffman	You need to build the protection
Bruce	Hoffmann	Please do not build this barrier. Aesthetics aside, what is the point? Bad/sad events take place everyday. Can we really justify spending \$40-50 million to "possibly" save about 20 people a year. We would have to assume that one, the barrier will completely stop suicides from the bridge (not likely) and two, these people will not simply choose another location-likely for at least a percentage of them. If people started jumping from Half Dome would we put a fence around it? What about the Marin Headlands? If you factor in ruining one of the worlds most beautiful man-made structures, the whold idea is horrible. Judging by comments left on SF gate on-line, I would say an overwhelming majority of the local population would agree.
Bill	Hole	A barrier is necessary and the type is best up to engineers for bridge safety and historical impacts. Wind factors and long term maintenance should be considered.
Bill	Hole	A fall barrier is our responsibility. Too many people have given their lives by suicide. We must help to stop this illness.

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Daniel	Hollander	While suicide is a horrible thing, it is important to note that the Bridge -- as it is now -- provides an aesthetic thrill to millions of visitors each year. Any "alternative" other than "No Build" would be a drastic step toward making the Bridge a mere utilitarian device. I urge you not to build any "system" to prevent suicides.
Deanna	Holman	I would think that the transparent barriers would become cloudy over time due to pollution and the weather which would detract from the view. If so, I think they'd have to be replaced if and when that happened, resulting in additional expenditures. The horizontal and/or vertical systems wouldn't cause that problem, plus the view of San Francisco and the bay would be enhanced because of visibility.
Christine	Holmes	Nothing should be done to change the aesthetic/visual impact of the bridge. All of the alternatives would do so.
Christine	Holmes	To take such a iconic structure and add a net would ruin the clean beauty of the bridge. Adding additional railing would not only ruin the appearance, but also the experience of walking or biking across the bridge.
Christine	Holmes	The idea of viewing scenery from the bridge through a window would significantly negatively impact the recreational experience of walking or biking across the bridge.
Christine	Holmes	Birds may get caught in a net.

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ellen	holmes	<p>I am strongly in favor of leaving the bridge alone, by which I mean NO CHANGE, no nets or heightened barriers. Here are my reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. those who wish to take their lives will find a way to do so anyway. 2. Undoubtedly, many people find it reassuring to know the bridge could be a way out if at some point they need it--and therefore, they feel they can keep going on. Thus, the bridge is consoling and actually helps them stay alive. I believe this is true for many people. 3. Also, for many people, looking down from the bridge and feeling the reality of death, makes them re-evaluate the whole idea of suicide and is a deterrent. 4. people should be allowed to make their own decisions. 5. any of the options will significantly mar the aesthetics of the bridge and all of them are extremely expensive. The cost will translate to higher public transportation fees, which would hurt tens or hundreds of thousands of people.

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		Thank you for accepting our comments and please don't mess with the bridge!
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ken	holmes	this is long overdue. something must be done to deter people from such availability to take their lives. the visual bridge will not be marred by tasteful addition of a raised preventative.
Nancy	Holt	I am in favor of putting human patrols on foot and/or bicycle on the bridge who are educated in suicide prevention.
Kellee	Hom	Options 2A and 2B do not provide a sense of security and in fact may induce anxiety.
Marci	Hooper	I am loathe to put up any barrier that can be gotten round - I think the net is the best alternative. It is strong enough, so I understand, to hold a person, and resistant enough that they should be in some pain, but able to recover. A second chance is better than being thwarted in the first place.
Marci	Hooper	There is every reason to believe that the suicides from this bridge are both serious and ill. I believe that they will get a better wake up call from falling into a net - and thereby getting some help when recovered, than by having to climb over a barrier to fall to their death.
Micah	Hoover	If people want to kill themselves, let them.
Brendan	Hopkins	The already installed high fence / gate at the south end of the bridge imparts an ugly urban atmosphere to the bridge. It resembles a prison compound instead of a beautiful complement to the city and Marin county.
Brendan	Hopkins	Only the net system (Alternative 3) preserves the iconic appearance of the bridge. All the other high fence systems completely steal the beauty of the bridge, they look more like prison bars than any type of guard rail.
Brendan	Hopkins	The Golden Gate bridge represents a certain freedom in living in the United States. he ability to stare unhindered over the great pacific ocean. It represnts mans ability to conquer the forces of nature.
Brendan	Hopkins	Nobody will want to walk or bike across the bridge ever again and its iconic image to rest of the world will be lost and reduced to just another ugly bridge found across any body of water.
John	Hopp	This is ridiculous. What's next? Mattresses on the ground around Coit Tower? Seatbelts and airbags on every muni seat? Hey, forks and knives in restaurants are dangerous, too. Lets only allow spoons!
Alecia	Hopper	Please do not let any more families lose their loved ones. Build the barrier!

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Laura	Hopper	I do not want the bridge to ve visually impaired, as it is for everyone to enjoy. I do believe in deterrent programs, but if a person insists on committing suicide they will do so whether it is from the GG Bridge or elsewhere. If it is the concensus that a physical deterrant be installed, it should impact the visual from the bridge the least -- i.e., the net system.
Gerard	Horan	I believe if such a barrier was in place my good friend Todd Brooks would still be with us.
Jonah	Horowitz	I believe that Alternative 1/2 will make the bridge look and feel like a jail cell. This will destroy the aesthetics of walking or biking across the bridge.
Jonah	Horowitz	I believe that Alternative 1/2 will make the bridge look and feel like a jail cell. This will destroy the aesthetics of walking or biking across the bridge.
Jonah	Horowitz	The EIR does a good job of stating the impact of either Alternative 1 or Alternative 2 on the architecture of the bridge.
Jonah	Horowitz	The environmental review is adequate, but it does not stress the extreme negative impacts of all the alternatives enough.
Jonah	Horowitz	Please don't destroy the bridge!
Terry	Horrigan	Any barrier beyond what currently exists is unnecessary.
Jonathan	Horton	I don't care what barrier system you use -- that I leave up to your engineers. But you must build something to stop the suicides. More than a 1,000 people have died. The Golden Gate Bridge has become a morbid symbol of death, it is a public nuisance, a magnet for the depressed and mentally ill. Please fix the problem. Once it is built, and the suicides stop, everyone will forget about the minor compromises made in aesthetics.
Scott	Horton	If a barrier must be built, #3 seems to be the only viable alternative given the dramatic negative effects to aesthetics for the other alternatives.
rachel	hospodar	paint it the same color and in a year people will forget it was ever any different. statistics show that many leapers are impulsive. to pass over an opportunity to affect the statistics for VAGUE reasons of aesthetic is a horrific and telling choice.
Mark	Hotsenpiller	Barriers will not stop all bridge suicides. It would be far worse to have people jump into traffic. The argument that all jumpers only need a physical deterrent to keep them from their mission is an emotional one. These people need support from their families and others. Providing a barrier will stop only a small percentage of them. It's a colossal waste of money.
Brennan	Houlihan	Leave the original design aesthetics intact. Barriers will deface an architectural and engineering treasure.
Brennan	Houlihan	I am strongly opposed to any new physical barrier. It's far too expensive, and proposing this in the midst of ever increasing tolls is maddening. This plan does not address the mental health issues that are the root causes of suicidal behavior. That is where real solutions will be found.

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David	Hover	Visually alternatives 1 and 2 make it look like a prison, "Big Brother" will make sure you obey. The net is not much better from an aesthetic viewpoint. Culturally, any suicide barrier is highly objectionable. There are few places where an individual can get such a feeling of excitement from standing next to such a drop. Must we all be so hemmed in? It is such an easy thing to let a few peoples' desires further a culture of insularity. Additionally the enormous cost of the project would be much more effective in terms of lives saved if it was used to finance suicide prevention at a more broad-based level.
Frederick	Hovey	The Golden Gate Bridge is a world famous architectural icon; it is a superlative in many ways, including perhaps unfortunately, the bridge with the greatest number of suicides every year. People intent on suicide won't be stopped by ANY barrier, so any proposal is a waste of taxpayers money and an intrusion on the aesthetics of one of the engineering wonders of the world. The people who are supporting barriers have already lost someone, they are reacting emotionally, not rationally, to their own loss--desperately doing anything they can to absolve them of the pain. But it would be misguided to capitulate to this tiny minority's desires when the overwhelming number of people who come to the bridge don't come for suicide. Save the bridge and put the money into suicide programs and suicide patrols. The bridge doesn't make people commit suicide, suicidal thoughts do. Don't punish the millions of people who walk the bridge each year for a few who choose to die there. Thank you for your consideration.
Daggett	Howard	The suicide barrier is a terrible waste of money. There must be many, many other places to spend the money more effectively in the system (e.g. subsidizing more transit buses). Even if you were required to spend the money on suicide prevention, I can't believe there aren't lots of other programs in the Bay Area to spend the money on that would yield a much more positive effect.
Frank	Howard	All ugly and would ruin the bridge
Matt	Howard	Net is the best combination of minimal visual impact plus reduction in suicides. But, wouldn't the net be more effective if the outer end were recurved?
Keith	Howell	Clearly Alts 1 and 2 will seriously impact the experience of crossing the bay both in a car and especially on foot. It will detract from the beautiful simplicity of design and feel claustrophobic.
Keith	Howell	Of course if a barrier of some sort isn't build now, the clamoring will continue as long as the bridge is there, with feasibility studies every few years. But how sad is a society that must reduce its cumulative experience in order to accommodate a sad few, constantly appeasing the "lowest" denominator.
cali	Hoy	This needs to be done.

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Julia	Hu	I think the beauty of the bridge will be impacted and all the solutions are way too expensive. I think the money should be spent on preventing suicides. I don't the barrier is going to completely stop people from jumping off the bridge.
Wallace	Hubbard	Appears to be the most effective barrier.
Nancy	Huber	I am a preservationist, but I feel that lives are more important than aesthetics at this point. I like keeping the old handrail and adding the horizontal system, which contrasts with the traditional vertical look of the Golden Gate bridge. Thanks!
Ron	Huberman	Please do not alter the current bridge, it is known and admired world wide. If someone is determined to end their life, no alteration of the bridge will prevent them. Let's spend the money assisting folks who have stress and mental health problems so they don't resort to suicide.
Arial	Hudnall	Look at the recent neurological studies on late teens and early-twenties adults. It shows that impulse control is still not finished developing until the mid-twenties! Put up a barrier now.
Brad	Hughes	Net option serves to prevent suicides with minimum impact on views from pedestrian walkway of bridge.
Brad	Hughes	Net option serves to prevent suicides with minimum impact on views from pedestrian walkway of bridge.
chris	huizenga	This is a complete waste of money and time. If someone wants to commit suicide they are going to do it; whether it's off the bridge or in a bathtub. Take this opportunity to take a stand against frivolous spending: \$40 million to keep 20 people from jumping while completely ruining the aesthetics and views for millions of other people that aren't so completely self-involved that they think suicide is their only way out. Let them jump.
chris	huizenga	Wake up and smell the coffee, folks. Leave the bridge as is and save the \$40 million bucks
Steven	Hull	Please also consider maintenance costs of the various options. This is not called out in any of your materials, but I have heard that the net system would have (by far) the greatest maintenance costs. Also, the net system is not viable unless there is some sort of alarm that would sound when someone jumped into the net. Or some way to alert CHP or someone who would get the person out of the net before they could crawl to the edge and jump again.
Bruce	Hull	It is hard to comprehend that the "EIR/ES" is a required document to stop and prevent death.

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David	Hull	2.B is a far more dramatic view than even the present view, certainly more than any of the other options
David	Hull	The EIR stacks the deck against saving lives at the bridge by confusing two questions. The first question must be "Shall we bring the rate of suicide into line with that of all other historic landmarks worldwide, which is zero or near-zero--or not. Only then may the question be posed: "which view shall we choose." As it stands, the EIR fragments the "build" vote. It is more difficult to cast a "build" vote because with 5 choices so much thought/analysis is required, whereas the "no-build" vote with only 1 choice is simpler to choose. Further, the "no-build" vote description is misleading because it only states that 3 suicide prevention systems are in place (camera, patrols, telephones)without describing their effectiveness--which is zero as the rate suicide has not changed since they went in (per Marin County Coroner). For further information, see the NYTMagazine article, "The Urge to End it All" and the National Telephone Lifeline position--2 watershed pieces in the Press Room at the homepage of bridgerail.org --Dave Hull
Jean	Hull	Any visual or aesthetic impacts pale in the face of all the deaths.
Jean	Hull	Any visual or aesthetic impacts pale in the face of all the deaths.
Jean	Hull	The impacts culturally pale in the face of all the deaths.
Jean	Hull	The impacts culturally pale in the face of all the deaths.
Jean	Hull	Saving lives would seem to be the highest land use or recreation.
Jean	Hull	Saving lives would seem to be the highest land use or recreation.
Jean	Hull	Does not preserving life count as a biological resource.
Jean	Hull	Does not preserving life count as a biological resource.
Jean	Hull	Perhaps you will recognize my name as my daughter, Kathy, impulsively went over your rail October 26, 2003. Please raise the rail. I don't care which design is chosen, but please choose to erect an appropriate barrier to stop the killing off your bridge. Jean Hull

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Jim	Hull	<p>2A is pleasing to the eye, will better be able to view the shore in the background.</p> <p>1A is very good also, not subtracting original railing</p>
Jim	Hull	N/A
John	Hull	The important thing is to stop the suicides with whichever option is best to accomplish that goal.
Steve	Hull	<p>Why is this even being DISCUSSED? There is no viable argument that can be presented AGAINST the barrier. At this point, we should be focusing on determining the most EFFECTIVE barrier and then building it immediately.</p> <p>The argument for the "view" is truly ludicrous. If I argued that murder scenes are "artistic" in a post-modern sense, would we suddenly consider legalizing murder so that we could display the aftermath in art museums? We could contemplate our mortality and admire the blood spatters.</p> <p>NO we would not lend this argument a second thought! Why not? Because it's stupid. Why has the argument for the "view" been considered for so long?? Furthermore, these crazy people are acting like this is the only place where you can see nice views. News flash: there are COUNTLESS places for nice views. Ever been to Angel Island? Been on a Ferry? Been to the Marin Headlands? How about the Equinox restaurant (although I hear it's been closed)? Honestly people... nice views are fairly plentiful. This IS the Bay Area, after all. And as the Alternatives' Depictions clearly show, the view will be maintained. So please tell people complaining about the view to shut up. Thanks.</p> <p>FURTHERMORE, if you'll allow me to continue (I promise this will be short), we spend \$6 billion EVERY YEAR in California on prisons. Why do we do this? To protect ourselves and our friends and family from harm. Now we're WONDERING whether or not we should spend a paltry one-time fee of \$40-50 million towards the same goal?? Did you realize that nationally, there are twice as many suicides as homicides every year? Think about that.</p>

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Steven	Hull	<p>The "No-Build" alternative should be struck from this list. Clearly, that is not an "alternative". Not doing ANYthing should not be an option. We do many things in our society for the protection of ourselves and our loved ones. We require people in cars to wear seatbelts, we require motorcyclists to wear helmets, we maintain traffic signals and guard rails and countless other infrastructure that acts in interest of public safety. Similarly, the barrier on the bridge must be considered a matter of public safety. Currently, a strong gust of wind could blow a child right off the side. Or what about children who do not realize that falling that far into water would kill them? Or what about ANYONE who gets a sudden morbid, inexplicable urge to end their own life? These urges can happen to ANYONE. I have spoken to my friends, to psychologists, to doctors; everyone seems to agree that they have had such an urge before. Luckily none of them had any means to carry out that urge when it struck -- but what if you are NOT so lucky? What if you are on your way to the bridge when such an urge strikes, and you are unable to stop yourself? Don't we owe it to OURSELVES to protect us from our own impulses -- impulses which pass, as most impulses do -- so that we can live to be wiser and (hopefully) less impulsive in the future?</p>
Melissa	Huml	<p>I vote for this it will prevent people from jumping off the bridge. It should be approved even if the funds are not allocated yet as it is an important step. The effort to create the barrier will not go away as the survivor group unfortunately will continue to grow without it.</p> <p>It is the right thing to do, please put politics aside- Those who have committed suicide were worth saving. The barrier is technically feasible and I feel will be found environmentally acceptable (EIR)</p>
Melissa	Huml	<p>I vote for this it will prevent people from jumping off the bridge. It should be approved even if the funds are not allocated yet as it is an important step. The effort to create the barrier will not go away as the survivor group unfortunately will continue to grow without it.</p> <p>It is the right thing to do, please put politics aside- Those who have committed suicide were worth saving. The barrier is technically feasible and I feel will be found environmentally acceptable (EIR)</p>
Douglas	Huneke	<p>I have supplied written comment at this meeting, in my role as minister and chaplain for Southern Marin Fire, Sausalito Police, and Marin County Sheriff.</p>

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Douglas	Huneke	I actively favor a suicide barrier that will reasonably deter or prevent suicides. I feel the bridge staff and board should make the choice using that criteria. I have confidence in the staff and board to choose and I am willing to pay for the new barrier.
Laurence	Hunter	Human resources - please see below
Laurence	Hunter	Volunteers can be sought to station themselves at various places on the bridge to look for person using certain established criteria i.e. "visibly upset" and be willing to speak to them. Public announcements/advertising within the city community and signs upon entering the bridge will state that suicide prevention volunteers are working on the bridge and persons walking on the bridge may be approached by a volunteer as a "goodwill gesture." This is the main idea that there will be somebody there who cares.
Mark	Hunter	For visual and aesthetic reasons the bridge should be left alone. If people want to commit suicide they will. They can walk out into 880 traffic and get hit. They can stop their car in the slow lane of the bay bridge and run and jump. No matter what system is put into place someone will find a way to defeat it.
Mark	Hunter	All that money for nothing. Not my tolls, Not my taxes.
Paul	Hunter	This is an enormous amount of money to spend on what will end up being very LITTLE deterrence. Thera are plenty of other bridges and freeway over ramps. I feel sorry for those who are suicidal, but this is just an expensive band-aid.

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Edwin	Hurd	<p>Although I understand the school of thought that saving even one life makes a project like this worthwhile, it is still a lot of money that the district doesn't have. The money could be put to better use improving the Bus and Ferry transit system, which is under increasing pressure and services many more people.</p> <p>I believe "despondent people (who) attempt suicide on impulse," to quote Dr. Blaustein from the SF Chronicle article of 7/8/08, will find other places to go or other methods, so the problem won't necessarily go away, just moved elsewhere.</p> <p>The visual impact of a barrier, both for the bridge and from the bridge, would be a major loss for the aesthetic look and the enjoyment of the bridge.</p> <p>That said, if the board determines a barrier is the best approach, I think Alternatives 1B and 2B, the horizontal systems, would be the WORST. They create the worst impact on viewing from the bridge. Before the recent horizontal lines were put in a few years ago, the view of the City while moving at car speeds was still relatively unimpeded; now, I'm always aware of those two lines that divide the view. In addition, the horizontal barrier lines would be easier for a potential suicide to climb.</p> <p>So my choices, in order of preference, are: No Build, Alt. 3, Alt. 2A, Alt. 1A, Alt. 2B, and last choice, 1B.</p>
TJ	Hurd	<p>leave as is,it's a private issue, let it happen. Don't even try to physically stop anyone, just try talking the person.</p>
Steve	Hurst	<p>A waste of taxpayer dollars!</p> <p>If you absolutely have to spend it, put the \$50 million into improving a large majority of your customers experience - or maybe reducing the tolls.</p> <p>Putting this amount of money to the minuscule minority who decide to jump is misdirected, and ignorant of the fact 'jumpers' will go elsewhere to commit the final deed.</p>

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Susan	Hurst	This may not prevent all people from climbing, but the height represents a significant obstacle. The designs are in keeping with aesthetics of the bridge.
Duffy	Hurwin	I am opposed to the barrier for two reasons: One - I believe it will only displace the suicides to another location, not eliminate them. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will do it in another manner and it will cost the taxpayers a lot of money just to transfer a suicide to another location. Two - I am opposed to altering the appearance of the Golden Gate Bridge, a historic structure, for aesthetic reasons. It is a huge tourist attraction and its attractiveness will be diminished which will have some effect on its popularity which could adversely affect the income of tourist dollars to our region in addition to causing a visual blight.
ERIC	HUSK	I'm sorry but I still don't understand the importance of a suicide deterrent system. Please do not alter the physical appearance of our stunning bridge.
ERIC	HUSK	We are all born with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The right of life includes the dangers inherited therein and necessarily extends itself to the rights of self-termination. You are not doing anyone any favors with this project. Please abandon the suicide deterrent project!
ERIC	HUSK	This is a ridiculous sum of money that could clearly be used somewhere else. More community service programs and amenities would probably reduce the suicide rate of living in an overpriced City anyway.
ERIC	HUSK	I am a constituent. Please abandon the Golden Gate Bridge suicide deterrent project!!
melissa	huth	it's going to save lives and families, who cares what it looks like.
john	hutson	stop wasting money.
john	hutson	forget about it and take your family out to dinner.
amy	hutto	With all due respect for the man who jumped and survived and spearheaded the barrier campaign, this is not a good idea. There are other bridges right here in the Bay Area, not to mention razor blades, sleeping pills, heroin, hell, apple seeds for god's sake. Put the money into the under funded mental health sector. Treat the problem, not the symptom. This kind of ridiculous missing-the-mark- policy-making is the very kind of thing that could drive a person to jump. I spent several weeks pondering a jump at one point in my life, and i'll be darned if any barrier system would have stopped me. What an absurd waste.

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Janice	Hutton	<p>I cannot imagine that the alternatives having the "Transparent Panels" are feasible given that they will have to be cleaned from the outside every single day. Anyone living around salt air would know this fact. You alternatives selection criteria include two related to "maintenance".</p> <p>Also, it is highly speculative to imply--as the Statement of Purpose does--that this investment will deter suicides. It can only be said that this will deter suicides "ON THE GG BRIDGE". Nobody can claim that any of the "estimated" 23 suicides would not have otherwise occurred. I urge the Board to keep this in mind as they sympathetically hear claims to the contrary from parents and professional.</p>
Kenny	Huynh	It would be a disgraced to make any alteration to the beautiful, historic bridge. If people truly want to kill themselves, they will find a way. Altering the bridge will not diminish nor change this fact.
jordan	hymowitz	People can always kill themselves if they want to. It is a waste of money to spend one dime on a suicide barrier. Aesthetics are neat the issue. We have limited resources--better to spend the money on health insurance, parks, etc.
Ken	lisaka	Barriers may prevent some suicides at the bridge, but there is little evidence that it will prevent suicides over all. Money would be better spent on safety features of our infrastructure.
Ross	Ingels	There are way better ways to spend this kind of money. If they want a barrier, they can pay for it themselves. For me this is a straight money issue.
Drew	Innenkraft	The GGBridge is so visually appealing as it stands that it should be left alone to carry out its intention of transferring people and vehicles from one land mass to another. If you must alter this landmark then a net would be the most I could tolerate, yet it would still be highly offensive.
Drew	Innenkraft	Just like the gun issue: The GGBridge doesn't kill people, people kill people. Leave the bridge alone and put \$40 million toward educating and counseling people. If it's people's lives that are trying to be saved it mystifies me as to why we put so much focus on changing inanimate objects rather than on the actual people who are suffering so much. The motivation to build a suicide barrier here just re-affirms for me how sadly disconnected human beings are from themselves. Technology destroys more people than it saves.

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Julia	Inobe	I am not at all concerned with the aesthetics of the bridge. The design chosen should be the best deterrent against suicide. However, for those that use the bridge recreationally and may require some walking assistance, it would be nice to have the handrail.
Julia	Inobe	A close friend of mine recently committed suicide off the golden gate bridge. We firmly believe this was an impulsive act and could have been prevented if it wasn't so easy to jump. Human life is so much more important than the aesthetics of a bridge. \$40-50 million is nothing when compared to the value of human life. It is inhumane to leave the bridge as is...
Barbara	Inwald	It doesn't seem that no build safety measures have worked- and although enhancing the barrier on the GGB will not prevent all suicides, even saving one life is enough to justify spending the funds to deter suicide on the bridge. Suicide is sometimes impulsive and can be deterred with time, thought and professional intervention, especially in young people, but these measures only work on the living. How can we afford not to protect the most vulnerable of people in our society- those with the treatable condition of depression?? Thank you.
Marlene	Ireland	The net under the bridge would not be visible and not alter the look of the bridge.
Marlene	Ireland	My husband jumped from the Golden Gate bridge a year later my 21 year old son died by suicide. If we can prevent one person from taking their life it will be worth it. It is just a bridge....
Michael	Irvine	The Bridge District is taking the completely wrong approach to this issue. As opposed to a passive, reactionary approach, the district, city, state and all other parties involved should take a proactive approach to the suicide problem. Instead of trying to eliminate all suicide methods, which would include a ban on cars and belts, we should invest money in programs that strive to help people before they get to the point of suicide. The money the bridge district is planning to invest would be much more productive if used proactively.
Mary	Irwin	Please do not build this barrier- save the \$50 million.

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It	isn't	I don't have time to fill out this entire thing i just know that i have lost way to many loved ones due to golden gate bridge suicides to keep quiet. It can't be so hard to raise the rails.... there are enough supporters to raise money and so many people would be thrilled to volunteer. the bridge has stopped being a beautiful symbol of freedom and hope and is now a symbol of pain, loss, and death. I used to love to take walks across it and marvel at its beauty. now i have to close my eyes while crossing it so the memories don't come flooding back. I am a fucking 14 year old girl, i should have some different things in my mind right now. come on people. is this really such a crazy thing to hope for?
caryl	ito	I strongly believe having such an icon become such an "icon" with death associated with this supercedes some of the concerns the public might have for the visual impacts--strongly believe in some barrier to be built to prevent these deaths.
Thomas	lveli	1A or 1B seem to be the right way to go.
Thomas	lveli	Fuck your bridge. Fuck the aesthetics of your bridge. Why are you giving someone the a means to end their life? I don't understand why all this is happening,this should have been done decades ago. You know don't do anything leave your bridge the way it is.Keep the vistas as they are, the view is so pretty.
Rachel	lzzo	I don't have a preference for the type, just as long as a barrier is constructed. Aesthetics are important, but lives are more important.
Rachel	lzzo	I live in Seattle and am part of the effort advocating for a suicide barrier on the Aurora Bridge (I had a friend jump off). Getting a barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge would be an enormous accomplishment for that area, and I'd love to see that happen in Seattle as well.
Gene	Jack	<p>The age old format of EIR/EIS's seems to not apply in contemporary times. We can no longer evaluate just the physical or aesthetic or biological impacts of a project--we must look to deeper social needs/impacts/priorities of proposed projects. If these subjects are usually addressed under "Community Impacts" then this EIR is sorely lacking because it did not include this section.</p> <p>What about a project alternative which allocates the \$50 million construction budget on schools, and/or in suicide prevention programs, and/or in drug programs, and/or to provide better medical care, jobs and housing so that people would not be so depressed that they want to kill themselves? If we, in the Bay Area do not address our social issues people will continue to kill themselves at alarming rates suicide barrier or not. This project is not the best alternative to minimize suicide in the Bay area and the impact of squandering \$50 mil for a very large band-aide was never addressed.</p>

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Gene	Jack	any change from what current design will result in an unmitigated negative impact
Gene	Jack	to install a suicide barrier would destroy one of the world's greatest historical landmarks
Joan	Jacks	I don't think a suicide barrier should be built. It would only save a portion of the lives as some would use other means if the bridge wasn't there. Tax payers or those who cross the bridge should not have to pay the huge sum to save a few lives of people who don't want to live, not to mention the undesirable change to the bridge itself. And even Federal money comes from the taxpayers.
DAve	Jackson	Aesthetic concerns on an historical site are of supreme concern. People will find a way to commit suicide.
DAve	Jackson	If the project has to go forward, please DO NOT add vertical or horizontal bars that would be visible. A net would probably be the least intrusive mechanism.
Joanne	Jackson	Waste of money, waste of time. You can't save everyone and can't save people from themselves.
Joanne	Jackson	High rail will look like jail and be very easy to get over, plus make it harder to stop a jumper in the process. Net will catch litter and junk and get trashed. When a jumper doesn't quite make it, huge potential for injuries and gigantic lawsuits. The maintenance issues, both expense and time, are unbelievably expensive.
Joanne	Jackson	Will suicide barriers be installed on all the other bridges? Such as Carquinez/Al Zampa? The new Benicia? How ridiculous. People must be responsible for themselves, not constantly saved by everyone else. Erecting a barrier implies it is the legal responsibility of government entities to stop suicides, thereby opening up huge potential for lawsuits. "The barrier didn't work, it should have been a different barrier, or the bridge should not exist."
joanne	jackson	This is just another ridiculous million dollar expense to save people from themselves. So you come up with a net, barrier, whatever. Then the people who really want to commit suicide will just go to the Bay Bridge, or perhaps one of the tall buildings in SF. Do we just keep putting out more money for more nets etc.. You can't save a serious suicidal person.
Pat	Jackson	Please do not alter the Bridge in any way. People who want to kill themselves will succeed, one way or the other. Also we can put the money to better use elsewhere. My sister committed suicide, so I am very familiar with this behavior.

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Robbyn	Jackson	Given the facts around the number of suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge, I don't think any organization can in good conscience consider the no build alternative. The Golden Gate Bridge is a known destination point for suicides. Suicide deterrent programs have not worked. The time has come to install a physical barrier.
Robbyn	Jackson	The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation should not be used as a potential reason not to improve a structure when dealing with a health and safety issue (or any other important issue - disabled access, energy efficiency, codes). The Secretary's Standards were written to guide us when we need to modify a historic structure - not to keep us from doing what is right and necessary. I've spent 20+ years in the historic preservation field, so you can believe what I say.
Jerry	Jacob	Letting "Survivor Guilt" and an opportunistic documentary, drive an expenditure of at least \$50 million is grossly irresponsible and typical of yielding to the "Tyranny of the Minority". The squeaky wheel is again making a great deal of noise here and we've already wasted enough money oiling it. As a percentage of the Bay Area suicides, both identified and misnamed each year, those which occur from the bridge are insignificant. Amortized over 50 years, at a minimum, we're talking about spending some \$27,000 per potential suicide and that figure does not include the opportunity cost of the money! Insanity!
Jerry	Jacob	
Margit	Jacob	My most urgent concern is that a barrier be erected to prevent any one from being able to jump off the bridge. Knowing someone who has done just that, and who would have been prevented from taking his life had a barrier had been in place, makes me believe this barrier will literally be a life saver.
Caro	Jacobs	I walked across the Golden Gate Bridge the day it opened in 1937 and do not think it should change at all.
Caro	Jacobs	If people are going to jump let them jump. What would be a good idea is to do something to prevent accidents, like lower the speed limit.
Justin	Jacobs	You cannot stop people from committing suicide. I personally knew three people who jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge. If they hadn't jumped from it they would have jumped from the Bay Bridge, some tower, some tall building, or committed suicide some other way. The proposed expenditure of \$50 million dollars and the defacing of the classic Golden Gate Bridge would be ridiculous.
Ruth	Jacobs	The installation of the barriers being considered would, I believe, constitute a hazard to all traffic on the bridge as they would be affected by strong winds going through the Golden Gate.

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Ruth	Jacobs	I believe people have the right to end their lives if they want to, and the Bridge provides a way to do that without guns, which can injure others. I do think a barrier should be built in the middle of the bridge to prevent accidents which kill people who do not want to die.
D.	Jacobsen	It is imperative that a suicide restraint system of some kind be added to the Golden Gate Bridge. Since suicide is a very impulsive act, simply providing a restraint system is an important first step in reducing the suicide rate from the Bridge. Granted, it would be ideal if families and friends know in advance of a loved one's suicidal thoughts, but the very nature of suicide is secretive, and the act is the proclamation of intent as well as a cry for help. Therefore, it is essential that some type of barrier be installed so that we have a chance of saving our family and/or friends who are tormented with suicidal thoughts or actions.
Rodger	Jacobsen	I drive over the bridge on my way to work, the bridge is fine the way it is, all of the above would harm the aesthetics of the bridge. People should be responsible for their own lives.
T	Jacobsen	Netting is the best choice, as it is the least expensive and will alter the bridge in the least way. But more importantly, some type of suicide barrier needs to be installed.
Joan	Jacobson	Aesthetically, the verticle additions seem are more in harmony with the original sweep of the bridge.
Joan	Jacobson	Since this bridge seems to attract many depressed souls who intend to end their pain in this way, I feel a deterrant that saves even a few lives each year is an invaluable gift.
TED	JACOBSON	vbusual/aesthetic
TED	JACOBSON	Probably tens of thousands of people commit suicide annually; if the 20 or so who utilize the GGB were deterred, who is to say they would not find other ways? It's ridiculous to blame an inanimate structure as the only means available to end it all. Those 12" designs would make a person feel he (or she) should be walking in a prison yard enclosed with barbed wire, not at all as I felt 70 years ago (and since) enjoying an
Scott	Jacques	Leave the bridge as is. If anything put those funds towards ongoing retrofitting & a barrier to make it safer for the citizens who drive across the bridge every morning. This is a disgustingly misguided waste of taxpayer money. Shame on you. Maybe these funds could be given to the SF School District who is in dire need of funding?

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Stephen	Jaffe	Given the limited resources available and given that the primary job of the bridge is to SAFELY move cars, the first priority of the District is to create a barrier to prevent head-on crashes. When that is in place, worry about suicide prevention. I know this might sound heartless, but if a person want to kill themselves, they will find a way. The cost to prevent a bridge suicide is too much considering there are more important issues to address. Thank you
Mark	Jahnke	As a person who has seriously considered suicide off of the bridge in the past, I feel very strongly that a barrier is needed. Most suicides off of the bridge are spontaneous, and if one found out that they could not jump, they will seek other help and not go elsewhere. As a person who considered the jump I speak from a standpoint of experience. Please build some sort of barrier!
christopher	jaksa	the aesthetic costs of a physical barrier are too great.
christopher	jaksa	use the taxpayer money to fund suicide prevention programs including active programs at the bridge itself.
Kernan	Jang	All barriers are ugly and unnecessary. They do not belong on any bridge, but especially not a landmark one. They do not go with the style. No one should have to look at the bridge with an applied eyesore just because the suicidal few choose it.
Kernan	Jang	All the railings are bad for pedestrian views. They should not have to look through a fence. They should be able to look over.
Kernan	Jang	Barriers are bad for walkers and bikers. The view should not be made worse for all based on what a few might choose to do.
George	Janku	Please do not waste the money to build a barrier which will be futile in its good, but misguided intentions. Spend the mllions on better public transportation and buses, to get people out of the cars which claim far more lives than suicide does. Please, Board, save our bridge, and save lives by better spending the resources.
George	Janku	As a physician I have deep sympathy, and family experience with, the tragedy of suicide. But a physical barrier will not save lives determined to be ended. Better transportation, and lessening the addiction to individual cars, will realize a much greater benefit to society, and to our environment. NO BARRIER BUILDING , PLEASE !

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George	JAnku	Please do not waste the enormous amount of money and disfigure our beautiful bridge. The money is so much better spent on mass transportation, to get people out of their cars -- which are much more lethal.. The barrier will not save more lives in the end
George	JAnku	I want to convey all my sympathy to those whoses families have been affected by suicide. But as a taxpayer and major user of teh bridge I want the resources better spent, to prevent traffic deaths, and prevent environmental impact. NO BARRIER, which is the opinion I hear overwhelmingly when I talk to fellow citizens
Kathy	Jarosz	The build alternatives all miss the crucial point that they cannot solve the greater problem, and may actually slow down the process of improving/providing needed services for those at risk by providing a false sense of resolution.
Kathy	Jarosz	<p>As a psychotherapist of over 25 years, I have worked with many individuals at risk of suicide. Many times I have lost sleep over my concern over these clients, particularly my chronic mentally ill clients, like the ones portrayed in the movie about the bridge suicides. Despite my close familiarity with those at risk, I am very much against building a suicide barrier. I feel very strongly that this solution is the wrong solution for a deeply disturbing societal problem. I know that the lack of services available to prevent suicide, and to care for the mentally ill and the situational depressed individual, is much more severe than most people realize, unless a family member has been subject to the scarcity of these resources. Our psychiatric hospitals are merely a revolving door of people on 1-3 day holds, when what they really need is a comprehensive mental health system with step-down levels of care. Our homeless and disabled people are treated with such limited resources that those who care for them wonder how they survive at all. My heart goes out to those family members who have lost someone to suicide on the bridge. I very much hope that their lives will not have been lost in vain and that the resource shortages can start to be addressed because of these tragedies.</p> <p>Lastly, I feel strongly that paid or volunteer counselors could easily be hired/trained to help with this problem on the bridge at a small fraction of the cost. The leading agencies in Marin County manage to get by on quite small budgets and they utilize interns in training or volunteers often instead of paid staff. Surely, this option should be seriously considered. What would the downside be to that? The human contact would be most beneficial for those at risk and welcomed in their hour of need. It is well known that suicidal individuals want someone to reach out to them, a person, not another "barrier". I think also a "human" solution would make us all feel like the world is a little more humane and all the wiser for it.</p>
Laurie	Javier	I cannot visualize what the net system would look like but aesthetically it might not obstruct the views as one drives over the bridge. This is an important consideration. The least obstusive alternative would be my choice. I definitely agree that a barrier is necessary.
Kathleen	Jee	Visual stand point- the net system would be preferable in prevention and in keeping with the aesthetics of the bridge. The view would be hindered and in fact distract the beauty of GGB.
Kathleen	Jee	I really do not agree with spending all the money and doubt it will make much difference. If people are in distress, they need help now and it doesn't mean they won't find another place to take their life.

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Kent	Jeffrey	The suicide barrier concept is flawed. If someone is determined, they'll just find another place or method.
Becky	Jenkins	I think it is important that the decision making body that will eventually decide what will be done about suicide off our beautiful bridge realize that most San Franciscans have not made our desires known. I am one have not thought it necessary to participate until now. For many years many of us have been upset that nothing has been done to stop the unnecessary deaths off the bridge!! My grandparents and parents, now gone, campaigned for a barrier of some kind. My Grandfather, the painter Maynard Dixon, helped to pick the color for the bridge, or so the family myth goes. We are committed to beauty but not at the expense of the death of so many tormented souls. Thank you
Charles	Jenkins	If the net is used, please don't paint it or its support structure orange. That would look horrible. Pick a dark color that will not draw attention to the net or mar photography of the bridge. I just recently visited SF to see the bridge for the first time, and while I agree with need for the net, I hope you can make it visually unobtrusive.
Gale	Jenkins	Speaking for a bunch of seniors 69-86 yrs. we do not want anything put up to deter from it's appearance. If people want to commit suicide, then they will. That's their choice. Stop running an article in the paper everytime someone does and it will draw less attention.
Gale	Jenkins	California cannot afford to put out another dime on anything. It's not needed and too expensive. Let them jump! It's their choice!
richard	jensen	no build
Barbara	Jereb	I have been a resident of the SF Bay Area for 29 years and love the Golden Gate Bridge. I am embarrassed, however, that many believe its beauty will be diminished by a change that will discourage suicides, and that they believe the aesthetics are more important. I believe that a barrier is the right thing, and the bridge will continue to be beautiful in its changed form.
Angela	Jerzak	I find it very sad that so many people choose to end their own life. But on the same hand we as a people or a government can not always pay the cost or feel responsible for someone elses poor decisions. If a relative of mine climbed a tree in someone elses yard and fell and was hurt, it was their fault for falling out of the tree in the first place, not the person who grew the tree!!! And the tree certainly did nothing wrong either. Society will only begin taking responsibility for it self when everyone else stops!
Fran	Jerzgarzewski	Alt 3 is not a good idea as one could after landing on the net still jump. The 2B is the most attractive.
Bill	Jesdale	aesthetically, it is difficult to support anything other than the net system. Alternative 1B, to my eye, seems the least intrusive.

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Bill	Jesdale	1A, 2A : A vertical system was used on I-195 approaching Fall River, Massachusetts, and it utterly obliterated the sense of awe and wonder one used to experience driving over the bridge - essentially turning it into a tunnel where you can only see out perpendicular to the vehicle, which you definitely don't want drivers doing! For passengers, looking out perpendicularly through a vertical screen is nauseatingly hypnotizing, like watching a movie where the frame rate is all wrong and the illumination flickering. A horizontal system would at least allow some continuous vision available to passengers in vehicles, and reduce the temptation for drivers to divert their attention 90 degrees from where it should be.
Bill	Jesdale	I have no relevant experience in this area. In general, I consider something only 70 years old to be too recent in vintage to be terribly concerned about.
Bill	Jesdale	I don't have anything intelligent to say on this.
Bill	Jesdale	Nor this.
Bill	Jesdale	I initially logged on with a sense of indignation about taking away an essential aesthetic component of the bridge, it is a rare treasure, while bridges all over the northeast (where I used to live) have had their visual sense of expanse and beauty utterly destroyed by closely spaced vertical bars. After looking at the mock-up designs, I find myself won over. Regardless of whether a barrier to self-inflicted injury actually reduces suicide deaths by all methods throughout the bay area or not, I think it is a wise investment to express the caring instinct that such a construction would demonstrate. Speaking of the language, I think calling it a "suicide barrier" is a little misleading - it's really about injury prevention in general, self-inflicted injury in particular, but I think focusing so squarely on suicide actually risks losing support for it. So many people these days seem to think of suicide as an individual failing, and wouldn't raise a finger to stop it. Yet, they would wholeheartedly support other measures, such as improving guardrails on the highway which in essence have the exact same impact and are often driven by a "suicide" prevention impulse. For example, the spread of "suicide" hotlines throughout the country actually (in retrospect) was tied to an increase in suicides, to the extent that they are rarely advertized as such any longer. As someone who is passionate about suicide prevention, I have come to realize that it is equally important to couch "suicide" prevention in "injury" terms, and to re-focus from intervening in the lives of individuals towards physical and social environmental factors that don't further single people out and make them feel even more at odds with societal expectations.
lynn	jimenez	The bridge does not cause suicide. The fact that pedestrians can use it makes it possible for those predisposed to suicide to choose it among other sites to stage their final protest against their pain. We do not outlaw alcohol because some people are alcoholics or cars because some are killed in accidents. We should not destroy the beauty of a world wonder, add to the already heavy financial burden, or fool ourselves into thinking lives ultimately will be saved by adding barriers to the bridge.

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lynn	jimenez	By the way, the system of using non elected appointees on the bridge board is faulty. Marin, sonoma solano should have their own bus systems....the bridge should not run that system or ferries. Boosting fares above \$5 is a travesty. But since the board is insulated from realty, that travesty will play out until only those earning more than half a million a year will be able to use the world's most famous bridge. Shame on you....inefficient, unresponsive, and irresponsible bureaucrats.
Michael	Jirkovsky	The design is not important. We MUST build a suicide barrier. It is our societal obligation. To do nothing is like leaving loaded guns around the streets of the city.
Nat	Jo	I understand that it is hard for loved ones to contemplate in the wake of a suicide loss that there must have been something that would have helped, and yes i believe that in most cases that is true. but help to me is counseling and other measures. spending that amount of money is only a bandaid and is not a real deterrent. those who are committed to that act will go through with it. in this city we have so many problems besides jumpers off one of our bridges. we should be spending our money addressing all of them. like i said, i understand as i had a friend die in this manner, but i know that little was available to help her out of her decision. if they dont jump the bride, they might jump off buildings, or worse try other more violent alternatives.
Masters	Joan	As a recent visitor to the Bay Area, I was shocked at how low the rail was on the bridge and how inviting the bridge would be for those wishing to end their lives. While I appreciate the comments on the aesthetic nature of the structure, I believe the options 1a-2b will help the bridge maintain its beauty while limiting means for those who are suicidal.
Manqueros	Joanna	As a mental health professional, I know this suicide barrier must be put up. In the impulsivity of a moment, someone can make a devastating decision. The bridge is a magnet for this. The barrier gives professionals a chance to intervene. Thanks for this, Joanna Manqueros, LCSW Kaiser Richmond Psychiatry
Jim	Johns	First of all, why not spend the money on mental health care?
Jim	Johns	Second of all, why don't we spend the money on mental health care?
Jim	Johns	It's better if we just spend the money on mental health care.
Jim	Johns	Please just spend the money on mental health care.
Jim	Johns	It's a better use of money to spend it on mental health care.
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L.	Johns	"The bridge is a transportation, aesthetic, and cultural icon, not a mental health facility. We don't stop running trains because people jump onto the tracks in time to be run over."
L.	Johns	Far better to spend tens of millions on mental health services and suicide prevention. This campaign by anguished families must be resisted. Prevention with real services is much more cost-effective use of scarce funds.
Michael	Johns	I wish to see the bridge kept as it is. It should be on the National Historic Register and no further modifications to the design should be allowed.
Michael	Johns	I wish to see the bridge kept as it is. It should be on the National Historic Register and no further modifications to the design should be allowed.
Michael	Johns	The Bridge has a long history and is an important visual landmark for many people the world over. Please do not change it anymore.
Michael	Johns	It is beautiful the way that it is, any changes would have a large negative impact.
Michael	Johns	I wish to see the bridge kept as it is. It should be on the National Historic Register and no further modifications to the design should be allowed.
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kevin	johnson	<p>The vertical system which encompasses the handrail preserves the classic golden gate image while providing a barrier of protection.</p> <p>The horizontal system unfortunately gives the sensation of a fence more from my perspective. It seems to be more like a detention camp feeling rather than a preventative barrier.</p> <p>The net system is simply only a minor barrier. Individuals who manage to recover from the net fall who still feel the need to continue will simply roll off the net.</p> <p>I feel that the vertical solution is the most aesthetic and proper method of deterrent. However viewing the vertical concepts I question the height of the vertical barrier. If a individual was still inclined to scale the fence would he still be able to stand atop the handrail and then jump and reach the top of the barrier? Perhaps another foot or so would prevent a person from making contact with the top of the fence. Further studies should be conducted into this line of inquiry.</p>
Christopher	Johnson	Building a suicide barrier is a nonsensical waste of money. Those determined to commit suicide will still do so elsewhere, or in a different manner. A barrier will not save lives. Let's spend the money on mental health care
David	Johnson	The Golden Gate Bridge is a historical icon and symbol of San Francisco. It should not be altered at great expense for a hypothetical decrease in suicides.
Gregg	Johnson	Any system is better than no system. These deaths should not continue in our society. It could be your family member next.
Seth	Johnson	<p>It's wonderful to finally see an effort to prevent suicides from the GG Bridge. The net seems like it will least impact the visual appeal to tourists and residents alike of walking/bicycling across the bridge for the view of SF. It's very important not to ruin the view with a high guardrail etc. but it's also important to put something in place. The net seems like a good compromise.</p> <p>The high cost of picking jumpers out of the net seems unlikely to materialize as people probably wouldn't bother jumping into the net unless it wasn't visible. Since it's orange it should be more of a deterrent than a safety net.</p>

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John and Marie Barbara	Jolly Jonas	Please don't spend any more of our dollars on any consideration of a suicide barrier until a vehicle barrier is installed and functioning. People who are killed in head-on collisions don't have the option of calling Suicide-Prevention before being killed.
		They are all ugly! Only an invisible force field should be allowed.
junona	jonas	the bridge is a visual treasure. We cannot "barrier proof" all harmful self-destructive behavior. Do we fence off beautiful beaches because some people drown themselves? I think having a barrier will not prevent the suicide numbers overall. Using the money for counseling would be far more beneficial. Sure, the immediate attraction for someone who is bent on suicide may be decreased but Counseling would benefit more people in the long run including saving many who would not consider the bridge. Are we trying to just prevent the high profile "jumpers" or are we looking at suicide overall. I hope it's the latter.
layla Charles	jonas Jones	putting a suicide barrier is not gonna stop ppl from committing suicide, theyll just do it somewhere else. its stupid
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diving board 2. Automatic turnstile to switch on cameras 3. Deposit box for wallets/purses to identify the dead and recover costs. 4. Large bouyed net with diving target to make recovery of body easier
cindy	jones	let them jump!
Dennis	Jones	Any of the proposed barriers or net would be visually intrusive and esthetically annoying. Culturally, any of the proposed barriers or net would reinforce the growing image of San Francisco as the "city that DOESN'T know how".
Dennis	Jones	Given the pressing need for other infrastructure improvements this proposal is extremely foolish. Do not spend money that you don't have on a barrier the public strongly opposes.
Georgia	Jones	It is ridiculous to NOT add a barrier and save lives. I work for a crisis center in Chicago and see first-hand how suicides can be prevented and treated, and save so many affected people so much pain and suffering.

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John	Jones	I do not believe that visual impacts of these solutions are acceptable. The "no-build" option is the most appropriate for this historic structure. Also, the bridge is a major recreational resource to Northern California residents and visitors from around the world. I also think the impact of the barriers will deter the recreational use and limit the ability to truly enjoy what the bridge has to offer.
Katherine	Jones	Just please do something. The cost of building a barrier, which ever design, is well worth it.
M	Jones	This is a ridiculous waste of money that would be FAR better spent (if at all) on suicide prevention efforts. The VAST MAJORITY of people do not want ANY suicide barrier on the GGB.
M	Jones	This is a ridiculous waste of money that would be FAR better spent (if at all) on suicide prevention efforts. The VAST MAJORITY of people do not want ANY suicide barrier on the GGB.
Peter	Jones	It doesn't matter which constructive alternative is chosen; the thing is to DO something before more teenagers (and others) die.
rick	jones	They all look like a prison corridor.
rick	jones	The transparent panels will at the very least attract smudges and dirt and most likely scratches and graffiti. The lengths of the vertical or horizontal barrier components make it look like they could be bent to enable passage through.
rick	jones	I have no comment
rick	jones	I have no comment.
rick	jones	I have no comment.
rick	jones	I have no comment.
rick	jones	I have no comment.
rick	jones	I have no comment.
rick	jones	I have no comment.
rick	jones	I have no comment.
Tom	Jones	Waste of money to put any system to the bridge. Use the money to support suicide deterrent programs.

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Tom	Jones	I can't believe the city of SF would even consider doing this. The average of 18.3 people a year have jumped off the bridge in the last 71 years. Use the money to support programs in the city, to support the schools, or public safety.
Tom	Jones	Golden Gate Bridge is a world famous historical architecture that is functional and serves it's purpose well even after 81 years. It's beauty should not be compromised because of ill advised decision of some deranged individuals. Golden Gate bridge with this projection around it is ugly and will be a laughing stock for San Francisco and USA. We do not have enough money in the entire US budget to ensure misguided people from killing themselves. I feel sympathy for them I just know that it is impossible to save everyone from everything. It would also set a dangerous precedent since other well meaning people would want BART, MUNI buses, Trains and others to erect safety barriers to prevent suicides. At that rate we might as well just declare Bankruptcy right now.
Helm	Jordt	No build, no alternatives, stop wasting our money and resources.
Helm	Jordt	No build, no alternatives, stop wasting our money and resources.
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Roy William	Jorge Joyce	<p>I am deeply opposed to this Suicide Barrier. It is a waste of money and not needed. If these peoples' final wish is to float off the World's Most Beautiful Bridge with the World's Most Beautiful City in the background of their final moments then we, as a compassionate city, should grant them this. Most of these people have not just decided at the last minute to do this. Many of them have suffered for a long time. Freedom to die the way someone wants to die is important and as a supporter of assisted suicide, I support them in this issue. Life is not the end all of end all. For some people, life is no longer worth it. We have enough people on this Earth already. Overpopulation is killing our planet.</p> <p>I have seen the ugly suicide barriers on the Empire State Building, Space Needle, etc. and don't want to see the Golden Gate Bridge suffer the same fate. People in New York- New Yorker and producer "The Bridge" - need to focus on NYC. They do not speak for San Franciscans.</p> <p>You cannot save everyone from everything. These people are committing suicide by choice. If not the bridge, then CalTrain or something else. Why ruin it for everyone else?</p>
william	joyce	<p>7/12/08</p> <p>Dear GGBHT District Board Members,</p> <p>Last night, before an overflow crowd in our chapel, we listened to the heartbreaking story of Cathy Hull told in the words of her father, David. As he intermittently choked back tears, he told us of the bea</p>
Lou	Judson	<p>maintaining aesthetics is doable, as is the moral imperative to implement some kind of barrier.</p>
		<p>Suicide is a personal choice that affects few other than the individual. Head-on crashes kill innocent people who are just going to work or home. Forget abotu the suicide barrier and put up a barier of concrete between the three noth and three southbound lanes and save lives!</p>

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Lou	Judson	Suicide is a personal choice that affects few other than the individual. Head-on crashes kill innocent people who are just going to work or home. Forget abotu the suicide barrier and put up a barier of concrete between the three noth and three southbound lanes and save lives!
Lou	Judson	Suicide is a personal choice that affects few other than the individual. Head-on crashes kill innocent people who are just going to work or home. Forget abotu the suicide barrier and put up a barier of concrete between the three noth and three southbound lanes and save lives!
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Lou	Judson	Suicide is a personal choice that affects few other than the individual. Head-on crashes kill innocent people who are just going to work or home. Forget about the suicide barrier and put up a barrier of concrete between the three north and three southbound lanes and save lives!
Garbage	Junk	Must use system with absolute minimum visual/aesthetic impact.
Garbage	Junk	It would be EXTREMELY useful if you provided artists' renderings of all five alternatives.
evelyn	jurow	There is no built deterrent that isn't visually detrimental to the bridge.
evelyn	jurow	I am opposed to changing the bridge, an American icon, in any way to prevent suicides. The money would be better spent, if there was any money, in preventing accidents. I am not convinced that suicides should be interfered with. I think it is one's right. I also fear making the bridge unsafe in unknown ways if the great engineering is tampered with.
Cleveland	Justis	The benefits of a suicide barrier outweigh any minor aesthetic issues.
Cleveland	Justis	The benefits of a suicide barrier outweigh any minor aesthetic issues.
cynthia	k	I think that the committee for the Golden Gate Bridge should focus more on installing the concrete dividers so the people who DON'T want to die will hopefully be saved. People who are looking to commit suicide will just find an alternative bridge or some other way to complete their mission.
Ezekiel	K	An article in the Chron about people's preference for the steel-net approach had a link to this site. I came just to take a quick peek at what this might look like. Did you hide an image somewhere that shows that? I see no sign of one after 10 minutes of reading and poking. Bizarre.
Ed	Kachmarik	Building a barrier on a structure like the Golden Gate Bridge will prove what a sick society we are.
d	kadel	forget jumpers. use money to help transportation.
e	kadel	let them jump. Use money for more ferries.
s	kadel	let them jump. Use money for doyle drive.
alice	kagan	looks nice
Yoel	Kahn	#3 - least impact on the "experience" of the bridge (visual, walking across, perception of barrier) and gets the job done.
Holly	Kaiser	You must put up a barrier now. The thought of one more person jumping off the bridge is enough to outweigh any aesthetic argument for no barrier. I think the vertical lines have less impact on the view.
Holly	Kaiser	If cost is a consideration, I would just go for one of the alternatives I chose that costs less as LONG AS YOU DO IT. It is insane not to do nothing.

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Juliana	Kaitting	While my sympathies are with the families of those who have lost loved ones, I think that if a person is determined to end their life, they will find a way to do it. Why ruin the looks of the bridge, I think it is unfair to punish everyone and the beauty of the bridge for a few.
Juliana	Kaitting	I don not want any alternatives, leave the bridge alone. It is the only thing that makes my drive from Novato to Daly City bearable is coming out of the Waldo Tunnel at 5:51am and seeing that beautiful bridge.
Juliana	Kaitting	It will ruin the look of the bridge and it goes to people being responsible for the own actions, like I said if you are intent on ending your life you will find some way to do it.
Juliana	Kaitting	already stated
Juliana	Kaitting	already stated
Juliana	Kaitting	already stated
Juliana	Kaitting	already stated
Juliana	Kaitting	already stated
Juliana	Kaitting	already stated
Juliana	Kaitting	already stated
Rula	Kallas	I understand and can empathize with the fact that the bridge is easy access for people who feel the need to commit suicide. But if someone really wants to commit suicide, they will find a way. There are numerous cliffs that can be used for the very same purpose that are just as easy to get to. We should maintain the original beauty and aesthetics of the bridge, for the large majority of individuals that go there do not intend to commit suicide. The large majority go there to see the life and beauty that surrounds us all from the unique, romantic, and delightful vantage point that only the golden gate bridge can provide.
Pamela	Kamatani	I am glad that you are finally taking steps towards erecting a barrier. I know that such surveys have been taken in the past, all to no avail. I hope that there will be concrete follow-through this time, once and for all.

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Pamela	Kamatani	I think it's absolutely shameful that the GG bridge is the world's #1 suicide attraction, and there has been no political will to change this fact. I was not even aware of the fact that you had been accepting public commentaries for quite some time until I saw an article about it in the Chronicle recently. I still remember how angry and defensive the bridge authorities were when the documentary, "The Bridge" was released a couple of years ago. Rather than inappropriately venting your anger at the film maker, you should have taken immediate, corrective action to deter suicides, which was the whole purpose of the film. How you all sleep at night, when you know people are jumping with alarming frequency, is beyond me.
Mark	Kamena	I am in favor of any barrier; the fact is that they will all save lives.
rebecca	kaminsky	these were all just a guess, as the site doesn't really explain the alternatives. I just think there should be a barrier, the safest one possible
Shirley	Kaminsky	With research proving that an improved railing does save lives and with research showing also that often when a person is deterred, the moment of crisis passes and the act of suicide is stopped, it seems prudent and imperative that some sort of barrier be created for the GG Bridge. I do not see that an additional barrier would detract from the beauty of the bridge, yet many lives would be saved.
Deborah	Kamradt	I hope that the 50 million is spent to update Doyle Drive and the GGB. It would be great, since I drive the GGB almost daily, if there was a movable barrier to keep all of us safe. Attention should be given to the prospective jumper long before he/she jumps. I am sorry for the loss that families of jumpers have suffered.
may	kandarian	Do not alter the bridge
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No bulid
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No build
may	kandarian	No build

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Cynthia	Kanios	The alternatives are an eyesore and make the GGB look like a prison yard. Some spaces should remain free and people should feel the freedom intended by the artists and architects who created them. When you walk across the bridge you do so to experience the view and the wind and the atmosphere. A physical barrier on the bridge is indicative of the barrier of fear that is being perpetuated now in American culture. People have always jumped from the bridge because they feel free to do so. Freedom is the key word here. In a truly free society, you own your own body and you have the right to do with it as you please. Protecting people from themselves is an invasion of their freedom and the barriers would serve as a reminder to the anyone crossing the bridge that personal freedom has been compromised. If the city gov. is concerned about suicide, let's work to restore the community mental health system that was destroyed by Ron Reagan in the 70's. This project is a waste of \$50 million.
Ari	Kanter	Do not change this sacred place. Driving across the bridge and looking at the bridge, is about the joy of life. I don't want this marred by anything, especially not to be reminded about
Ari	Kanter	I know two people who have committed suicide off the GGB, and I strongly believe they wanted to die and would find the means to do so. Building a barrier of some sort will not bring loved ones back, and it won't stop loved ones from killing themselves either. It will only make those who lost loved ones feel they did something. For them to ask us to change the bridge for their own guilt, is a sick demonstration of selfishness. The sad part of this study is that there are hundreds if not thousands of people barely surviving on our streets --people who actually want to live. If only the funds for this study could be directed their way, peoples lives would change today. Which just goes to show this study is not about saving lives.
Christine	Kaplan	A barrier must be built because it will save lives!!! Any design will do, though I have checked my preferences. We lost our son on Dec. 28 at the bridge and strongly believe it was an impulsive move to only end his pain and not his life... we implore all of you who will have a voice in this decision, to consider the devastation such a loss leaves in it's wake...

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Kenneth	Kaplan	I feel 2A would provide the best combination of deterring suicides as well as maintaining the architectural integrity of the bridge. We lost our son from the bridge on 12/28 & feel his action was very impulsive & if access had been more difficult it may have deterred him from ending his life.
Kenneth	Kaplan	I feel 2a is best as it interferes least with the view, but still provides a significant deterrent to jumping. The Bridge is a beautiful & revered structure, a barrier that provides deterrence & still emphasizes the beauty of the bridge would make it an even more meaningful symbol of the beauty & compassion of San Francisco & California.
Adam	Kapp	To change the bridge is unthinkable -- people will always find a way to end their lives if they want to. This is not a public problem.
david	kapp	What a colossal waste of money. If people are going to commit suicide a barrier is not going to prevent it. They will just do it elsewhere and most likely endanger other people in the process. ie. jumping of buildings and landing on innocent people below. And another 40-50 million dollars to build it. It boggles my mind. you could give a half a million dollars to each person contemplating suicide and that would be a better solution. thanks
Robert	Kard	Any alternative that saves lives is preferable to doing little or nothing. Barriers and nets that provide and increased level of safety with minimal visual impact are best.
nikki	karimi	PLEASE provide a safe bridge that would prevent these tragedies from happening. Thanks
nikki	karimi	The sooner the better PLEASE
paula	karlberg	Please, isn't it possible to find some other project on which to spend money, i.e., in support of programs that provide encouragement to people whose lives lead them to suicide. And, if they are truly suicidal, a costly barrier will not prevent that suicide from occurring. A similar effort is happening in Seattle and I'm hoping for the same result...support goes someplace else and barriers are not built.

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Bruce	Karney	<p>I've lived in the Bay Area for over 30 years and do not support expending public funds on suicide barriers on any bridge.</p> <p>I do think it's important that freeways and train right of ways be adequately fenced, but this is primarily to protect drivers and train passengers from unintended collisions with animals.</p>
Valerie	Karras	<p>Jumping off the bridge because of the assumption that the net will catch the jumper will become a popular dare among teenagers -- it's truly idiotic.</p> <p>Not doing anything to prevent suicides (the "no build" option) is equally idiotic.</p>
Matthew	Kaser	Alternative 3 appears to have the least "adverse visual impact".
Matthew	Kaser	The assesement in the Draft EIR/EA (Chapter 2, p 2-100)that Alternative 3 would create an "adverse visual impact" does not appear to be bourne out by the artistic rendering used in the Draft EIR/EA, Figure 2.2-57 (viewpoint 14). The edge of the net does NOT appear to disrupt the vertical lines of the Tower(s) as the width of the net effectively diminishes as it approaches the tower. This is due to the perspective effect of parallel lines converging towards the horizon. I therefore would recommend that the weight of the assessment that Alternative 3 has an "adverse visual impact" be lessened in the Final EIR/EA given the above arguments and artistic rendering in the Draft EIR/EA.
sarah	kass	no difference when viewing bridge, minimal when on it. lets save some lives.
Dee	Katson	If the District insists on spending millions of taxpayer dollars, ie my money, please spend it to save lives of those who WANT to be saved -- ie drivers and passengers in cars on the bridge. Using so much of our money to save lives of those who are intent on ending their lives is misguided. DON'T BUILD ANY SUICIDE BARRIERS -- it is a waste of our money and will spoil the bridge for the rest of us.
Dee	Katson	Please do NOT waste our money on a futile attempt to save people who don't want to be saved.
gail	katz	I support any alternative that will be an effective barrier. I am not concerned with the aesthetics. What is important is the level or prevention that will be achieved.

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gail	katz	It is incredibly irresponsible that a suicide barrier has not been completed already. At this point many Marin residents know personally a family that has lost someone on the bridge. Seems like the bridge management should be liable for letting this go on so long...
Hermione	Katz	The loss of anyone to suicide is a tragedy. If people are concerned about the suicides that occur on the Golden Gate Bridge and elsewhere, they should support funding for prevention programs. There isn't data that proves that suicides on the GGB are truly "impulsive" and not planned out in advance. Building barriers on the bridge will not prevent a single death. If people want to die, they will find a way. If people want help those at risk, everyone in the community should be aware of the warning signs of suicide. We need suicide prevention programs, not superficial "solutions" that will force all citizens to pay in money and the loss of an architectural treasure.
Sally	Kaufmann	Thank you for doing something. I have had patients jump from the bridge. I have had a patient who jumped and lived and happy he lived. I have had a patient who jumped and lived and then committed suicide later. So it isn't a 100 % prevention but for many it is an absolute prevention as their idea was impulsive and not lasting. Sally Kaufmann, MD
Ryan	Kautzman	People come from all over the world to see the golden gate. Like it or not, tourism is an important part of our local economy. I'd be less likely to visit a place if I can only enjoy the views by looking through chain link fencing, or otherwise somehow being reminded of people throwing themselves off the monument. I think the families of the people who have committed suicide on the golden gate are using the bridge as a scapegoat, and this project as a means to attain redemption. Even if you could scientifically prove that the bridge in its current form encourages jumpers, I don't think anything should be done to the bridge. It's one thing if it's a hazard, with people accidentally falling off. It's another to put nets on bridges, bumpers on trains, and essentially baby proof the entire city. Don't punish everyone for the mental instability of a few. We should not set the precedent of engineering public spaces to be suicide proof. They should be safe, but society should not be held accountable for physically saving suicides. What if the suicide barrier fails? Does the family NOT have the right to sue? I doubt it.
Ryan	Kautzman	I see this as an egregious waste of money, and possibly an invitation to litigation in the future.

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Candace	Kavanagh	The existence Goldengate Bridge is not the cause of people taking their own lives. Whatever the budget for these suicide prevention measures on the Bridge should be allocated to crisis-intervention counseling services. Not ever a person carrying full medical insurance can get "crisis-intervention counseling" -- perhaps in time to save a life.
Candace	Kavanagh	The bridge is a national treasure of beautiful design to transport cars, not a counseling service.
Candace	Kavanagh	Leave the bridge a long and help the people.
Candace	Kavanagh	I am not from the Bay Area; I lived in Sausalito can commuted everyday across the bridge.
Candace	Kavanagh	Not applicable to the question at hand.
Candace	Kavanagh	No applicable to the purpose and use of the Bridge.
Brian	Kawanishi	Do NOT waste taxpayer money on this! These people will find other ways to commit suicide.
Wilfred	Kay	Alternative: Close the Golden Gate bridge to pedestrians. A barrier will not stop a person intended on suicide from jumping into the path of traffic.
Wilfred	Kay	Alternative: Charge pedestrians \$2 for using the bridge and use the money for all types of suicide prevention programs.
nick	kaza	add a high voltage fence to keep away jumpers.
Laurie	Kazenoff	If one life can be saved, it is worth putting up the barrier that will be most effective.
Laurie	Kazenoff	People are not statistics, they each are individuals who are special. They are not numbers. So there is really no way to "weigh" alternatives. One life is worth it. If it will save one life, that is worth it. That life may be someone who is impulsive at that moment, but may be the person who finds a cure to a common disease, or that may be the person who grows up to be someone who finds a solution to an important problem, like energy or providing for the needy. That one person who is saved, might be the next Leonardo da Vinci, or Jonas Salk, or they might grow up to be a wonderful mother or father. That cannot be measured, it is priceless. You must build a barrier, even if it saves just one person.

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colton	kealing	While I feel for those families left of suicide, one way or another the person will find a way. Why not use this money for people who are driving a very unsafe bridge and don't want to die. I witnessed one of the head on accidents, luckily no fatalities, and saw the impact first hand of a head on. I'm just wondering why the bridge is spending so much of our money on something that impacts a few who do not want to live; when it can be spending the money and time on something that can unexpectedly impact the folks who want to live. I hope this is not too harsh - but it is ones opinion. Colton
Nancy	Keane	These are all absolutely hideous.
Nancy	Keane	These are unacceptable.
Nancy	Keane	I have no idea what this question means
Nancy	Keane	No idea what this question means
Nancy	Keane	No clue what this question is asking
Nancy	Keane	I do not believe that any barrier is going to be effective to reduce the total number of suicides (by all means) and it is really going to ruin our landmark bridge.
Sister Fran	Kearney	I'm supporting Alternative 3 because it prevents the person's death and allows intervention to offer help in dealing with the person and his/her needs at this critical time. I have a personal interest in preventing suicides from the bridge, having witnessed a person going over the side and having a young adult relative also go over the side.
Thomas	Kearney	visual aesthetic, as well as the cost. If we are going to spend \$50 million, spend it to reduce the murder rate in bay area cities, which claims far more lives than GGB suicides. Or Drug Rehab to get homeless off the streets.
Neil	Keating	I strongly oppose anything that compromises the aesthetic integrity of one of the most cherished architectural/engineering landmarks in the world. We have an obligation to respect the design of the bridge and the unimpaired views that make the GG Bridge a cultural treasure. Suicide is tragic and deeply affects the family and friends left behind by the victims but I don't believe that "child-proofing" the bridge, with all its negative impact, will solve the personal problems that put them there in the first place.

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Neil	Keating	A tremendous amount of "study" money has been spent already to satisfy our collective social conscience, to mollify special interest groups, and and to fuel political self-aggrandizement but it is time to stop throwing non-existent revenue at a problem that should be addressed at the human psychology level.
Karen	Keefer	Each year more suicides are committed in the Bay area NOT on the GG Bridge than on it. The problem is not the Bridge, it's the depression and hopelessness that individuals feel. So don't make the Bridge the problem.
Karl	Keefer	All of the options will change the look of the Golden Gate Bridge, which stands as a classic icon of San Francisco, and California.

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Karl	Keefer	<p>Building a suicide barrier won't prevent suicides, it will only change the location people choose to do it. People who have reached a point of desperation so extreme that they are suicidal, didn't reach that place because the bridge is somehow welcoming. If the real concern of the council is preventing suicides, then the expansion of Suicide deterrent programs is the only appropriate response!</p> <p>The money with the proposed use of modifying the bridge could help prevent lots of suicides if used in a different way. For example: building a suicide prevention/counseling center near the south side of the bridge.</p> <p>Adding to the bridge will curb suicides AT the bridge, but that's not the real problem you should be trying to address here, you need to be addressing suicides in general.</p> <p>Please let this money be put to something useful. We've already spent enough time entertaining this ridiculous proposition.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>-Karl Keefer</p> <p>p.s. whoever reads this first: please make sure my opinions or something like them are voiced to the council... despite a rational response from them being highly unlikely. (They wasted this much time already!)</p>
Kristin	Keeffe	<p>Both the vertical and horizontal plans make the bridge look like an orange prison, the vertical more so than the horizontal. The net would destroy the view from the exterior.</p>

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Kristin	Keeffe	Does research support that limiting one method of committing suicide prevents a person from committing that act? We are fighting the most tragic symptom of the disease rather than the cause. I would support putting these funds toward respected suicide prevention groups or similar causes. I believe that people would be better served if we put more money into better resources for depressed people.
liz	keeley	people are going to commit suicide, it is not the GG Bridges' job to stop that. We are blessed with this famous bridge, please don't mess it up!
Linda	Kehoe	I would hate to detract from the beauty of the bridge, also am concerned about the cost.
Linda	Kehoe	As a psychiatric nurse, I think people who are determined to committ suicide will always find a method. I would rather see the money put into mental health resources rather than a bridge barrier.
Margaret	Keig	I believe a barrier is critically important.
Thomas	Keller	It's time.
Anne	Kelley	safety is critical and trumps. This important work has been done at smaller "suicide" bridges such as Pasadena's Colorado street bridge with no real aesthetic impact, but a great impact against suicides.
Anne	Kelley	This should be done, to avoid these deaths and discourage them, but also for general safety, making the bridge generally safer from accidents. The iconic bridge will remain iconic, as its beauty has nothing to do with the precise height of the rails at the pedestrian level. I lived in SF during law school and say this from a perspective of someone who had that view every day.
Kris	Kelley	Society has come to a sad state when we put things above people. People need to get their exclusive noses out of the air and recognize that lives saved is much more important than the aesthetics of a symbolic bridge. They should, perhaps, build a bridge of compassion between their ivory towers and the rest of the lives around them of struggling people.

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		<p>I traverse the bridge several times a month and consider it one of the most beautiful structures anywhere. I favor which ever option has the least visual impact, PROVIDED it deters suicide. I adamantly oppose the no-build option.</p> <p>Psychiatrists say suicide is a crime (against the self) of opportunity. Someone with the impulse but not the means today may very well have lost the impulse by the time the means become available tomorrow. Someone prevented from jumping to his or her death is NOT guaranteed simply to find some other means to suicide. Lives will be saved if we make it harder to commit suicide on the bridge.</p> <p>In our resource-rich culture, relatively few adults have the experience of losing someone close to them when that person is still young. I do. My sister got her hands on someone else's prescription drugs and committed suicide at age 31. Deeply depressed for years, she had attempted suicide before. Perhaps without access to someone else's drugs, she would have found some other way to kill herself that day, or the next day or years later. Or perhaps she would have gone back to therapy and would today be a 46-year-old artist, businesswoman, wife and mom. Suicide is not inevitable.</p> <p>Death, however, is permanent. Until you lose someone close, and long outlive them, I don't think you begin to understand the permanence or pervasiveness of a death. How the impacts of someone's absence grow with the years and seep across generations. This inability to understand death must account for the reluctance of so many people to support suicide barriers. They cannot possibly fully understand the stakes.</p> <p>Simply, in its current design, the bridge makes it possible for people to act on a transitory impulse to die. Given time, even perhaps a few moments, that impulse will pass or at least become possible to resist, and other possibilities will appear. But if acted upon, that impulse will change absolutely everything, forever.</p> <p>If the bridge design encouraged motorists to crash into the pylons or drive off the edge, we'd fix it, even if fixing it cost a lot and left us with a slightly less spectacular view.</p> <p>Our situation today is essentially the same. Our beloved, beautiful bridge has a design flaw that kills. We can fix that design flaw without losing the bridge. How can we even hesitate?</p>
Mary	Kelley	
Dan	kelly	Nothing is uglier than seeing someone jump off the bridge
Dan	kelly	Simple is best

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shawn	kelly	Any barrier would be devastating to the beauty of the bridge, the feeling of peace and awe tourists feel visiting it, and an unbelievable waste of money that would simply send suicidal people jumping off of something else. Talk about "treating the symptom" instead of the problem.... \$40 million to ruin the ambiance of our only global landmark and save no lives? That's insane, and frankly, as horrible as it is, someone jumping of the bridge is a lot less of a burden on society than jumping off of a building in the city. The head-on collisions are the real problem that we should address!
shawn	kelly	(I can't tell if my comment made it through, so I'm trying again): Installing any kind of barrier would not only be devastating to the peace and awe that visiting tourists feel when they cross it, it would simply send suicidal people to another place to jump from. Talk about "Treating the symptom" instead of the problem! It would be a colossal waste of our tax money, would radically hurt the atmosphere of our only major global landmark, and wouldn't save a single life. And as horrible as it is, it's frankly much less of a burden on society if someone jumps off the bridge than if they jump off a building downtown. I'm not insensitive to the depression these people feel, but you're fooling yourselves if you think this will save any one of them. We should be focusing on putting that money into an advanced moveable barrier to address the head-on collision problem, and focus on saving the people on the Golden Gate Bridge who DON'T want to die!
shawn	kelly	I just can't believe anyone is actually considering wasting our money on something so foolish. Why not put the money into a moveable barrier for traffic that will actually save the lives of people who DON'T want to die?
mary judith	kemeny	The research is clear that limiting access to too easy impulsive means lowers suicide rates and saves lives. I support the construction of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. Please consider the safest alternative that is hopefully the most aesthetically pleasing as well. I think the barrier will save many lives.
Gerald Reed	Kennedy	Please, please don't add these huge eyesores to our beautiful bridge!

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Andrew	Kennelly	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B These alternatives would be a travesty. The current unimpeded views are spectacular. The government has no business being everybody's mommy, constantly protecting people from themselves and every conceivable danger. Imagine how ugly eve
Andrew	Kennelly	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B The "transparent panels" would probably remain transparent for perhaps the first 90 minutes after they are put in place. They will inevitably be subjected to vandalism and rapid degradation.
Andrew	Kennelly	The file sizes are ridiculous . . . e.g., close to 70 MB for "visual/ aesthetic impacts chapter".
kathleen	kenney	Dear GGB Board, vote NO on all plans for alteration of this treasured landmark.. \$40 million could be better spent on much needed psychiatric services. Please do not destroy this bridge with higher railings, net or any such ugly alterations. Build a traffic barrier at best but leave the lovely bridge be as is. All due respect to those who have suffered such tremendous grief and nightmare to ponder, but vote NO NO NO Respectfully, Kathleen Kenney, SF age 64
Kelly	Kenny	I would vote to have a barrier, but leave which alternative should be implemented to those that have actually researched the issue.
Tricia	Kent	Alternative 2B " Replace Outside Handrail with Horizontal System makes it safe but still allows the view.
Ryan	Kerian	The addition of any suicide barrier would detrimentally impact the visual qualities of the bridge, which has emerged as a city icon since its construction.
Ryan	Kerian	I strongly oppose the expenditure of \$40-50 million dollars to construct a suicide barrier when far less money could be expended to increase suicide patrols and limit pedestrian access to the bridge during high peak suicide attempt time-frames.
Joan	Kermath	I have a teenager at Tam High. All of the kids in Marin County know the bridge is a danger to emotional, overstressed and hormonal kids that may be simply an impulse from otherwise normal behavior. It is too easy and too accessible.

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Rachel	Kertz	After reading the series of articles in the NY Times about suicide, and the facts about having a barrier, it is clear to me that having a barrier on the GG Bridge is the only way to go. The research indicates that a barrier will prevent those who are acting only on impulsivity.
Gregory M.	Kerwin	A barrier is needed to save lives of people who attempt suicide. The suicide impulse is temporary. Most attempts fail. The people who fail to kill themselves usually regret the attempt and do not try again. Building a barrier will stop many attempts and allow those people who might try suicide to move on to mental and emotional peace.
filip	kesler	Any addition to the current railing system will make the bridge look like a jail or a concentration camp. Paint it white and you have George Segal's The Holocaust, just like the Legion of Honor.
filip	kesler	See above.
filip	kesler	Ruining the GGB would rank up with the destruction of Mostar Bridge. Leave the GGB alone!
filip	kesler	See above.
filip	kesler	n/c
filip	kesler	n/c
filip	kesler	n/c
filip	kesler	n/c
filip	kesler	n/c
filip	kesler	n/c
filip	kesler	n/c
Paula	Key	<p>There are many tragic situations in life that could possibly be prevented, but it is not realistic to think that we can safeguard ourselves or others against all of these events. No doubt there have been 1300 other fatalities over a 70 year span, in all types of different scenarios(car accidents on bridges, casualties of war, accidental drownings etc) that brought incredible sadness to friends and families, but we cannot be responsible for all of this. And to ruin the beauty of a world monument, is unthinkable.</p> <p>Unfortunately, emotion is prevailing. Not only is the cost of this study preposterous but so is the cost to ruin the Golden Gate Bridge! Why don't we spend money on a barrier to prevent car accidents that are also so tragic and more frequent?</p>
Margrit	Keyes	<p>The net will not stop anyone with real intentions to jump. The bridge's original design should be protected. It is part of San Francisco history.</p>

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Margrit	Keyes	<p>More money should be spent on patrols and preventative help.</p> <p>The decision to end one's life is very personal. In absence of the bridge option other means will be found ie. other bridges, towers, buildings, meds. I am against spending the money for this when we have real needs such as the repair of Doyle Drive.</p>
Kim	Kibler	This is a historic bridge- why change the appearance of it for the 30 or so people that want to kill themselves every year on it. They will find other methods- it's not the bridge, it's the people. Same adage as "guns don't kill people, people kill people." Waste of money.
Kim	Kibler	I think nets would be the most efective anyway. You can get over a wall or a railing, but how do you get out of a net? Most aesthetically pleasing.
Kim	Kibler	It's a waste of money when the money could be spent on social programs or health programs where these people who are jumpers/would be jumpers, can get help. The money would reach a far greater number of people than any railing or net ever could. If people started jumping off the Empire State Buliding would New Yorks change the appearance of their beloved landmark? I doubt it. Better security might be the best way to go. Frankly, if they want to jump, jump. We can't save everybody. Sorry- but it is the reality of the situation. If people arre going to commit suicide, they will find an alternate means. Take it from one WHO KNOWS!!!
Amanda	Kiefer	The Golden Gate is a beautiful landmark and altering it to prevent suicides at an enormous financial and aesthetic cost is ridiculous.
Amanda	Kiefer	The view is gorgeous, people from all over the world come to see it. Why spend that much money to block the amazing view over the deaths of 35 people a year who choose this way to go?
Amanda	Kiefer	These people will find another way to commit suicide if they want to. How bout improving mental health programs in San Francisco with that money instead!? A much more effective measure...
Amanda	Kiefer	Create more mental health jobs for San Franciscans and lower the suicide rate with the money it would cost to deface the bridge.
Curtis	Kiest	We need to do something. I'll go along with whichever build option is best/gets most votes. But it would be a crime to do not put up a physical deterrent. As an orthopedist, I have personally treated two of the rare survivors with severe injuries. Both said that they really don't know what made them do it, were glad that we saved them and got them on appropriate anti-depressants, and wished "somebody had stopped me from doing it (jumping)." One is a paraplegic, the other recovered walking after mult ops.

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Tera	Killip	there are many better ways to spend \$40-50 million dollars and actual bridge maintenance would be my first choice. i'm tired of increased tolls because funds are improperly managed and fear that this barrier will somehow affect the tolls at a future date.
Tera	Killip	<p>while i appreciate that those who have lost loved ones to suicide on the bridge feel that the barrier would have prevented the suicide, there is no way they can ever prove this. is this a \$40 million supposition that the state's taxpayers can afford?</p> <p>also, i lost my father to suicide (from a gunshot wound) and i know that he was determined to take this action no matter what anyone said or tried to do. he had been thwarted once but not the second time. if someone is that determined to kill themselves, they will find another way even if the bridge builds this barrier. is it worth \$40 million just to have the suicide rate on the bridge decrease although it will increase elsewhere? i think not.</p>
Michelle	Kim	<p>When reviewing alternative 1B and 2B horizontal cables choices, one gets the feel of being around a prison. Also, 2A and 2B alters the look of our beloved bridge radically. As for the transparent panels, won't they need to be cleaned or treated regularly? My question is at what cost? I know it's mentioned that the transparent panels will be aerodynamic but we all know that wind tunnel types of effects will occur. And one just shudders at the thought how many birds will not see these transparent panels and will commit suicide.</p> <p>I think these plans are a sure way to stop suicides because no one will be on the bridge.</p>
kyoungha	kim	Putting barriers on the brige is not going to stop the people from their own decision.
kyoungha	kim	I think it is time for individual to take their own responsiblty for their own action. A lot of people go through difficulties in life. It is unfair that some of these people want others to pay for their own choice.
Jack	Kimpton	I have no comment on this subject because I think nothing should be built.
Jack	Kimpton	See #3 above.
Jack	Kimpton	See #3 above.

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Jack	Kimpton	See #3 above.
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Jack	Kimpton	See #3 above.
Jack	Kimpton	See #3 above.
Jack	Kimpton	See #3 above.
Jack	Kimpton	#1 - Why should society interfere with anything a person willfully does to their own body, as long as they are not harming anyone else. #2 - If someone really wants to commit suicide, there are many other alternatives that they can use other than jumping
Judy	Kimsey	What's more important--views or people? I think people. Build the barrier.
Margit	Kindel	I feel that the view with choice 2B is the best.
Margit	Kindel	Having a relative who jumped off the bridge has made me want to comment. The long term effects of this action on his family are incomprehensible.
Kathleen	King	I think it is a huge waste of money. Money would be better spent on mental health programs.
Katie	King	I believe that a person intent on suicide will succeed. I also believe in intervention by counseling. I do NOT want to alter the visual power of the Bridge to prevent suicides.

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		<p>This would just be yet another degradation of our country's great heirlooms in the name of protecting people from themselves.</p> <p>A person has a right to choose their own death. To die in a moment of beautiful horror that would come from leaping from the Golden Gate, this should remain an option for a free soul to choose.</p> <p>Tackle the causes of suicide. Have qualified people patrolling the bridge seeking out potential jumpers and, i don't know, maybe try TALKING to them?</p> <p>After all, if there is a high fence on one side and cars moving by at 50mph on the other side, I imagine a suicidal person might just throw themselves in front of the next SUV on the roadway.</p> <p>It is all just absurd, a useless waste of money, and degrading to our great landmark.</p>
Reuben	King	<p>Spend \$40 million on psychologists to patrol the bridge 24x7. At a \$100,000 per year salary, \$40 million could finance 400 psychologists per year. Broken into 4 shifts, this could mean 100 professional therapists on the bridge at any given moment in time. With such a therapist presence, would there be any ability for a suicidal person to elude them long enough to leap?</p>

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Robert	King	I think vertical with a winglet would be the best option because if people wanted to commit suicide, they could still easily scale the horizontal system like a ladder and the winglet wouldn't help much, but a winglet on the vertical makes more sense. The netting doesn't make any sense to me because they could just jump off the net after they land there. I don't want you guys to waste money, but you need a system that will prevent the people who are going to jump no matter what is in place. They are going to want to climb, so we have to stop that.
Stephen	King	I feel that this is a waste of dollars. The percentages of people using the bridge is extremely small compared to all of the other suicides in the entire bay area. The millions of dollars spent on a physical barrier for the GG bridge could be put to better use towards suicide prevention programs of education and therapy for the entire bay area.
Grant	Kinney	Any aesthetic detriment seems small compared to the human lives it will save. Many other cities have erected suicide prevention barriers on bridges and towers to help save lives, why shouldn't we?
Karena	Kirkpatrick	Please put a barrier up! Current prevention measures obviously do not work. We have to make a change.
Laurie	Kirkpatrick	Suicide barriers save lives. Depression is a terrible illness, and we should do all we can to help those who are in it's grip.
Coral	Kisseberth	The net seems kind of dangerous too.
Martha	Kiume	best view when driving by
Martha	Kiume	vertical with curved top is best
nina	klehr	having a horizontal one would be like giving victims a ladder. vertical.. tall unclimbable
Julian	Klehr	This is a very important addition to the bridge. I hope this committee is seriously considering the impact a child's spontaneous suicide decision has on their family and community.
nina	klehr	save a life!

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kris	klein	As a 5 day/week fastrak commuter into the city, my concern is focused on the impact on commuter of the proposed structures. I am concerned that alternatives 1-2 would be distracting/claustrophobic to commuters crossing the bridge. Commuters are a key constituency and revenue source for the GGB District. Given issues around headon collisions, I would not be supportive of anything that provides additional distraction to commuters.
marty	klein	I am in favor of NO BUILD. I have been a California Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist for 28 years. Less than 37 people kill themselves via the Bridge each year. There are MANY ways to spend money that will prevent more suicides and restore many more lives than that.
marty	klein	Scientific studies show that preventing people from jumping does NOT prevent most suicides. Yes, the families of jumpers have a lot of emotion--but let's use science, not emotion, in designing public policy. It would be IRRESPONSIBLE to spend millions of dollars to prevent suicides and to get so little impact for the money.
Tal	Klein	\$40M-\$50M endowment fund provides a lot of onging mental health counseling & outreach programs. To more than just 40 yearly bridge victims. Erecting a physical barrier, does not deter those people from having another impulse to kill themselves at another location if they do not get mental health support. Lastly- if you were to erect something- make it less impactful on the other 1.5 million users who want to feel the sense of freedom- not jail.
Tal	Klein	All the choices other than the net below affect the feel of freedom/ make it fee like we are jailed in. No visual impact is prefered!
Deborah	Kleinecke	I'm sure thousands have said it already, but I will add my voice....BUILD A MOVABLE BARRIER FOR THOSE OF US WHO WANT TO LIVE!!! Why spend \$50 million to prevent suicides while not spending one dime to preven head-on collisions? This is ridiculous.

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Bruce	Kliewe	<p>As I sent to the S.F. Chronicle (not yet published) WHY NOT simply barbed wire 3-4 ft. high atop the railing! It's certainly going to make the impulse leapers think twice...and will be an added obstacle to anyone determined to jump. I regard ALL the proposed designs as "overkill". Most of all DON'T HARM/CHANGE "MY" BRIDGE. (64 year old native San Franciscan.)</p> <p>oh...and DON'T PAINT the barbed wire, then it will hardly be noticable from a distance.</p>
Donna	Kline	I am sure we can design an acceptable suicide barrier that would be beautiful to the population in general and save lives at the same time. However, I do believe it is more important to save lives. To my of thinking, suicide is a "cry for help" not so much wanting to die. Let's find a way to save those who "cry for help."
Heidi	Klingebiel	PLEASE do not build this and detract from the beauty of our beautiful landmark. If people want to jump they will find a way to climb over whatever barrier is erected - who cares about getting injured while climbing the barrier when one will be dead shortly anyways. Besides, if someone wants to kill themselves they should have that right. Better jumping off the bridge than in front of traffic on the bridge. This way they only hurt themselves.
Heidi	Klingebiel	If this MUST be done, then a net with low visibility is the best alternative. Still, this is a huge waste of time, resources and money.
Michael	Kloepfer	<p>Please do not waste money on a deterrent program. All this to save how many possible deaths? How about the people being shot every week in the Mission District.</p> <p>If people want to commit suicide they will eventually find a way.</p>
Nicole	Klopukh	please do something to prevent suicide.
Doug	Knauer	You will never prevent physical suicide, but to try you would recommend mental and psychic suicide for the rest of us. The bridge is one of the wonders of the world, a thing of beauty. And because a handful of folks choose to use it for other reasons, you would deprive EVERYONE else of that unobstructed enjoyment. Small-minded bureaucrats think they have to DO something when, in reality, the best choice is not to do anything.
Thomas	Knauer	I feel the visual impact will be minimal

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Tom	Knauer	The alternatives offered do not seem to be much more intrusive than the current railing. A slight visual impact is worth the lives saved.
Michelle	Kneier	Please leave the bridge as is. Changing it in anyway will ruin it. People come from all over the world because they want to see the most beautiful bridge in the world. Changing it to something different then what it was meant to be will destroy it. It's crazy that it's even being considered. It like adding a fifth head to Mount Rushmore!
Arnold	Knepfer, MD	I'm a psychiatrist. I doubt the results of the 1978 Seiden study, quoted by Dr. Blaustein. Here's why: The people who were taken from the bridge can't be said to be typical of those who actually jumped. I suspect they might have been more ambivalent, or not as serious as those who actually did kill themselves, and therefore they were easier to save.
Natalie	Kniess	<p>Our community is designed to provide "safety nets" for those who can't help themselves, i.e., social services, church organizations, etc. Here is the proposal for an actual net at this famous "brink." We are obligated as a community to provide a net (and in everyone's hearts, they know it's true). That's why the barrier folks are not exactly turning away from the idea.</p> <p>Dangling 20 feet above the Pacific will certainly be a frightful experience and the chances of clambering over at that point are small (if any), but then again, I don't data in front of me. I certainly am very against a barrier because we have the alternative of a net, and a barrier is just too radical a movement for the few in society that want to jump off. We can all live with the net.</p>

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Natalie	Kniess	<p>We can all live with the net.</p> <p>A barrier is too radical as it takes too much away from the rest of us - for the few in society who want to use the bridge for suicide.</p> <p>A net is the only solution for the ENTIRE community.</p>
Diana Karl	Knight Knight	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is a historic landmark. I do not agree with changing the appearance of the bridge. I looked at photos of the different barriers and the one that changes the bridge appearance the least is the Net system which is still going to show up in photos.</p> <p>If people want to commit suicide they will find a way to do it even if the bridge has a barrier. Something like 55% of people that kill themselves do it with a legal gun that is in their house. At least half of those people would not commit suicide if there was not a gun in their house. I think that is a bigger problem to address. There's always drug overdoses or fatal car crashes. You can not protect people from every way of committing suicide. Having people listen and talk to them seems like the best thing. I really think those different barriers are ugly and change the look of the bridge in a bad way.</p>
Karl	Knight	You can not protect people from themselves, please do not deface the bridge trying.
Karl	Knight	See above.
Kirby	Knight	The money would be better spent on mental health services to prevent suicide and would even help those who do not use the bridge to kill themselves.
Diane	Knoll	The GG Bridge District is spending money like they had it. They are financially unstable/unresponsible and the money they have spent on the study to date is outrageous.
Diane	Knoll	If someone is in that dark place to commit such an act they will find some place to do it. We cannot cage the world! Stop the madness.

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Robert	Knox	The Golden Gate Bridge is a visual/aesthetic treasure. All of the suggested barriers, in one way or another, would compromise its beauty. None of them would prevent all suicides off the bridge. The number of suicides that occur from the bridge is a very small percentage of the suicides in California, or even in the Bay Area. It is an inexcusable waste of public money to construct a suicide barrier on the bridge.
Daniel	Kocher	a barrier would adversely effect our culture in that it would show that we do not value the grace and beauty of historic structures and will bend to the lowest demominator for the sake of political correctness and that we would spend monty for a poltical symbol when the funds could be put to other use for much greater public good -
Daniel	Kocher	we should not wate money destroying the esthictic beauty and historic importance of the GG bridge - there is no study of any kind that justifies this barrier when looking at all of the suicides from other buildings and in other places in San Francisco - this entire subject is an unqualified waste of public money - suicide is not an issue to be delt with by barriers but rather by mental health services - it is also a fact that beigde suicide are a very smallportion fo the total number of bay area suicides annually - thsi does nothing to address the cause of suicide but only molifies the political agenda of a certian activists groups who would choose to act destructively to our environment in furerance of their political/political correctness agenda -
Daniel	Kocher	under no circumstances whoudl any barrier be erected to in any way adversely impact any existing view
Daniel	Kocher	the barrier woudl adversly impact tourism, and walking on and enjoying the bridge
Daniel	Kocher	the EIR should clearly state that any barrier would destroy the historic nature of the bridge structure and have an unlimited advserse effect on the quality of our environment
Daniel	Kocher	the adverse impacts noted in the EIR shouldl be sufficient ot stop all further consideration of any barrier on the bridge and bring this matter to a complete and final close - no build is the correct answer now fully supported by the EIR

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Andrea	Kohlruss	We live in a free country and have free will. A suicide barrier will not keep anyone who is determined to end his/her life from doing so. And what about the thousands of human beings who enjoy walking across the bridge and who will have the beautiful view taken away from them (if a barrier is built). If you need to build something, building the net underneath would be a viable alternative.
Lori	Kohlstaedt	All designs are unacceptable in terms of aesthetics.
Lori	Kohlstaedt	It would be far better to spend the large sum required to build any of these on social programs to prevent suicide.
Carolynn	Kohn	<p>Please do not spend 40-50 million dollars on a suicide barrier. People who want to kill themselves will just move on to a different method.</p> <p>If we do need to do something about the bridge, the net option seems the least costly and likely equally effective. Alternatively, live patrols or cameras might also be less costly and intrusive for the majority who enjoy the bridge. I sympathize with the families and loved ones of those who have attempted suicide on the bridge. However, if the drive to the bridge and walk onto the railing are not sufficient obstacles, the only thing a suicide barrier will do is cause them to move to a new location or method to attempt suicide. Why not put those millions of dollars into suicide prevention, hotlines, etc.</p>
Carolynn	Kohn	Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.
Sara	Korman	Any option but the NO-BUILD option is a YES BUILD option!
Brian	Korver	Suicide is a tragedy that isn't going to be solved by throwing a bunch of money at retrofitting the GG Bridge.
devora	kothari	I don't think the barrier is the answer to suicide prevention and the funds will be better utilized without erecting the barrier.
Mark	Kouba	I will NEVER jump off of the bridge, but I fear being killed in a head on collision on the bridge! The safety of the vast majority of people who do not want to be killed, must be addressed before those unfortunate few that do! Don't waste another dollar on this, at least before you complete the installation of a lane divider!
Edward	Kovachy	The research is very clear. This barrier would save lives. It is absolutely worth it. The July 6, 2008 New York Times Sunday Magazine has an excellent article on this, which would be a resource for citizens interested in this barrier issue to read and read carefully. I hope you succeed.

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carl	kowall	use a invisable or visable lazer system that will shock but not kill a person when the beam is crossed. put the system on the out side of rhe present railing ,close to the railing yet wide enough that some one cannot j8ump over it. a lot less costly and easy to maintain plus it can record frequency etc etc,. in other words solve the problem electronically...carl kowall 914 443 2894 sacto
Sarina	Kowall	I don't live in California, but I am a taxpayer. I also know several people who have successfully committed suicide. They find a way. While I feel for the families who have lost loved ones, I truly believe they are trying to place blame on something that is not to blame. Why waste taxpayers money, and ruin a national monument because people are too stupid to find a way to deal with their problems? Help is out there in many forms. If someone wants to kill themself I call it Darwinism.
Courtney	Krskie	If the \$50 million needed to complete the barrier were spent on mental health treatment and services for residents of the Bay Area I believe there would be far fewer people who see suicide as an option. We need to focus on the problem (mental health) and not the means (the Bridge).
Elizabeth	Krakov	It is way past time for this. I have lost two people in two years to suicide on this bridge. I cannot stand idly by and watch our wonderful bridge morph into a symbolic gallows. Please do the right thing.
roger	krakow	it doesnt affect the view to bad and i think it is very primitive that we dont have one... its very easy to jump or be thrown over it will save lives
Sandri	Kramer	I found all of the views of the bridge minimally impacted; it is very difficult to distinguish between the various designs. The views from the bridge are obviously impacted and I therefore appreciate the allowances made in the designs for unobstructed views at intervals. Historic preservation is important but never to the detriment of human beings. The designs show that careful consideration is made to preserve historic details.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
Sandri	Kramer	I truly feel the iconic stature of the Golden Gate will not be impacted at all. It remains a beautiful bridge. But it will never again be for those who have lost a loved one to the bridge or for those people who witnessed such a tragedy. And the number of people thus impacted is evergrowing; and will continue to do so as the years pass without barriers.
jim	kranz	The cost and changes to the appearance to the bridge are not worth it.
Deborah	Krass	I strongly support erecting some kind of physical barrier, and I don't really care which one is chosen. A physical barrier of any kind will save lives.
Barbara	Kraus	The positives of saving of lives by having a net or barrier far outweigh the negatives of the view impact. Knowing both someone who leapt to her death and someone who survived a jump and is still alive many, many years later, I believe many of the jumpers will not commit suicide if they can not jump off the bridge. Therefore, I support efforts to deter people from jumping.
Diane	Krautner	Spending \$40 M on a barrier is one of the most ridiculous, wasteful uses of money I have ever heard. Spend the money on suicide prevention clinics instead.
Phyllis	Kreider	I think the money would be better spent on building a barrier down the middle to prevent car accidents. The number of suicides does not warrant spending all the money on a barrier..It isn't even clear if building any of the alternatives would influence the suicide rate in general.
Don	Kreider	While some sort of a barrier will reduce suicides on the GG bridge, I doubt that suicide rates in general will be decreased. Also, the cost estimates for this sort of thing nearly inevitably are greatly exceeded. The money could probably be better spent.
Phyllis	Kreider	I am not for any of the alternatives. I don't think we should build any barrier system on the bridge, except for perhaps down the middle to prevent car accidents.
chad	krimmel	I am a mental health clinician and I think it would be a complete waste of money to build a barrier.. it would not PREVENT any suicides, it would just make disturbed people do it somewhere else. You would be spending 40-50 million dollars and ruining our most spectacular walkway for nothing. There are plenty of cliffs within easy walking distance of the Bridge and jumping from a cliff is a whole lot messier.

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Michael	Kristie	<p>The people who are suicidal Will Find A Way! They have an option!</p> <p>People who die in head on collisions are in an accident, the only option...Don't Drive?</p> <p>Wouldn't our money be better spent by protecting people with a moveable barrier to prevent head-ons? These people want to live and will continue good lives, rather than cut their wrists as an alternative to a head on collision.</p>
Michael	Kristie	<p>I can't see the rationalization for this expense.</p> <p>It is no fluke that we have the jumpers we do with the societal pressures that are not going away soon. Get A Clue. Just think your grandchild daughter, son wife, yourself could be saved by a center Median, this should be your priority. Politics at its finest. RETHINK, PLEASE</p>
kimberly	kroener	The time for a barrier is now. If it can save even one life, that of someone who is making an impulsive decision, it is worth it. Any design is acceptable as a means to this end. Thank you.
G	KRON	WE OF COURSE FEEL SORRY FOR THE FAMILIES EXPERIENCING THE PROBLEM; HOWEVER THEY SHOULD BE LOOKING INTO THEIR FAMILY LIFE FOR PREVENTION - RATHER THAN OTHERS FOR AN UNWORKABLE "CURE?" BETTER THEY DO IT WERE THEY DON'T HURT OTHERS
G	KRON	HAVEN'T SEEN IT WE SPEND TOO MUCH TIME AND MONEY "STUDYING" THINGS - THAT DON'T NEED STUDYING
Joseph	Krovoza	Pleased do something. Building a bridge brings an obligation to invest in safety -- including reducing the "pull" of this structure to those considering suicide. Society shouldn't expect to receive the benefits of the bridge that all enjoy without addressing such a clear cost associated with the benefits.
Linda	Kruger	I do not believe funds should be spent to create a barrier for the bridge, whose beauty has brought tourists from around the world. Those funds should be used for bridge/park upkeep so that we can continue to be proud of these landmarks.
Linda	Kruger	My brother committed suicide by jumping off of the Bay Bridge. I still believe that it is unnecessary to build barriers around our bridges; people WILL find a way to die if that's what they truly want.
Christopher	Kryzan	All designs detract from the fundamental aesthetics and design of the bridge, which is a national landmark.

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Christopher	Kryzan	The vertical bars look too much like a prison.
Christopher	Kryzan	Those who wish to commit suicide will find a way to do so, whether it be jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge or, perhaps, in some more horrific manner that might also take other lives as collateral damage. Each of the methods shown can all be circumvented by a determined individual; or they might just choose another means to end their life. Instead of spending money on preventing people who want to end their lives from doing so, the Bridge District would be far better advised to addressing the issue of no median barrier, to ensure that those who want to live may have a better opportunity of doing so while crossing the bridge.
Nick	Kucharewski	All proposals detract from the bridge aesthetics!
William	Kucharski	All of these solutions will visibly mar the bridge while none will have the desired effect. Anyone that wants to commit suicide off the GGB will simply figure out a way around them.
Gregory	Kugel	Waste of money, find something less glamorous, more cost efficient to worry about.

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First	Last	Comment
		<p>I can't imagine how horrible it must be for someone to want to end their life. I don't know how many GG suicides there are each year but I can't help but think that if someone really wants to end their life, they will find a way to do it no matter how many preventative measures are out there. It seems to me that although you cannot put a price on the value of just one life, spending money on structural changes doesn't change the person's intent, perhaps only just the how and I imagine that's a big maybe. It seems more urgent to provide perhaps an emergency phone line at each end of the bridge that gives an outreach message that is visable to the potential suicide victim the chance for "hope". Or, perhaps a booth 24 hours with security guard there (this might also help with homeland security and provide jobs.</p> <p>That's my suggestions.</p>
debbie	kuhn	
Andrew	Kujawa	Birds would be perch on vertical bars.
Andrew	Kujawa	<p>Horizontal bars can be used as a ladder. Vertical bars cannot be used as a ladder.</p> <p>Consider stainless steel cable, not bars.</p>
Andrew	Kujawa	<p>Compare to barrier at Colliseum pedestrian bridge.</p> <p>The curved return at the top is effective, and could be filled with stainless steel cable in an elongated horizontal diamond pattern.</p>
Cara	Kulwicki	1A and 3 are the least obtrusive visually, with 1A resembling the layout of many other bridges and 3 providing the best view for motorists on the bridge. 1B and 2B are very unattractive and might even make climbing over top easier.
Eric	Kunkel	I believe it is an engineering problem, something must be done, but which choice is a technical problem, best left to civil engineers.

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Eric	Kunkel	Something must be done ASAP, given what we know from survivor testimony and suicidology. A Temporary horizontal net may be indicated, as any increase in publicity may lead to loss of life, as has seemed to be the case previously.
Sheri	Kuticka	People from all over the world know and come to see the Golden Gate Bridge. Do we really have to give up the beauty of this bridge for a few people who do not have the common sense to keep from jumping from it? Putting up bars and nets would definately reduce the view and quality of the experience of walking or driving across the bridge. If people insist on committing suicide, I'd rather them jump from a bridge than run their car into someone or park on the railroad tracks.
Alexandra	Kutik	Removing the opportunity for an impulsive suicidal act will save lives. See "The Urge to End It," by Scott Anderson, NY Times Magazine, July 6, 2008. Frankly, I might feel differently about putting up a barrier if the history of the GG Bridge weren't already as "the most popular suicide magnet on earth." To do nothing is immoral and unconscionable
Brad	Kvederis	<p>Why on earth isn't the debate over the Golden Gate Bridge suicide barrier being decided by a public vote? We are talking about altering "and potentially marring" a national landmark, but the decision rests with a group of mostly appointed officials who are trying to guess what the public wants.</p> <p>When you're dealing with an issue that millions of people feel so strongly about, there should be no guesswork involved. Put it to a vote in the next general election in 2010, and let's make sure we don't build something that nobody wants.</p>
M	L	I am absolutely against spending \$50million or more for the benefit of a few people who can be helped with existing programs and who, after everything, may find another way to kill themselves. Leave the bridge alone!

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Melissa	L	<p>Extensive measures should not be enacted at our monuments or by our state to protect people from their own actions. Public safety is, and always should be, of paramount concern to public servants, but - and with all due respect to the families and friends who have lost loved ones to suicide - this involves the state assuming yet more of an individual's responsibility for his or her own well-being.</p> <p>The existing measures taken by SF and Caltrans may not be sufficient to prevent all suicides at the GG and Caltrain, but they are in good faith and work in many cases. Let's extend human and community outreach to try and prevent these tragedies and not spend taxpayer dollars to swaddle a national monument.</p>
Karla	La Plante	<p>I had suicide in my family, the experience if one plan does not work, there is a second. I know one Bridge survivor, he still suffers and would have preferred to die years afterwards.</p> <p>It is the choice of the individual to live or die, there is plenty of help out there if the person wants it.</p>
Penny	Labourdette	<p>Aesthetically I think the nets would be best. Anything would be better than nothing. The bridge patrols would be unreliable because of human error, but better than nothing.</p>
Penny	Labourdette	<p>My 22 year old grandson is mentally ill and has mentioned several times that he thinks his life will end by jumping off the bridge. He has dreamed that he has jumped off and died, he recently was afraid to go on a walk across the bridge for fear of falling off or impulsively jumping off. A walk across the bridge should be safe of everybody.</p>

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Thomas	Lacchia	<p>I strongly urge you to vote against the suicide barrier for three reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just a few percent of the suicides in the Bay Area occur there, so if they cannot commit suicide there they can easily find some place else. Why give so much attention to such a small percentage? Many people want society to recognize the right to commit suicide. 2. The 40 plus million dollars should be spent instead on a movable median barrier to prevent innocent people from being injured or killed. People who jump off the bridge have much greater control over their lives than passengers or innocent, not-at-fault drivers who are involved in head-on collisions on the bridge. Why is there so much concern for the former rather than the latter? 3. The barrier would be ugly.
Michelle	Ladcani	It is NOT the Golden Gate Bridge System's responsibility to deter people from committing suicide. As said, if someone is that determined, they will find another means. I know the System feels "guilty" or wants to do CYA so they don't get sued, but if it did nothing, that would be the best solution.
Michelle	Ladcani	I am not immune to the subject of suicide nor am I not feeling/considerate of those who in that situation; I just don't think the GGB holds the responsibility if someone wants to end their life.
Bob	Ladd	I believe the Alt. 3 would be least damaging to birds flying by. Some remedial work may have to be done to prevent nesting on it. (I am not considering doing nothing).
Bob	Ladd	Doing nothing is unthinkable for me. Alternative 1A through 2B would have the highest impact on bridge drivers. Alternate 3 would have the highest impact when viewing the bridge from a distance, and for pedestrians on the bridge.
Bob	Ladd	The net system may look bad from a distance. It would be most visible to those walking on the span. The Alternative 1A would impede scenic visibility for cars, but still provide a feeling of safety to pedestrians, while being hardest to scale.
Bob	Ladd	I am willing to live with the modification to a cultural icon.
Bob	Ladd	Alternate 3 would be a reminder that suicides occur on the bridge. It would remove the "ease", "swift" & "certain death" aspects of the suicide attempt. The Alt. 1A would make a suicide attempt difficult, and slow it down, but once over the top, death is almost certain.

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Bob	Ladd	It will make the bridge safer for everyone.
Bob	Ladd	I think more birds may run into some of the alternative structures, as a result of the increased height of the guards.
Bob	Ladd	Thank you for doing this. We need the suicide barrier.
Carl	Ladd	I'm a 68yo recovering denial alcoholic. I've been working on my unresolved issues most of my life. You're dealing with only the symptoms of helping "jumpers". What they need is tough love guidance which will help them to choose not to jump. Please point them to where they can find it at no cost via signs or banners that tell them about The Foundation Of Human Understanding (www.fhu.com). They are helping me to cope with life's daily slings and arrows. There's a scene in a movie: "Pay it forward" about a lady wanting to jump. A great positive scene. Thanks 4 letting me pay it forward.
Griffin	LaFlamme	I think that this proposal is absolutely naive and atrocious. To think that a "suicide barrier" with deter or prevent anyone from making this enormous choice is incredibly naive. That such bias was printed in the marin IJ sickens me. My family was the victim of two suicides last year, cousins very close to myself, I completely feel for the victims of these tragic events, but to place the blame on the bridge itself and the lack of safety devices is ridiculous. That the parents of these young people try to place the blame on the bridge is out of control. The issue needs to be addressed, not singling out one way that suicide is committed. These young people, and anyone else for that matter, will find a way to carry this out if they feel strongly enough. Which proves the point the issue needs to be addressed, not one bridge, and one little fence built on it. If adults and rational thinking truly believe that one fence on the golden gate is to blame for this, I am deeply saddened and distressed.
chad	lafontaine	There are scientific studies showing that of the people who are stopped from committing suicide, 94% go on to live out their natural lives. Any effort that helps save lives is worth it.
Carolyn	Lagerlof	The ability to walk across the bridge - to enjoy an unrestricted view affect the aesthetics, cultural, recreational, tourist value of the bridge - all of which are detracted by any vertical system - note the current prison-style fencing in place - not pretty, not welcoming, not inspiring. I cross the bridge most days either by car, bus or on foot.
Carolyn	Lagerlof	Suicide is a sad fact - but not one suicide has been caused by the bridge. Compared to the millions who have walked across, the suicide % is very small. What prevents a suicide is good support from family, friends, medical professionals - not a fence, not a wall. A question - in the same time span (50+ years) how many suicides have been reported in the state??

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sheila	lagios	I am opposed to any use of monies for any suicide barrier on the bridge. The bridge district cannot pay for routine operating expenses at this time. Toll increases continue and will I'm sure be even greater for any such barrier. We cannot protect potential suicide victims from all hazards. I am not unsympathetic to these victims. My father killed himself with a single gun shot to his head. If he had no gun he would have found another way. Any of the alternatives proposed will be visually unacceptable.
sheila	lagios	No suicide barrier - period.
		Spending \$50,000,000 to construct a barrier is not addressing the underlying causes of why someone, who might appear to have everything going for them, would be driven to take their life in order to stop the tormenting mental and emotional pain that is taking place in their brain. I have a life credential to teach in the State of California, and have been conducting an independent study on the Care of Health in America. My findings show that American's are woefully ignorant regarding the Care of Health in general and their body and brain functions specifically. All of us would benefit if, for example, the brain function information contained in books like The Mood Cure, by Julia Ross, MA, became common knowledge. And why hasn't it? I request that anyone voting on whether or not to invest millions of taxpayer's dollars in hard, cold steel first read that book and then THINK, FEEL and IMAGINE how the beautiful Golden Gate could be used as a positive symbol and tool for marketing much needed brain health education, beginning in the Bay Area.
A.	Laielen	
Eladia	Laines	Horizontal works best for the eye.
Emily	Lam	1A. Adding a Vertical system to the outside handrail will sufficiently deter suicide and will maintain the aesthetic aspect of the vertical cords and design that make the Golden Gate Bridge so unique.
Emily	Lam	3. Adding a net system that extends horizontally from the bridge will prevent many from attempting suicide and could potentially pinpoint those who are in crisis and need immediate attention.
Dave	Land	Leave the bridge as it is. If anything needs to be built it is the removable barrier along middle of the bridge to prevent head-on collisions. My heart goes out to the families of suicide victims; however, I think suicide counseling programs are best to address suicides.
Dave	Land	Waste of taxpayer monies and resources in conducting the study.
Sheryl	Land	Waste of money. Physical barriers will ruin an incredibly beautiful public resource for all, just to placate a few strident people who have nothing better to do. That's not democracy. We cannot dummy-proof life.

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Chelsea	Landolin	To the extent that this may actually improve the sight lines toward the ocean and bay for visitors, changes to the status quo may actually be welcome. Passengers in vehicles that are crossing the bridge are presently experiencing a very obstructed version of the view as it is. Elimination of the inner and outer handrails and replacing these with either horizontal cables or fiberglass-type barriers could actually produce a net improvement in the experience of crossing the bridge.
Chelsea	Landolin	Unless this is treated as a beautification and quality-of-life project as much as a public health and safety project, the resident and tourist community at large will feel cheated of the experience of beauty that makes life worth living in the first place. The right choice for the Golden Gate only be identified after we commit to the achievement of both goals.
David	Lane	The politicians behind this are so damn stupid they should go jump off the bridge so we don't have to put up with their BS any longer.
David	Lane	Terrible.
David	Lane	Waste of tax payers dollars.
David	Lane	Waste of tax payers dollars.
David	Lane	Waste of tax payers dollars.
David	Lane	Waste of tax payers dollars.
David	Lane	Waste of tax payers dollars.
David	Lane	Waste of tax payers dollars.
David	Lane	Waste of tax payers dollars.
David	Lane	If people want to kill themselves they can easily find a way to do so. Wasting public money on useless projects like this is terrible. The money could much better be spend on mental health care for people with all types of behavioral problems.
Jenny	Laney	As a member of NAMI and the parent of someone who had suicidal ideation as a teen in the past, I think this needs to be done, no matter what the cost. ow do you put a cost on a human life?
Miki	Lang	In a time of budget constraints, this is a very costly undertaking! People who are suicidal will always find a way to end their life. And some ways may be messier and involve more innocent people.
Victoria	Lang	An estehetic design would be nice, but most important is an effective design which is installed immediately. I am tired of driving over the bridge and seeing people outside the railing about to commit suicide.

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Mark	Lansdon	<p>Your survey is flawed!</p> <p>Questions 1 and 2 should both have an option indicating NO BUILD and DISCONTINUE Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs.</p> <p>The Mission Statement of GGBHTD is:</p> <p>The mission of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District is to provide safe and reliable operation, maintenance and enhancement of the Golden Gate Bridge and to provide transportation services, as resources allow, for customers within the U.S. Highway 101 Golden Gate Corridor.</p> <p>No where is it indicated that Suicide Prevention, a religious belief, is part of your mission!</p>
Mark	Lansdon	<p>Any changes to this beautiful monument would cause irrevocable visual and aesthetic blight!</p>
Mark	Lansdon	<p>This monument should be untouched to the highest extent possible. The 4 foot barrier provides more than adequate safety for all pedestrian traffic. If some nut case decides that it's time to try to fly, so be it...</p> <p>Culturally, this monument in its present state reflects the AMERICAN CULTURE as much as anything we have in this country.</p> <p>It ain't broke, don't F with it!</p>

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Mark	Lansdon	See 5 above...
Mark	Lansdon	This Monument is a piece of public works paid for with the lives and sweat of many hard working Americans. It belongs to the people. It is more than safe as it is. Access must remain as unrestricted as possible. Please refer to your Mission Statement!
Mark	Lansdon	See 7 above.
Mark	Lansdon	Creating additional barriers will cause Birds to die needlessly.
Mark	Lansdon	See 9 above.
Mark	Lansdon	This is not part of your mission and your organization should not be wasting resouces championing the cause of the religious belief that suicide is wrong. It is not the government's responsibility to take a position on a religious belief. It is the government's responsibility to make the bridge safe, and it is. Stop wasting other people's money
Mark	Lansdon	The State budget is \$16 Billion Dollars out of balance because of agencies like this that have expanded their spending well beyond their mission. Please refocus your attention to the scope as called for in your mission statement and cease the foolishness!
James	Lansing	Although designers have tried to make these barrier designs blend in visually and aesthetically, in my opinion it just doesn't work and muddles the beauty of the well thought out original design. Only the color blends in.
James	Lansing	This whole process started as the result of an unsantioned documentary film showing several suicides from the bridge. Nothing has changed regarding suicide numbers that wasn't known already by bridge officials. If I remember correctly, something like 1,200 people have been documented as having jumped from the bridge to date. The cheapest suicide barrier presented, the net, is estimated to cost about \$50 million. That is about \$42,000 per suicide. And that is the cheapest price offered. In my opinion, this approach is overkill. We don't spend that much money per person on anything else, especially education. I am also convinced that a significant number of people who would be prevented from jumping off the bridge would find another way or site to kill themselves, perhaps less dramatic. If some of this money was spent to increase non physical suicide deterent programs, suicidal people could be helped instead of driven away.

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Jarrett vernel	Lantz Larner	I think that this project is a total waste of time and money. What are you trying to solve: people committing suicide, or people committing suicide from this bridge? Yes, it is sad that so many people jump, but if this project goes through you will solve the latter without solving the former. People are just going to commit suicide in another way. Since we can't suicide-proof the world, the only way to actually prevent suicide is by spending this same money on prevention or awareness programs, NOT some barrier that will ruin a landmark and only stop one of the millions of ways to kill yourself.
Emily	Larsen	What about adding 24 hour staff/undercover to walk and patrol the bridge and talk to people who are at risk for jumping. Counseling and support could go a lot further than adding to the weight of the bridge and fixing the PR gaffe that is happening now.
glenn	larsen	This is a vast waste of public funds for a problem that cannot be solved by building barriers. You have no right to spend the public money for special pet projects of a few people who think they can control the actions of others.
Erik	Larson	Under no circumstances should a barrier be built on the Golden Gate Bridge.
Heidi	Larson	A horizontal barrier would not affect the visual beauty of the bridge, especially if the metal were painted the same color as the bridge.
Heidi	Larson	A barrier of some type is clearly needed. As an RN, I know from experience that a suicide plan is ruined if a person cannot carry out their specific plan (eg. because there is a big, collapsable net extending out from the jump site.) Secondly, the bridge is a unique location that could affect impulse jumpers, and therefore requires better barriers. I recall as a teenager, 30 years ago, (not being suicidal, but on a diving team) studying the water off the north side, and calculating what kind of a dive I could do . The water had such a strong attraction, I had to leave the bridge and not come back. If there had been more than a low railing, such thoughts would never have crossed my mind.
Jay	Larson	People who truly want to commit suicide will find a way to do so. They need other kinds of help - a barrier will only be a waste of money and distract from the visual beauty of the golden gate bridge.

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Pat	Larson	Please forgive me if my comments are not in the right section. As the mother of a child that attempted suicide at the age of 14, I can say with great certainty that a barrier is not the solution. Intervention is needed way before the act. The money planned for the barriers would be much better spent as preventive interventions for parents and children at risk. No one will ever know the emotions I live with having almost lost her very young son. A "barrier" is not the solution -- proactive intervention for the person and for their family is. I am available to offer any additional insights on this very horrific experience...just ask
Dorrie	Lasher	I think that every alternative looks very good and does nothing to block the beauty of the city
Claudine	Latombe	<p>The number of suicides on the GGB, compared to the number of suicides in CA is negligible.</p> <p>The actual prevention measures do work.</p> <p>There are more deaths due to unmaintained roadways than to suicides on the GGB. Use the funds to repair our roads.</p>
Claudine	Latombe	<p>The number of suicides on the GGB, compared to the number of suicides in CA is negligible.</p> <p>The actual prevention measures do work.</p> <p>There are more deaths due to unmaintained roadways than to suicides on the GGB. Use the funds to repair our roads.</p>
chris	lau	I don't think a barrier is needed; people who want to kill themselves will find a way to kill themselves regardless of the bridge. Even if the barrier stops them from killing themselves at the bridge, there's a good chance that they will find some other place to do it, and simply redirecting them is not the answer.
Gloria	lau	I would think everyone would want to prevent deaths.
Kristie	Lauborough	The majority already spoke - 75% against a barrier. Don't pander to the vocal minority against the voices of the rest of us. The money would be far better served on a movable barrier to prevent the deaths of people who are not trying to die in head-on collisions. What about those of us terrified to drive in the middle lanes because there are only tiny pieces of plastic between us and opposing traffic? We deserve to be protected, rather than spending all this money to protect people from themselves.

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Robert	Laughing	Don't turn that gorgeous monument to achievement become a gulag, simple to send 'them' elsewhere. IF I were inclined to go, the GGB would be one of the most wonderful spots to choose. It takes courage to 'do' oneself - don't screw things up further.
Robert	Laughing	Have a sign-up sheet for rsvns.
Robert	Laughing	Good gawd, IT DOESN'T BELONG ON THE GGB!!!!
Robert	Laughing	Give us a BREAK!!! It's MULTI-cultural - we no longer discriminate - equal opps for all jumpers, divers, ballerinas, klutzes...
Robert	Laughing	Only a bureaucrat with too much time, and so little to do would come up with this!
Robert	Laughing	Can we fire all of you bureaucrats? That is the ONLY alternative...sadly, stuck with you all, just like the bloody tolls.
Robert	Laughing	They feed the dungeness crabs and other needy wildlife.
Robert	Laughing	Sell time slots for the courageous.
Robert	Laughing	Good thing we were kicked outta Eden - you guys would have been the snake, had we been there today.
		Some places have stated they are listing phone numbers (could be placed on billboard)for hotlines (could use the 800-273-TALK number, Police Dept., etc.). Could have the person call for a ride home with no strings attached (like used for those who drink too much on holidays, etc.). Non-judgmental approaches work best. I am a former suicide prevention coordinator for the VA.
Donna	Laughlin	
Dennis	Lauritzen	If the barriers prevent even one suicide, then the cost is worth every dollar spent.
		seems that the money should be better spent on a public awareness campaign to help friends/family recognize signs and symptoms of potential suicides. There are many other places/ways to commit suicide and it would be better to prevent more than just the few who jump from the golden gate bridge
Donna	LaValle	
Chris	Lavin	Whatever design you choose, please please please construct a suicide barrier. It amazes me that this isn't a no-brainer. Of COURSE we need a barrier.
Jeanne	Lavin	Since jumping from the Bridge is an impulse suicide and since it's so easy for teens to be impulsive, I'm all for a barrier.

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Alex	Lawrence	People from all over the world come to see the Bridge as it was built. All of the proposed changes completely alter the original design intent. It is a complete waste of money as suicides occur all over the state. If there was 'extra' money to be spent (which there isn't); suicide prevention programs would be the proper target of those funds.
Edwin	Lawry	I strongly oppose adding any physical barriers to the Golden Gate Bridge, primarily for aesthetic reasons. I really love looking at the views when I cross the bridge in my car, on my bike, and on foot.
Edwin	Lawry	I do support a center lane barrier to prevent head-on collisions.
Melinda	Lawson	I am certain a design can be created that does not "ruin" the bridge aesthetics, nor adversely impact any of the criteria in the EIR. There is no reason to assume that the current proposals are set in stone. The point is to create the barrier. In fact I am certain a design can be created that enhances our bridge. The small-mindedness of some of the citizens is sickening to me.
Marilee	Layman	A net is hard to keep up and subject to the whims of the weather. Any of the other four is better, but I think the vertical system will work best, particularly if added to the outside handrail. Too many people die by jumping off this bridge. New studies show that if people are kept from committing suicide, most of them go on to live normal lives. It's important to make that stop on this bridge.
Adam	Leach	This does not keep with the art deco style of the era. Looks like a modern prison.
Adam	Leach	Version 3 is the only way not to ruin the visual / esthetics of the bridge.
Adam	Leach	Looks like the view from a prison.
Adam	Leach	Putting the views of the bay area behind bars is a good statement for things to come.
Adam	Leach	Has anyone considered the added sail area added to the bridge with the addition of the "view windows" and high winds, or will the bridge be close in winds over 45 MPH now...
Adam	Leach	For 30 years we have been asking for a movable barrier to protect those who don't want to die in a head-on crash on the bridge. But that was always too expensive. Now for some strange reason it's more important to waste our money on those who want to die.
Marcie	Leach	The Golden Gate Bridge is beautiful but I believe with all the talents we have in the Bay Area can come up with something that is safe as well as beautiful. What good is beauty to those who have lost loved ones? Do we really want to be known as such a materialistic community that we would choose "beauty" over human lives?

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
Marcie Eugene	Leach Lee	I personally know at least one person who survived and is glad he did and so are his relatives and friends. I also personally know another family whose only son jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge and they will always wonder what could have happened. I too lost a son and cannot begin to describe how heart-rending this is. Please do anything you can to prevent this happening to others!
Benjamin	Lee	Possible debris and garbage could be caught using net system. Not good. Golden Gate is not just a bridge. It represents the area as well as California. Is a symbol of freedom. Is our freedom to choose. We are not caged animals. A barrier on the bridge is symbolic to putting a cage on all of us.
Emily Eugene	Lee Lee	To The Bridge Board: As a psychiatrist working at San Francisco General Hospital, unfortunately, I have had the not infrequent experience of working with people who impulsively/temporarily are suicidal, with thoughts or acts which revolve around the GGB. In addition, I have worked with suicidal people who come/flock to SF, from around our country/world, because they perceive the GGB to be a magnet. My deep and longstanding clinical impression is that the majority of these people do, in fact, underlying, of course, want help with their suicidality and life circumstances. It is only when they become desperate enough, and/or hopeless enough, that they see little other choice for themselves. The tragedy is when you, or I, or we, come to know that, in essence, what these people needed, in their true moments of crisis, is a supportive and safe environment, a literal "safety net." Thus, I implore the Bridge Board to advocate for the building of a suicide barrier on the GGB. For, in my honest opinion, these lives saved, are, of course, truly worth our collective efforts and advocacy, as well as clear thinking. I hope that we do not give in to potential laissez-faire hopelessness which these unfortunate people, at times, engender, in those near them. Thank you very much for your consideration. We can, of course, plan and do so much better. I hope that we can heed these true cries for help.
Eugene	Lee	Net system would have the least visual/aesthetic impact on the bridge because the elevation profile as seen from the sidewalk would be unchanged.

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Eugene	Lee	The view would not be unobstructed significantly in Alt. 3 because no wires would be directly in front of you, at face level. A vertical system is much better than horizontal system. The lines running down from the main cable are vertical, that symmetry should be maintained. Horizontal line make the bridge look like a prison cell with jail fencing.
Eugene	Lee	No building will be impacted, so cultural resources impact would be limited
Eugene	Lee	Unless there is money to pay for the suicide barrier, the point is moot as to which system to eventually use. The cheapest and least expensive thing to do is NO BUILD.
Ginny	Lee	It is unconscionable for the GG Bridge authority to put aesthetics ahead of saving lives. It is wholly irresponsible.
Ginny	Lee	What about the 2 year old toddler who fell between the aperture between the sidewalk and the bridge road. Has anyone addressed this problem?
Jane	Lee	Waste of Taxpayers Money!
Mike	Lee	Leave it alone. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will.
		How can you stop people from committing suicide? If you build a form of net or fence deterrent system any suicidal person could just simply jump climb over it. It would decrease tourism - if the fence were built, not only would the beauty be distorted. Who wants to look over the rails and through a fence to see the beautiful city? Its like going to a construction site and trying to peer through the fence to see whats going on. Not only that, tourist would now be fully aware of the suicides that occur on the bridge annually that number around maybe 12. Currently tourists who walk across the bridge the idea of suicide doesnt even cross their minds, they probably believe its some small myth, but if the deterrent was there, it would only be that much more evident.
Warren	Lee	
		Since it has been found necessary to create a barrier for preventing suicide, I think my choices above (2B, 1B) will alter the looks of the Golden Gate Bridge less than the others will.
Dorothy	Lefkovits	
Sandra	Leggett	Any of the alternatives would ruin the beauty of the bridge.

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Sandra	Leggett	Spending this money is ridiculous. First you don't have it. Second, if a person wants to commit suicide they will find another way to do it if they can't jump off the bridge so no suicides would actually be prevented - the bridge would just look awful. The families of suicide victims pushing for this should have recognized their family member had problems and got them help to prevent suicide. It is not the city's fault that they neglected to do this and now want to blame the city because of their guilt. This money would be better spent helping those people who want to live by providing food and shelter.
Christine	LeGrand	Any proposed structural change to the bridge for suicide prevention will be a waste of time and money. Please don't do it.
David	Lehrer	I feel strongly that adding a vertical element to the bridge would detract from the historic design, and would detract from the enjoyment of the many recreational users of the bridge. The change would be very expensive at time when resources are extremely limited, and may only have the effect of forcing suicide attempts to other locations or methods. The traffic lane dividers that have been proposed would be a more valuable addition to the bridge's safety features
Ken	Lehto	Having bars,vertical or horizontal, greatly diminishes views.
Ken	Lehto	Alternative 2A has the best chance to stop a suicide attempt. With the others it's possible to climb up over the top for a determined suicide attempt regardless of the winglet. These provide footholds of sorts. Using nets? Waste of time for a determined s
Gabriel	Leis	Let's instead spend the money on a barrier that protects those who really don't want to die, a MEDIAN barrier.
James	Lemaire	Unless barriers are intended to protect innocent bystanders below, than NO ADDITIONAL BARRIERS should be built. It is NOT the function of the GGB Transportation District to protect individuals FROM THEMSELVES.

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James	Lemaire	<p>Unless barriers are intended to protect innocent bystanders below, than NO ADDITIONAL BARRIERS should be built.</p> <p>It is NOT the function of the GGB Transportation District to protect individuals FROM THEMSELVES.</p>
Paul	Leonard	<p>why ruin a national treasure and aesthetic beauty? Every one has the right to decide how or when and for what reason to terminate their existence. No one will prevent a determined suicide. Each of us has the right to choose our own fate (end) as long as we bring no physical harm to anyone else in the process!</p>
Jim	Leonhard	<p>The idea of a suicide barrier would be a terrible waste of time, energy and money. Better to spend \$40 million on suicide prevention programs. It amazes me that the same people who think building a barrier to keep illegals out of the US won't work, somehow believe a barrier will keep someone from committing suicide. Neither barrier will succeed - at best they move the problem elsewhere</p>
Anne	Lerner-Wright	<p>In a couple of years after a barrier is added, people will stop moaning about changing the precious view. The lives of those considering suicide should be more precious than some small bit of aesthetic appeal, which will hardly be impacted, anyway.</p>
David	Lesnini	<p>Preserving the existing aesthetics of the bride for the local users and the thousands of visitors is more important than saving a few lives.</p>
Karen	Lester	<p>Maintain the integrity of the Golden Gate Bridge, support individual freedom and self-responsibility and refrain from squandering precious financial and other resources by maintaining the bridge design "as is". Changing the look of the bridge would be an aesthetic travesty and will not prevent people from taking their own lives.</p>
Kelvin	Leung	<p>Caltrain had a similar problem with suicide on train tracks a few years ago. They put up "There are help. Call 1-800-xxxxxxx" signs along the tracks. Suicide rate went down after that.</p> <p>Also, if people really want to commit suicide on the bridge, even if you put up barriers, they can still just jump in front of traffic on the bridge.</p>
Heidi	LeVell	<p>Vertical lines are less jarring that horizontal ones. Don't build a net. It may fail and you'll be sued.</p>

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First**Last****Comment**

Jerry	Leventer	The only alternative that is acceptable from an aesthetic standpoint is the No-Build option. Alternative 3 would be the least invasive but even that would obstruct the view downward and it would present maintenance problems, since trash would accumulate and birds may get caught.
Jerry	Leventer	<p>Any alteration of the current railing system would be undesirable from a visual/aesthetic perspective. All options will destroy the unique opportunity we now enjoy. There is a freshness and a quality that cannot be described about the view as you walk across the bridge in it's current state. You feel a direct connection with the surrounding hills and greenery, the birds flying, the boats on the water the clouds or fog in the skyline.</p> <p>All this will be destroyed once any railing option is implemented. The world will lose the wonder that once was the Golden Gate bridge.</p> <p>You can see images here: https://www.commentmgr.com/projects/1181/docs/Phase1ReportMay242007ExecutiveSummary&Figures.pdf</p>
Jerry	Leventer	The Golden Gate bridge is a world class cultural resource. To alter the railings in any way that obstructs the current visibility from the road or walkway would be unfortunate.
Jerry	Leventer	There are alternative ways to prevent suicide. One suggestion is to spend more of the \$50M on alternative solutions. "Suicide Hotline" Call before you jump signs could be installed next to phones along and at the beginnings of the walkways. Extra guards or police officers to watch for potential jumpers could also be hired.
Nancy	Levey	We can not save everyone from themselves. The funds could be better used by providing food to homeless or children in poverty or perhaps more funding for mental health clinics. A barrier might force victim to seek other methods that might cause harm to others. It is noble to think we can save everyone, but we can't.

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Michael	Levin	Opposed to barrier, but if barrier is mandated, the net system is the only one that is not immensely injurious to the view from the bridge.
		<p>After studying the alternatives, I am extremely concerned about the negative aesthetic impact of any "suicide barrier" on the bridge. For this reason, in view of its monetary cost, and because I do not feel that a barrier on the bridge would significantly affect the suicide rate overall, I am totally opposed to constructing any barrier.</p> <p>IF the bridge board were mandated to build a barrier and they only had to choose the design, I would go with the net system, since it appears to have far less aesthetic impact than the other alternatives, but the "no build" alternative is the best.</p> <p>Also, any barrier would be depressing to those of us who love to walk the bridge...constantly to be reminded of the suicides that led to the construction of the barrier. That is something worth considering--those of us who do not think of the bridge as a method of suicide would be constantly reminded of it.</p> <p>Finally, I can understand the feelings of those whose lives have been negatively affected by suicide from the bridge, and I realize that bridge board members may feel a sense of responsibility for this issue, but that does not justify these very problematic barrier systems. There are other ways to discourage suicide attempts. Please preserve this great structure as it was intended to be.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p>
Michael	Levin	
nancy	levin	While sympathetic to families of people who have committed suicide, I don't feel that taxpayers need to pick up the tab for preventing suicides on the GGB. I'm also against altering this landmark at all from a visual perspective.
Stephanie	Levin	Please do something!
Ellen	Levine	I just wanted to say that my mother jumped off the bridge in 1963. I hope this deterrent works.
steve	levine	the bridge is a worldwide icon.....no, no, no, a thousand times no to any modification that changes the original design intent. additional patrolling and mental health services, certainly, yes, but please do not change the appearance of our bridge.
Joanie	Levinsohn	I do not support the barrier. Loss of life by suicide is tragic. A bridge barrier won't save lives. I agree with Elsie Carr of San Rafael. The money should be spent on accessible, confidential mental health services.

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First	Last	Comment
D.	Levy	<p>My goal is to want a successful suicide deterrent and a deterrent that is not unattractive and preventing the public a beautiful view. If studies and statistics show that the net alone is not a successful enough deterrent to suicide attempts then I want alternative B as my first choice. I do not like the transparent panel. I would much rather have the horizontal bars in the transparent panel area. The transparent panel requires too much continuous maintenance for good to perfect visibility. Who is going to clean it all of the time? It's awful to view through a panel that has a milky film on it due to wear and tear. Any type of visual obstruction to the panel however temporary or permanent is such a disappointment to view through. Tourists and locals alike would be very unhappy and who could blame them? However if the panel can't be eliminated under any circumstances then my vote is alternative 2B as my second choice. Please do not elect to do nothing. The time to put a barrier in place to save lives is now! Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Lynn	Levy	Our son lost an 18 year old friend to the bridge. We feel a barrier is imperative.
Doris	Lew	I think the visual/aesthetic impact is less important than saving the lives of those who seek out this particular bridge to take their lives. Our son jumped from this bridge in May 2007 and I dread to think how many other people have to die and how many others have to go through the nightmare of losing a loved one before people finally realize that the view is less important than human lives.
Kate	Lew	In contrast to many of the comments I've read at the Chronicle, I believe a barrier is necessary to start saving lives of those who choose to end their lives by jumping of the Golden Gate Bridge. I've read the research on impulsive suicides and think a barrier would be effective. The choice of a net would help counter those that argue a barrier would detract from the beautiful view.
Kathrine	Lew	The net seems to be the least impact from an aesthetic point of view. Once the option to jump is taken away, the number of people jumping should go to zero, so even the cost of extraction should be minimal. Also once the person is recovered, they go to the police station, so even the incentive for pranksters has been eliminated.
Kathrine	Lew	Good choices to achieve a good end.
Larry	Lew	Both alternatives leave the existing railing in place, and just provide for public safety.
Larry	Lew	It's high time!
Anne	Lewis	We are obligated to save human lives! We can't calculate the value of a human life in dollars. Saving one life is as if one has saved the world.

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Carolyn	Lewis	<p>To the Members of the Golden Gate Bridge District,</p> <p>After reading the countless stories regarding the debate for a suicide barrier, I now feel that I have come to a decision. I am for a suicide barrier. The loss of life of a loved one outweighs the aesthetics of the Bridge. I love the Golden Gate Bridge and think it will still be as beautiful with a barrier. Please consider putting a net on the bridge.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Carolyn Lewis Larkspur</p>
Robert	Lewis	<p>The best alternative is the No Build option. If the Golden Gate Bridge did not exist, the local and other suicide rates would be exactly the same. People commit suicide because they are depressed or suicidal, not because the Bridge causes them to. The G.G. Bridge is a local icon and one of the world's treasures. It would be a shame to impede the views from the Bridge by adding tall structures to the sides of the Bridge (visual/aes., cultural). Many times I have gone jogging across the Bridge both in races and recreationally. I hope this experience is not ruined for others by building ugly side barriers.</p>

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seela	lewis	<p>It often seems government agencies are misguided, under the guise of safety, to ruin the very aspects of public spaces that make them so special and valuable. This couldn't be more true than with the idea of constructing a suicide barrier on the GG Bridge. Does anyone even know how many suicides would have been prevented, or merely moved to another location? I am not a stranger to the sorrows of suicide for the person, their families and friends. In my opinion, it would be a much wiser use of limited resources to put them into mental health services that could give suicidal people help BEFORE the suicide attempt.</p> <p>This bridge is a public treasure and the experience of many hundreds of millions of people who go over it year after year, inspired and enriched by its incredible beauty, should not be compromised. It is not just the beauty of the landscape and the design of the bridge that are so unique and awe inspiring...it is the experience of space--psychic space as well as physical space--that is unparalleled. To close in the bridge in any way would vastly diminish, if not ruin, not only the view, but this sense of spaciousness. We are already experiencing that with the recently added pedestrian railings.</p> <p>I am also at a loss to understand all the attention and resources being put into this issue when there have been and continue to be tragic head-on collisions on the bridge because of the negligent absence of a center traffic barrier. Only a few months ago a friend of mine and her daughter were hit head-on in the middle of the afternoon. She is still fighting for her life and if she lives, she will never be the same. The lack of a center barrier puts millions of people at unnecessary risk each year. This is where the Bridge District should put its resources.</p>
Steven	Lewis	The bridge holds no special power that makes people want to kill themselves and there is no viable evidence that a suicide barrier will lower suicide rates over all. The district needs to conserve it's cash or use it to improve public transportation.
Jill	Ley	Aesthetics should not trump safety. The numbers don't lie: this is an attractive nuisance that needs to be fixed.
Descartes	Li	This will save lives. That more than outweighs any of the comments in the draft EIR/EA.
Tom	Libby	Can we use the \$40M on a program that will actually prevent suicides, like free counseling or mental health services?
Sandra	Lien	Some kind of deterrent definately needs to be installed....
Julian	Lifschiz	It looks fine as it is...
Julian	Lifschiz	..It is not the governing bodies job to control everything a person does.Life has risks. A person who wants to commit suicide will find a way. Put the funds to use elsewhere.
I'd	like	the best part of walking the bridge is to walk up to the 4 foot barrier and to be able to look down, up and out, with the excitement of it being right there. Any suicide barrier will detract from this.

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I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE
I'd	like	DON'T CHANGE THE BRIDGE. For 40 million dollars you could hire people to walk the bridge and talk people down.
Nina	Lilienthal-Murphy	The bridge does not kill people. Once people have chosen to commit suicide, any place will do, a highrise, a cliff or a bridge. Suicide prevention is more efficient in addressing this issue than barriers. The aesthetics of the bridge are very important to the people of the Bay Area and this country as a landmark and icon. Suicide is a private decision and not a public iconographic issue.
Elizabeth	Lilly	Have drawings been made of the five barriers that are under consideration? If so, could you post clearly on your website where to look to see the images? If not, could you make that clear on your website? I believe cost, the possibility of damaging the beauty of the bridge, and restricting the views from the bridge are the main concerns of those opposing the barrier. Allowing people to compare the appearance of the different options would seem to be important to informed public input.
Michael	Lim	The bridge is beautiful as it is. Any of the proposed alterations bastardize the beautiful elegant design and the experience of THOUSANDS of visitors.
Michael	Lim	The large sums of money should be spent on psyc services. No study has ever shown that any barrier system would reduce suicide rates in an area, they only show that it affects the one area. Fight the disease, don't just chase the symptom. The proposals are an outrageous mis-use of public resources. Spend the money in ways that will actually help people. The barrier plans keep suicidal people away from the bridge, they don't help these people with the issues that would have brought them there.
soledad	limitone	please add any type of berrier to the bridge, I know someone that works there and at least 6 people a day jump from there the reason it is unknown is because they don't report them to the media, suicide will happen but at least not at the bridge, it is a sadden thing to have this beautiful bridge to be know as the final distination for many people that maybe they jump out of impulse. Please reconsider

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Alex	Lin	I lost a friend to the bridge, which seems to be the last iconic suicide monument to lack any form of physical prevention. While a barrier may not physically prevent many people from jumping, a few extra feet of steel bar may discourage those unbalanced enough to ignore their impulse to end their lives. It is too easy right now to hop that hand rail
Wei-wei	Lin	Life is priceless. It is well worth the money to save these people and their families for the indescribable pains.
Wendy	Lin	I am sorry, but I don't think this project will do any good, but waste tax money.
Wendy	Lin	Please don't do it.
Judy & Jack	Lindahl	We vigorously oppose the Golden Gate suicide barrier. This is an ill-advised idea and financial boondoggle.
Catherine	Lindelli	I feel very strongly that there should be no physical structure created. Instead, what would be more beneficial is to have a system in place where there is a walking patrol to monitor any possible suicides.
Jim	Lindsay	People are going to jump no matter what is installed if they are really determined. Why change the beauty of such a wonderful structure as the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge. Please don't ruin it for us all just because a handful cannot resist the jump for one reason or another.
KS	Lindsay	Please build something! It is long overdue.
Siu	Ling Chen	The choice should be for the most effective suicide barrier with the least overall impact. I favor the additions as opposed to the replacements to preserve as much of the original design of the bridge as possible. The net should be in addition to a 10 to 12 foot barrier as opposed to an alternative to such a barrier.
Siu	Ling Chen	As a parent, I wonder if an evaluation was done of the risk of the vertical or horizontal cables to children who might inadvisedly stick their heads through and get stuck. This risk would be similar to that of cribs that have too much space between its slats. This barrier is long overdue and should be put in place as soon as possible.
Dick	Lingua	I believe this to be the least offensive to cash generators and most pleasing to eco-freaks
Dick	Lingua	We are overcomplicating what is a simple idea. The idea is to introduce a suicide deterrent with minimal impact.

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Missy	Lipe	I did choose according to visual/aesthetic reasons.
Missy	Lipe	There should be no question that this is a very necessary part of the Golden Gate Bridge. A jumping suicide does not effect just the jumper but many, many lives are permently affected in the worst of ways.
s	list	Tough one to decide " at this point I'm against the barrier. Having a close & loved relative who committed suicide, I don't believe the cost of the barrier justified " I don't believe a barrier is going to stop someone who really wants to take their life.
Jeffrey	Little	GGB is a beautiful piece of monumental art that is a defining feature of San Francisco. This world is full of death dealing technology; guns,cars come to mind. I don't want to live in a totally safe world. We can't protect everyone all the time. What is the cost per suicide? Even suicidal people have rights. Jeffrey Little
mike	lobao	they will just do some other way to commit suicide the money should be spent on safety for all
Eugene	Loch	I question how Alternative 3 - net - on its own has any effect as a deterrent against suicide. One must already have jumped before the net can be useful, and there is nothing to prevent one to jump again from the net.
Eugene	Loch	We MUST take action and create a sufficient safety barrier across the span of the bridge. Even if you are against doing this as a suicide deterrent please consider this: As a daily bicycle commuter in the past across the bridge, I find the current height of the fence inadequate. Sometimes strong gusts of winds can offset the balance of a rider or pedestrian, especially around the towers.
Glenn	Lockie	Any barrier will detract from the world renowned aesthetics of the bridge. The net idea might be visually acceptable and with the least wind dange to the stability of the bridge in storms.
Glenn	Lockie	There is no logical reason why the iconic bridge, an inanimate object, should be blamed and disfigured by advocates of disturbed people and by their parents.
GRETA	LODDER	These suggested barriers will only spoil the look of the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge, not stop people killing themselves. If people want to kill themselves they will find a way. Why not put suicide barriers on roads, bridges, beaches - you name it.
GRETA	LODDER	Leave the Golden Gate bridge as it is.
GRETA	LODDER	The proposed barriers will spoil the look of the Golden Gate bridge.
GRETA	LODDER	What is now a pleasurable ride over the bridge will be irrevocably spoiled by building barriers, obstructing the beautiful views.

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GRETA	LODDER	Too much money will be wasted to spoil a beautiful landmark, and will not solve the problem specified.
GRETA	LODDER	Too much money will be spent on a project that will not solve the problem.
GRETA	LODDER	These barriers will only spoil the look of the Golden Gate Bridge, not solve the problems.
GRETA	LODDER	These proposed barriers will only spoil the look of the Golden Gate bridge for everyone who travels across, and will not solve the problem.
GRETA	LODDER	If you want to stop people wanting to kill themselves put money into quality of life here. Barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge will not solve the problem.
GRETA	LODDER	Don't build the barriers. Waste of money. Money could be used improving the quality of life here.
Daniel	Loftus	I think the article in the NYTimes about this recently says that out of the two bridges up in Washington, the one that had the vertical system worked better in prohibiting suicides.
Emma	Logan	As someone who has lost a family member due to suicide via jumping off of the GG Bridge, I still feel that there are better ways to spend the \$40 million dollars. Just because the bridge, as an option, goes away doesn't mean the suicides will stop, it just means the method will change.
Emma	Logan	I think that the work done on this project was well thought out and despite any disagreement with the decision I may have, I feel confident that necessary steps to make well informed decision have been made.
Kay	Logan	<p>Please do not alter the soul-stirring aesthetics of this perfect bridge in any way. It would be a lot cheaper and more humane to increase the non-physical deterrent programs.</p> <p>If a physical barrier has to be installed, it should be a net that is as close to invisible as possible from most vantage points. Any net will, of course, be visible to anyone thinking of jumping, so it should not be orange! It should be a foggy ocean color. Perhaps Lance Iversen could choose the color.</p>
LaVille	Logan	When faced with a deterrent to jumping off the bridge, and having made the decision, wouldn't it seem likely that one would turn around and step off into traffic, thereby causing lifelong trauma, or possible death to those innocent drivers preferring to live? It is tragic when a suicide happens, but physical deterrents on the bridge will many times redirect the tragedy.
Peter	Logan	This is terribly misdirected energy and money. It will not help, and will mark the GGB as a suicide destination, rather than a bridge. The money could be more effectively used for intervention on site.

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Fred	London	We can no longer postpone taking action on this issue. People are dying as you procrastinate.
Trudie	London	I think it is important to do something. You've sat on you hands too long. Meanwhile people are dying.
Daniel	Long	Suicide prevention is *not* a mandate of the Golden Gate Bridge Board - never was and should not now become an issue. I really wish that government entities would stop their patronizing we-need-to-save-you-from-yourself attitudes. Suicides, unlike (for instance) traffic accidents on the bridge, do not involve harm to others. Please stop any further development of this barrier. You have bigger fish to fry: (A) the Golden Gate Bridge District cannot stick with a budget to save its life (wasn't the bridge supposed to have been toll-free and paid off decades ago?); (B) there still is no movement as to the traffic median safety barrier; and (C) undoubtedly, you will find an excuse to milk the suicide barrier for extra government handouts for the eons to come. The Bridge Board cannot handle its business competently as it is. Don't take on new responsibilities that are not yours to take on.
David	Long	The only viable proposed solution is "non-physical suicide deterrent program". Suicidal people needs counselling, not additional structural barrier. If suicidal people do not get the help they need, they'll find some other means to end their life. Don't waste money that do not rid of the suicidal root cause. Spend the money on other more benefiting causes for everyone.
G	Long	Only deterrent programs would work. If a person is suicidal, s/he needs counselling help. If one determines to commit suicide, one method failed, they will try another one. So the barrier does not really help people from suicide. It ONLY send them to do it some where ELSE.
Jeannette	Longtin	A suicide barrier on a national landmark will NOT prevent suicide. Money for mental health and suicide prevention programs will prevent suicide. Understandably emotional families are driving this poorly thoughtout "solution". More suicides occur by other means - why then is the bridge being targeted. Poor use of public money and defacing the bridge is not the solution. Mental health programming IS the solution. Put that money in the right place!

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
Jon	Loos	<p>Even if a barrier causes some people to end their lives elsewhere, it will likely lead to more human trauma, such as the nightmares suffered by train engineers, police, onlookers or drivers who have been victims of somebody else's suicide in their path. As callous as this may sound - bridge suicides rarely drag innocent people into the act.</p> <p>Aesthetics aside, no barrier will stop anybody who is determined enough to go through with the terrible act of suicide. This money would be better spent on public mental health programs, rather than on making somebody spend their final 30 seconds climbing over a barrier.</p>
Leslie	Lopato	<p>Aesthetically, 2 b is the most pleasing, though some people with fear of heights might find it uncomfortable.</p> <p>I strongly support the building of a barrier. Barriers have proven an effective way to decrease suicides in multiple locations. Please act on this. Don't let any more people die.</p>
Marnie	Lopez	<p>When looking at the proposed barriers, I have some reservations about the horizontally placed barriers (1B and 2B). I fear that someone will still be able to climb over the barrier if they are placed horizontally. It almost looks as though you are building steps to assist them over the taller barrier.</p>
elvira	lopez	<p>minimize visual disruption</p>
elvira	lopez	<p>stop the barrier</p>
joe	lopez	<p>The aesthetics of the bridge would not be adversely impacted by the addition of this type of alternative. The saving of lives is too important to not make this change now. The original bridge design had such a barrier.</p>
Marnie	Lopez	<p>I know that people are mostly concerned with suicides off the bridge, but what about parents who, mostly because of mental illness, are driven to kill their children by throwing them off the bridge. I am a nurse at a state psychiatric facility and have cared for patients who have ended the precious lives of their children by throwing them over bridges into the water. I would love to see a dramatic drop in those cases coming through my facility.</p>

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Adrienne	Lopp	I belong to an Suicide Prevention Coalition in in Akron Ohio, if we are truly concerned with the raising rates of Suicide across our Nation,we have to do all that we can to prevent any of the resouces people may use to bring about their own untimely death, as lovely as the Golden Gate Bridge is, it also serves as an mean to an ends for over 1,300 lives. WE NEED THE BARRIER THERE TO HELP PROTECT THE PUBLIC, EVEN IF IT'S TO PROTECT THEM FROM THEMSELVES. THANK YOU
Katherine	Lorber, M.D.	As a second generation Bay Area native, I could easily live with any of these designs, because any of them would be more humanly responsible than having the bridge the way it is, as an "attractive nuisance" to anybody who may be upset and have poor impulse control. The net system in particular seems to be hardly noticeable at all.
Katherine	Lorber, M.D.	There have been a lot of irresponsible comments made about suicide, mostly by people who aren't mental health professionals. As a psychiatrist, I would like to comment. Many suicides would not "just kill themselves some other way if the bridge were safer". The impulse to kill oneself is most often not a constant or lasting state of mind. A person's impulsivity and the easy availability of a lethal method are often deciding factors as to whether or not many potential suicides are "completed", failed attempts, or just passing thoughts that don't get acted upon. Having the bridge without a barrier is like having a loaded gun accessible to all passersby. It's a potentially very lethal and easy way to kill. Giving people better access to good mental health care would be very helpful to all, but it probably wouldn't prevent those who become overwhelmed and don't seek help before impulsively jumping off the bridge. We really do need to decrease the lethality of the bridge by putting up an effective suicide barrier. Only then would potential suicide attempters still be alive in order to benefit from better mental health services. Many people and their families will only see the need for mental health care after a crisis of this magnitude.
Katherine	Lorber, M.D.	
G	Lorget	All but alternative 3 substantially affect the view from as well as of the bridge.

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G	Lorget	Alternative #3 is cheaper and could still save lives: giving people attempting suicide another obstacle is giving them another chance to think again... Wires could be added on the net to ring rescue teams, an active protection that other alternative couldn't carry.
Jean	Lott	I would approve of the netting so as to retain the aesthetic value of this beautiful structure.
Jean joanna	Lott	I feel for the families and friends of anyone who has taken his/her own life. However, I do believe that one who is determined to end their life has many other options(though less dramatic)to do so.
jeanne	louie	Leave the bridge alone.
jeanne	loveland	we must have a barrier to say lives.
jeanne	loveland	Please pass this now. All of us will help with funding
Dennis	Lowe	Allot of people kill themselves by stepping in front of trains. If we wanted to stop that method of suicide we should install barriers around all the train tracks in the country. It is the same mentality that you outlaw guns because people murder with them, vs. treating the reasons they murder. I.e. poverty, lack of education, or anger management/depression. Please don't try and fix the worlds problems by defacing a national treasure. Thank you
Patricia	Lowe	I am less concerned about what is done than believing strongly that something must be done! Please create some kind of barrier that will save lives.
Sandy	Lowe	The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful structures that I have ever been to. There is nothing better than walking on the bridge and looking out at the bay or the mountains. I hope that there isn't anything added to the bridge to take away from the beauty. I don't live in Ca. and have only gotten visit SF twice and I just fell in love with the city and the bridge.

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First	Last	Comment
Sandy	Lowe	I'm not a San Francisco resident, but I wanted to make a comment any way. I have had two friends during my 40+ years that have chosen to commit suicide. In both cases they hung themselves at home. I also worked with someone who's daughter in-law committed suicide, just she chose to shoot herself. It is heart breaking to think that someone would want to end their life. I don't believe that adding more barriers will stop someone who wants to end their life, they will just take it somewhere else. I don't want to sound cold or non caring, but I know if someone has plans on taking their own live they will do it no matter what. I'm sure there are many who do have a change of heart and I'm thankful they do. I am also thankful that there are the suicide boxes at the bridge - what is the success rate with these? Does anyone really use them?
michael	lownie	Strongly against spending money on this; not convinced it will save lives. Funds are so tight and the economy so stretched, PLEASE, come to your senses.
michael	lownie	Strongly against spending money on this; not convinced it will save lives. Funds are so tight and the economy so stretched, PLEASE, come to your senses.
Eric	Lucas	Any modification to the bridge will have a negative impact on its aesthetics. This bridge is a universal icon and a recognized symbol of San Francisco. We should take the utmost care when we think about changing it.
Eric	Lucas	A suicide barrier will not stop suicides, it will just move them elsewhere. Would you rather have people jumping off your buildings onto your sidewalks? Don't destroy an icon in an attempt to stop someone from taking their own life... it won't stop them.
lisa	lucchesi	I believe in any type of barrier; I too had "thought" about jumping off the GG Bride and committing suicide many year ago -- i am bipolar -- thankfully I received the help i needed just in time or otherwise i would not be here to comment. Again, I am in favor in ANY TYPE of extended barrier. Thank you.

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Margaret	Lukens	I regret that it is necessary to alter the visual and aesthetic features of this magnificent bridge, but research on the impulsive and preventable nature of the suicides carried out from this most deadly bridge convince me that human life must take precedence over aesthetic considerations. I am less concerned with which barrier is chosen than that one is erected, and the sooner the better. The devastation caused by suicides from the bridge must not go unchecked.
Todd	Lukes	I would like to register my opposition to any form of suicide barrier being added to the bridge. I think that the architectural beauty, as well as aesthetics of the bridge would be marred. Part of the reason the bridge is such an attraction for tourists would be destroyed, that of the wide open views of the Pacific and the San Francisco Bay. The use of the funds to increase patrol would be a better use of the money than building a barrier that would detract from the bridge and provide a limited amount of prevention.
christina	Lund	This is a stupid idea and people are watching this closely. We know where the find will be going to. DO NOT provide a suicide barrier, people know that if someone wants to kill themselves they WILL find a place to do it. DUMB DUMB DUMB ideas by the minority of people.
Kelly	Lunt	I vote no build. However, if you are going to do it build something vertical and whichever is cheapest.
Lawrence	Lurie	I think that eliminating the Outside Handrail and replacing it with a Vertical System will give an awesome view. Adding a downward view from the bridge to the current view and saving lives, in addition, is an unbeatable combination.
Lawrence	Lurie	I think that eliminating the Outside Handrail and replacing it with a Vertical System will give an awesome view. Adding a downward view from the bridge to the current view and saving lives, in addition, is an unbeatable combination.
Ron	Lussier	I believe that this is a non-issue that the district is spending incredible amounts of money pursuing. Please leave the bridge as-is. People will jump, and that's okay.
Ron	Lussier	Why is 'United Kingdom' the default country in your form?

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Christine	Lutjens	This is a waste of time and money. People will find other ways of doing away with themselves. This is like Big Brother, save us from ourselves. We have to take our own responsibility of our actions. I lived at the Presidio for 3 years, so I have been a San Franciscan for a time in my life.
		<p>I believe the suicide barrier idea has been brought forward by some well meaning people who feel they have to do "something" about the suicides on the bridge.</p> <p>However, while a barrier may decrease suicides from the bridge, it will not decrease the number of suicides, those who want to suicide will predictably suicide some other way.</p> <p>As an example, the Campanile on the Berkeley campus was closed some 20 years ago after a couple of suicides jumped from there. While there are no longer suicides from the Campanile, I am sure that the suicide rate in the student body has not been affected at all.</p> <p>But by installing a suicide barrier on the bridge, a perfectly designed, aesthetically renowned structure will be compromised and degraded for the sake of an inconsequential (and expensive) "gesture."</p> <p>I find none of the design proposals acceptable.</p>
Jerry	Lutovich	I like the net system because it is virtually invisible to the bridge users. I assume that it would trap the jumper in the net until the jumper is securely removed. This would also identify jumpers trying to beat the system whereas if the others make it virtually impossible to jump, you won't know who is in need. There should be a fine to discourage recreational jumpers who want attention.
Will	Lutwick	

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First	Last	Comment
Will	Lutwick	<p>Although I used to think it was somewhat futile to prevent suicide jumpers from killing themselves, the opposite has been documented as true per the recent NY Times article. My only nephew killed himself at age 35 in a such a jump in 2004 (not from the GG Bridge). Had the opportunity not been there, he would probably be alive today. Too many die needlessly from easy suicides such as jumps and guns. Some of the few who have jumped from the GG Bridge have said they did not plan to do it at all. Almost all regretted their attempt and did not subsequently attempt suicide again. There may be paranormal/spiritual lures that cause so many to pick that place. Whatever - definitely time for a barrier to go up.</p>
Lizabeth	Lyles	<p>I honestly don't know or care which one's best, just think there should be one. We are fighting the same battle here in Seattle, & as someone with former substance abuse problems who was suicidal many, many years ago, just taking that extra time/deterrant might help them reconsider.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p>
Adam	Lynch	<p>I am strongly in favor of building some sort of physical suicide deterrent on the bridge. To me it is absolutely unconscionable that we have let this many people take their lives on this bridge with such ease.</p> <p>The most common arguments advanced against a barrier are 1) that it hurts the aesthetics, and 2) it won't make a difference, they will commit suicide anyways. My response to #1 is that anyone who says that the aesthetics of a piece of steel and concrete are more important than a human life should be ashamed of themselves and forced to spend a night with grieving parents of a suicide victim.</p> <p>My response to #2 is that it has been proven, conclusively, by the world's leading experts in mental illness that suicide is an impulsive act, and that while there will be certain cases where a person will find a way to commit suicide no matter what, many of these lives can be saved by impeding the impulse.</p>
Cathy	Lynch	<p>Please see my comments in next field. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.</p>

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First	Last	Comment
Cathy	Lynch	<p>In today's Marin Independent Journal, an article features a Tiburon couple whose daughter jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge in January 2008. Presumably jumped and died—her body hasn't been found. She could be off enjoying a new life somewhere.</p> <p>Did this young woman's parents let her drive? Yes, they did; she drove to the bridge the day she jumped, the article says. Her parents should be advocating changing the laws allowing teenagers to drive. Their daughter was at much, much, much higher risk of dying from an automobile accident than from a bridge jump.</p> <p>I suspect the parents would respond, "What does it matter that she was at higher risk from driving? The fact is, she jumped, she died, we lost our beloved daughter." But no one is proposing that anyone forced her to jump; no, she jumped because she wanted to. It doesn't matter that she may have been of disturbed mind when she jumped. Many of us drive while we're of disturbed mind; maybe that's part of the reason there are so many traffic accidents. What will the Tiburon couple do about that?</p> <p>This couple's response is due to complete and total self-absorption and selfishness. Their daughter was going to die someday: dying is a fact of life. Do they want what's best for their daughter, who wanted to die, or what's best for themselves, to have a trophy daughter?</p> <p>I strongly object to a barrier being added to the Golden Gate Bridge. Either leave these suicidal people alone, or offer them something that could really help: fully funded and universally available mental health services.</p>
John	Lynch	This is an important and historic structure - beautifully conceived - and it would be a crime to alter it in any way.
Christopher	Lyons	It is a personal decision
Christopher	Lyons	NO BUILD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
K	Lyons	If someone wants to commit suicide they will find a way to do it. It's a waste of money and resources to pay for any of these things.
James	Lytle	Do NOT add anything to the Golden Gate Bridge to inhibit suicides. People bent on suicide will just go elsewhere. Better to try to inhibit suicides on CalTrain tracks, because it is so gruesome for bystanders!
ilene	m	I would like to see the money go to a barrier in the middle of the bridge to protect those that do not intend on dying on the Golden Gate Bridge in a vehicle accident. I personally think that a suicide barrier is not the answer to suicide.
Stacy	Ma	I don't think visual/aesthetic should be considered a priority over the lives of individuals. If that was the case, then other places such as the Empire State Building and the Brooklyn Bridge would not have the measures they have in place to prevent people from jumping. The view is still just as nice with rails set up to prevent people from jumping.

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Stacy	Ma	Add vertical system to outside handrail. I think a vertical system would be better than a horizontal because it would be harder to climb up a vertical system.
Stacy	Ma	although individuals would not get a clear view/picture of the bay area, they would still get to enjoy the view. Just as it is with any other landmarks with fences, people will still visit it and take pictures, etc.
		A net system is a bad option for several reasons: 1) a net isn't nearly as effective as a barrier (someone can still jump from the net to their death); 2) retrieving someone from a net presents additional hazards for police officers engaged in rescue efforts; and 3) a net could attract people who jump as part of a fraternity initiation rite or other stupid endeavor.
Anne	Mabee	
Anne	Mabee	Something must be done! Yes, it may make the bridge look different, but look at what's important here! Scenic beauty? It's man made. It's about time we make it less attractive for the mentally ill!
Penny	Mabie	Seems that for mitigation, in addition to the flier and the displays at the visitor centers, there should be a dedicated website that documents the history of the barrier efforts and how the issue has unfolded over the eyars.
		I chose the net first because it addresses a prevention method while at the same time keeps the integrity of the visual experience that all the millions of people have been experiencing and therefore can continue to experience. I chose the horizontal addition to what is already there because I imagine as anyone would be driving or walking by they would not have a visual and/or sensory experience of bars like in a jail. The horizontal allows people of all different heights to have their space to see the view and drivers would not see a rippling effect that I imagine would be very visually disconcerting.
Susan	Mac Veigh	
Susan	Mac Veigh	From what I have read about this barrier thus far, I believe one should be there and that should not be a decision based just on what the public says. Even though I believe all of us should have the freedom of the beautiful view, I believe it really is best to create a deterrent and that decision should just be made and done the best with it in terms of money and such.
		The GG bridge is famed world-wide and saving lives should be done in a manner that does not detract from the experience for the thousands, perhaps millions, of other visitors. Please combine safety with minimal impact to views from the bridge, and to any birds, insects or other non-human bridge users. Thank you.
Chris	MacIntosh	
jim	macleod	Any barrier is absolutely wrong, and should not be put in place. The bridge is a historic structure and belongs to the citizens of the State of California as it currently stand. Its aesthetics should not be ruined by any sort of addition.

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jim	macleod	Any specific barrier will only prevent a despondent / suicidal person from committing suicide at the bridge. It will not prevent suicide. The desire to build a barricade serves only to pacify / clear the consciousness of bridge officials and others that donâ€™t want such an act occurring at their location.
jim	macleod	Any barrier will diminish the character of this historic landmark.
jim	macleod	The bridge is a hugely photographed and visited site. Any sort of barrier will deter from its current beauty.
jim	macleod	Many people visit, walk, ride, run, drive, view, etc. the bridge each and every day. Their enjoyment of the bridge would be compromised by a barrier.
		I do not believe that any suicide barrier should be added to the bridge. If other major bridges allowed pedestrian traffic, they too would attract suicides. Much as I enjoy walking the span, I would rather have it closed to foot traffic than disgrace it in such a fashion. As a social worker, I cannot comment on whether someone will, or will not, continue to pursue suicide. It is irrelevant, if you have so much money, put up the median barrier to protect those of us who wish to live.
Gail	MacMillan	
Gail	MacMillan	Stop wasting money and apply any resources to a median barrier.
		This bridge is a scenic resource not only to the Bay Area Community but a larger world community. Do not deminish the Bridge's scenic character by hanging any barriers.
Lori	MacNab	
		Anything that thwarts an impulsive suicide attempt is priceless. How can a city be called civilized when it has the world's leading magnet for suicides in its midst & does nothing about it? If one human life is saved by this barrier, it would be worth it. It's time to get beyond aesthetics & focus on what counts--saving lives.
Julia	MacNeil	
		I would want the birds to be protected during construction and afterwards. I understand that the glass used would be glareproof - this would be very important for people with glaucoma. I ALSO WOULD like the best view possible, along with the suicide prevention construction. I would want the horizontal system to be one no one could use to climb up.
Doris	Madden	
		I think the winglet is VERY important. The signs for the suicide prevention phones should be very evident at all entrances to the bridge. I agree with all 11 criteria for the physical suicide deterrent system criteria. Thanks for this afternoon to answer questions of native San Franciscans. :o)
Doris	Madden	
		You cannot force people to not kill themselves....If people want to die, they will find a way. Why should the general population suffer and pay for a barrier?
scott	madison	

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Temina	Madon	I think all alternatives are visually appealing, but would like more information on the website related to what suicide prevention experts feel will be the most effective means for preventing deaths. If \$40-50 million will be spent on this project, it should be evaluated on the basis of public health and safety as well as environmental impact.
Temina	Madon	These efforts are very much appreciated and are a great example of local government being responsive and accountable to community public health needs. Thank you.
Katie	Magill	lives are more important than a pretty view
Mario	Magliocco	The visual renderings in the Draft report depicts transparent panels. This is very misleading as it has not been proven that transparent panels on the bridge would remain transparent for long. Marine moisture would most likely accumulate on either side of the panels relatively quickly leaving behind a salt residue that could greatly impair the transparency of the panels without daily or even hourly cleaning. It would be very easy to test this phenomenon, and most likely workers on the bridge would be able to predict the viability based on their experience. Including transparent panels as a way of mitigating the visual impacts of the new railing, without actually testing the viability of them gives the reader a false impression of the overall visual impact of the proposal.
Carol	Maher	I am not sure which is most effective in the prevention of personal injury, but I support any alternative which helps stop the tragic loss of lives on the GGB
Carol	Maher	<p>What does it take to make this decision? For those who feel their vision would be impaired by any of these alternatives, please realize your vision is already severely impaired. The view for those of us who live daily with the profound grief and turmoil as the result of an impulsive action by a loved one who has died due to suicide, has a painful clarity that I wish on no one.</p> <p>Please take a hard second look at the view with your heart.</p>

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Dr. Scott	Mahoney	It is completely asinine to even consider such a pathetic notion. Do you honestly believe suicidal people will drive to the bridge, see the barrier, and say, "Oh my gosh, there's a barrier, therefore I no longer want to kill myself!" They'll go to another bridge, or to a highrise, or an overpass, or off a cliff...then pretty soon you all will have the entire country enveloped in prevention barriers. When will it stop? How much tax money will you steal to fulfill the desires of just a few people who wring their hands over everything - not just this issue. Please wake up and get real.
Dr. Scott	Mahoney	The major problem in America today: there is too much attention given to the wingnuts, rather than the masses who do not freely express themselves for fear that wingnuts will be given free reign to blast them in public.
Sue	Maienschein	People who are so depressed they contemplate suicide are among the weakest in our society and they deserve/need our protection. We as a society have a duty to protect our weakest members.
BOb	Majonee	way too much money. Better to make it look not like a jail.
Johan	Majoor	It is a total waste of money. You just move the problem to some other brigde, so it doesn't help the person committing the suicide nor the tax payer or anybody. Just having someone on the bridge looking for a jumper is probably more effective, since jumpers tend to take a long time before jumping and those patterns should be recognizable.
Johan	Majoor	The brigde and its beauty is crucial for tourism and the general appeal of San Francisco. Any development will have a huge negative impact on San Francisco's economy. It is simply not worth any amount to risk that for the occasional jumper.
Carolyn	Makens	Saving a life is the most important thing. I should not known two teenagers who have jumped from good families from Marin. It's now to easy to commit suicide on the bridge and has no chance to save them if they tried with other means.
Mary	Makosky	Saving lives is more important than aesthetic considerations. Let's put put a barrier immediately.
linda	malatesta	The Golden Gate bridge is a beautiful structure that should not be defaced by a suicide barrier.
linda	malatesta	The bridge district's job is to maintain the bridge & move traffic safely. It should not be involved in mental health issues sponsored by a small special interest group. It is an outrage that \$2 million has already been spent on a suicide barrier study. If the district applies for any federal monies, it should be for a movable barrier that will prevent head-on collisons.

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Mimi	Malayan	The value of the bridge includes the visual experience while crossing the bridge. Any interference with that view is an impediment, and diminishes the inherent value of this resource.
Mimi	Malayan	The cost of this project is prohibitive: the funds can be better allocated to benefit all of the residents of San Francisco. We should restore our parks, address issues of poor tree health, etc.
kimberly	malesky	The horizontal system looks like the bars at a prison. Also, wouldn't those be relatively easy to climb over?
kimberly	malesky	We live in a city where people try to get a tiger to attack them. How many high teenagers/fraternity pledges do you think we will catch in the Net System? If the Net System fails to save someones life, will the relative sue us?
Phil	Malik	There is no question that by adding a barrier will most defintly save lives! I have had a friend and a family member commit suicide and they were both so sudden that no one was aware that a mental depression existed.
Walter	Mallory	Alternative 1A seems the least intrusive, but effective barrier to me. Alternative 3 would seem to be less intrusive, but does not appear to be as effective as Alternative 1A. A person could still be injured after a 20-foot drop. He/she could possibly crawl over the edge of the net.
Walter	Mallory	Saving lives is more important than a slight visual impact!
Samantha	Malm	A comparison of cost for each option might have effected my voting, if it had been provided.
Leila	Mancuso	How can you even have a no barrier option? We are talking about saving human lives. The decision as to whether we have a barrier or not should not be left up to a vote. This is a situation where the city of San Francisco needs to step-up and do the right thing.
Christel and George	Mandanis	We object to this project because it would result in a multitude of adverse impacts (visual, aesthetic, behavioral, etc.) without producing any benefits. Those desperate enough to consider suicide would have many other options available to them. No data
Christel and George	Mandanis	Our answer for Item 3 applies to all alternatives for implementing the deterrent barrier, including all those now considered.
Christel and George	Mandanis	No matter what alternative is chosen, this project would result in adverse impacts to society yet producing no perceivable benefits either to those considering suicide or to the public at large. Without atatically significant proof of its intended ben
Christel and George	Mandanis	Please refer to comments above.
Christel and George	Mandanis	Please refer to our comments above.

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Christel and George	Mandanis	We object to this project because it produces no quantifiable benefits, no matter how it is implemented.
Christel and George	Mandanis	Please refer to our comments above.
Christel and George	Mandanis	Please refer to our comments above.
Christel and George	Mandanis	Please refer to our comments above.
Christel and George	Mandanis	This project has been wrong from its very conception. This very questionnaire demonstrates this. We are asked in 12 different ways how we feel about its prospective impacts on the public but never asked about how we feel about its intended benefits. No
		<p>Nothing should be done, spending millions of dollars on a suicide barrier is a waste of needed funds, you need to get your priorities straight.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maintain the Bridge 2) Retrofit the Bridge against earthquakes 3) Install a road barrier to keep drunks from killing us 3) Improve Bus Service in Marin 4) Set aside Capital to replace the Bridge in 100 years, beginning now, my great great grandchildren will thank you. 5) Quit raising tolls to pay for your hairbrained schemes
John	Mann	
Margaret	Manning	I am tired of having things limited/changed/ruined in an effort to "save" people from themselves. Why are suicides denied the right of self-determination? And why should we spend \$50 million to (perhaps) stop a handful of determined people when that money could treat or educate or feed many, many more? The bridge is a wonder. Leave it alone.
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JOSEPH	MARANTO	This is not necessary.
Sharen	March	I would like to see counselor-professionals help potential suicides on the bridge on site. Study what has worked in other locations and bridges.
Halina	Marcinkowski	waste of time and money. Leave it as is. If you really want to commit suicide you'll find a way to do it. Intervention should come earlier.
Halina	Marcinkowski	LEAVE AS IS!!!! USE THE MONEY BY BEEFED UP PATROLS.
J	Marcy	A waste of money -- what about a lane barrier so people do not cross over and kill others?

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McCormick	Mark	The current structures are woefully inadequate to save the lives of those with transient impulses to jump off the bridge. Something needs to be done to save these people from their self-destructive impulses.
Howard	Markert	The analysis is inadequate as it does not address the financial impact of the costs of implementing and of the proposals nor the financial impact from the loss of tourism
Howard	Markert	Changing the bridge will have a negative impact on tourism and cost millions of dollars, both of these are totally unacceptable
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Howard	Markert	If people want to commit suicide they will always find a way regardless of laws, regulations, and physical obstructions. What this project is really about is that there are some people who want the suicides to stop happening on the bridge, another case of "not in my backyard". What really needs to be addressed is adequate mental health care in the United States and the decriminalization of suicide.
Catherine	Markey	All alternatives have negative aesthetic impacts. Why ruin a world class design. Please see 12.
Catherine	Markey	I think this study was ill-thought out. My initial thoughts are that the GGBD can't do decent bus service to Petaluma and now wants to spend millions on this? Do we spend millions to forbid alcohol or tobacco? Does it work? Although this may sound callous, I have a friend who jumped off the bridge - and I wish he had not. Still this is a personal choice people make, and even with the number of 36 per year it would take many decades to equal just the financial cost of building/upkeep etc, for the search and retrieve costs. (Also friend of a diver who performed this pick up service). If you must spend money, spend it on a moveable divider and quit wasting time and money on studies that should not be done!

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Andrew	Markoulis	I believe that there are SEVERAL other better allocations of 40-50 million than putting up something to stop people from jumping off the bridge. If someone wants to commit suicide bad enough they will do it whether there is something on the bridge or not. Also what happens when someone jumps of the bridge once the barrier is put up? what a WASTE of 40-50 million. Even 1 person getting around the barrier COMPLETELY voids the whole action.
Esther	Marks	I believe replacing outside handrail with horizontal system would be the most attractive of the alternatives. The existing outside handrail is clunky and unattractive. People who are so concerned about aesthetics will be surprised how the replacement can be more visually appealing.
james	marks	money should be spent on mental health for all not placing a new handrail for the few
Thomas	Marovich, Sr.	Maintain or increase sign posting for suicide watch numbers. Ensure someone will answer on the first ring.
Thomas	Marovich, Sr.	I am a native San Franciscan. I feel strongly that no matter what is done to or added to the bridge structure to prevent suicides off the bridge will only lead a person determined to end their life to choose another venue. This could be juming into traffic instead of jumping off the bridge. I would be curious as to what survivors of bridge plunges would say that would have prevented or deterred them from jumping. So many public funds have been spent on studies and proposals that bridge fare increases could have been saved.
Lorena	Marquez	Something needs to be placed on the Golden Gate Brigde so impulsive suicides that can be prevented with an easy solution. Asthetically pleasing or not, it's necessary.
Ronald	Marrelli	I think Option 1A is easy to see through and would be less costly than replacing the bottom section with the same vertical system. Vertical bars are less would be harder to climb than the horizontal design.
Ronald	Marrelli	Based on the information I have read the deterrent is justified by the number of deaths each year.
Linda	Mars	I can't believe that this hasn't been done. What in the world are you waiting for?
Lexie	Marsh	The net system would be the best option, as it would satisfy all sides of this debate. How could anyone be opposed to this option, if they possess any humanity?

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Dan	Marshall	<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>Before we spend \$25 to \$50 million, impair the aesthetics of the bridge, add weight to the bridge, and increase ongoing maintenance costs, let's test a simple \$1000 solution for a year.</p> <p>Let's place signs where potential jumpers would see them. The signs would say something like:</p> <p>Considering Jumping? You should know the following:</p> <p>You'll experience free fall for about 3 seconds " should be fun.</p> <p>Then you'll hit the water at about 85 mph. At that speed hitting water is very similar to hitting concrete. Most jumpers break about half the bones in their body upon impact.</p> <p>If you're lucky you'll spend less than a minute of incredible pain under water before you drown.</p> <p>If you're not so lucky, your instincts will kick in and you'll swim to the surface where you'll gasp for air and then swim around for up to 10 minutes of unimaginable pain before your internal bleeding brings death.</p> <p>The bodies of most jumpers sink for about 5 days before the gasses of rot bring them to the surface.</p> <p>Please think again.</p>

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		<p>Before we spend \$25 to \$50 million, impair the aesthetics of the bridge, add weight to the bridge, and increase ongoing maintenance costs, let's test a simple \$1000 solution for a year.</p> <p>Let's place signs where potential jumpers would see them. The signs would say something like:</p> <p>Considering Jumping? You should know the following:</p> <p>You'll experience free fall for about 3 seconds - should be fun.</p> <p>Then you'll hit the water at about 85 mph. At that speed hitting water is very similar to hitting concrete. Most jumpers break about half the bones in their body upon impact.</p> <p>If you're lucky you'll spend less than a minute of incredible pain under water before you drown.</p> <p>If you're not so lucky, your instincts will kick in and you'll swim to the surface where you'll gasp for air and then swim around for up to 10 minutes of unimaginable pain before your internal bleeding brings death.</p> <p>The bodies of most jumpers sink for about 5 days before the gasses of rot bring them to the surface.</p> <p>Please think again.</p>
Dan	Marshall	
Donn	Marshall	My firmest vote would be for the system that has best empirical support for prevention jumping. I opted for the Alternative 1 option because the Alternative 2 netting seemed like it likely would require more maintenance over the years, and the Alternative 3 looks like it could put rescuers at increased risk if called on to help retrieve someone caught in the net.
Donn	Marshall	I believe the effectiveness of means restriction in preventing suicide deaths is now well established. Please move ahead with constructing barriers.
James	Marshall	Nothing that alters the appearance of such a landmark is tolerable
Karen	Marshall	These two alternatives don't take away from the visual/aesthetic beauty of the bridge.

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Karen	Marshall	You are to be commended for addressing this vital public health concern, for saving lives and for saving families from the devastation of suicide. I have visited San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge often, and think the deterrent system only makes it more beautiful.
Lisa	Marshall	We need to spend our money on prevention programs, not on a bandaid approach that will only push people who are in need of help to find alternative means of killing themselves.
Angelo	Martignoni	Suicidal people are going to do it some place. Why deface a beautiful structure only to send them somewhere else. I was born and reard in Crockett CA and admired the Golden Gate constantly and enjoyed the view of San Francisco from it's walkway. Please do not encumber my view. Respectfully A.P.Martignoni
Kelly	Martin	1a - 1b - 2a - 2c 1a - 1b - 2a - 2c I am very concerned about the upkeep of the transparent panels. I live at the beach in San Francisco. Windows get very dirty from the wind and fog. The windows on the bridge will get dirty. It will take a lot of man hours to keep them clean. Dirty windows are not pleasant to look through. Dirty windows are ugly.
Candyce	Martin	Please do not ruin the bridge by putting up anti-suicide barriers. People who want to commit suicide are going to do it anyway, if they want to do it badly enough. Why ruin the appearance of the most beautiful bridge in the world?
Dan	Martin	
Dan	Martin	This is not the way to spend this amount of money. It will not prevent most suicide victims who can find many other places to end their lives. A teacher friend of mine jumped in front of a train a few months ago. Tragic, yes. But should we build fences around all the railroad tracks in the U.S., or block off the stairways of tall buildings, or somehow build barriers to minimize the chance to jump in front of BART trains?
James	Martin	Do not add anything to the bridge. Period.
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Kelly	Martin	1a - 1b - 2a - 2b View Alcatraz, a former prison, from behind bars!!!

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Kelly	Martin	Is this really going to save that many lives? Does society have to make everything safe? It is chilling to imagine the despair, emptiness, and pain a person feels when they decide to commit suicide. I truly feel sorry for that person and their family and friends. However, I really think if someone has made up their mind to end their life, that they're going to do it one way or another. Putting suicide barriers along the bridge may prevent a few suicides a year, but many of the people who jump from the bridge are going to use alternative means. I have walked across the bridge with many visitors from out of town. The unobstructed views from the bridge bring such joy to people. It is incredible and doesn't cost anything. It really is a special place. I love to stand wherever I like on the bridge and take in the expansive view. I also bike across the bridge a few times a month. The openness of the bridge gives me a wonderful sense of complete freedom. It makes me sad to consider what the bridge would be like with suicide barriers. It would ruin the experience for millions of people. Life involves risks. We need to accept the risks along with the rewards. We can't continually protect ourselves from ourselves.
Marty	Martin	Get rid of the suicide lanes forget about a suicide barrier!!!! If people want to kill themselves we should not go through such elaborate, expensive means to prevent them. If they think jumping off the bridge is a more dramatic end to their lives then let them. I had a friend jump off the bridge, he was suicidal for years, he chose the bridge as his dramatic exit. If not the GG he would have found another way. If you want to spend money, spend it on a movable barrier between oncoming traffic lanes to prevent those of us who have no interest in committing suicide from dying. Get rid of the suicide lanes forget about a suicide barrier!
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Mason	Martin	\$50m will pay for 6 additional around the clock observers (8 hour each, one on each side of bridge) at \$50k/annual for 166 yrs (yes i realise inflation will require higher comp in the future)...by which point the bridge i'm sure will be overhauled twice over. It's sad to hear the stories of the families, but that is not a license to spend millions on an unnecessary project when budgets city/state/countrywide are so strained!
Virginia	Martin	There must be many better uses of funds.
Charles	Martinet	All of the barriers that take the place, or enhance the size of the railing, significantly alter the look and feel of the bridge, and I believe they will not be a significant deterrent. The netting will also not stop, and could encourage people to endanger their lives.

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Charles	Martinet	Each of the barriers alters the look and feel of the bridge. The designs that replace the current barrier are just awful. Why take a design masterpiece and spend \$40 million to destroy its look and feel, when it will not necessarily stop or prevent suicides?
Charles	Martinet	I've tried 2 browsers and neither is able to get to the different sections via the "Review" hotbuttons. The hotbuttons open a series of other articles, which have nothing to do with the barriers. Also this webpage is very difficult to use. This box is too small for me to see the entire line. And it cannot be opened to include the entire line. Very cumbersome.
Charles	Martinet	Please re-design this webpage and create effective hotlink buttons so that we can READ the text and make comments. This website in its current state is not usable. 1. Expand the boxes so we can read what we are writing. 2. Only have ONE scrollbar. 3. Make the hotbuttons bring up the text.
Brita	Martiny	Take the most effective preventive measures to reduce suicides on the bridge.
Brita	Martiny	Construct the safety barriers ASAP
Kristina	Martorana	Its is incomprehensible that this project is even on the table right now. Our city is BROKE, our economy continues to sprial downward, our hospitals are trying to downsize, our children are sitting on the floors in classrooms sharing books because there is NO money to spare! Please, reconsider this proposal and put it on the table in 10-15 years if we can. Now is NOT the time. If someone is going to kill themselves, they will do it anyway. Spend the money on prevention!!!
Alan	Marx	Alternative 1 B retains the original look. Having no clearly visible fence as in Alternative 2 B creates an excess feeling of openness, which I am sure will be a problem to many patients who have agoraphobia which is a fear of open places. This fear is fairly common and occures when people cross open bridges. I am a psychiatrist and see this concern quit a bit.
julie	marx	Nets will serve the purpose and not ruin the aesthetics.
		If you build 1A I would also like to see a winglet such as depicted for 2A and 2B. The clear panels in the 1st and 2nd alternatives do not seem practical considering the sea mist and drizzle that would cause them to be marred and would make the view less aesthetic.
barbara	massey	
barbara	massey	Please provide a physical barrier to suicides. We have a responsibility to do what we can to prevent them.

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peter	massik	Additional construction will mean more disturbance of surrounding natural areas for staging, likely more pollutants falling into water during construction, and the use of a tremendous amount of natural resources and energy to build barrier.
peter	massik	only no build and net system leave the world famous views intact. the other ones all block the view, especially for those in cars, where poles will run together because of motion. they will also make the bridge look ugly.
peter	massik	Alternatives 1a, 1b, 2a, and 2b all ruin the world famous view. I have been on bridges with these types of barriers and they destroy the view.
peter	massik	It a famous tourist site, this will negatively impact the experience of millions of visitors. All to move 23 suicides a year to other locales (the fact that 20x as many suicides a year occur in other Bay Area locations show suicides will find a way that doesn't involve the bridge).
peter	massik	no build uses no additional energy or other resources (metal, paint, etc.).
peter	massik	this misses the point.
peter	massik	the point is that it's an incredibly expensive project that will likely not save any lives--people will find a way to kill themselves elsewhere; many already do today--and it will ruin the bridges beauty and views as well as potentially compromise its safety. For the money involved, you could station guards on bridge 24/7 to stop people.
Jane and Charles	Mathewson	How can it be possible that it is even being considered? Changing this structure for any number of reasons is unacceptable. Society cannot protect every person/family. My husband is a native Californian and I am a long time transplant. Doing anything to change the bridge is just not acceptable to either of us.
Margaret	Mathis	I am a regular visitor to San Francisco. The bridge is spectacular but I find the controversy over saving human lives somewhat curious. The bridge will remain a spectacular landmark with the suicide barriers and the city of San Francisco will gain a reputation for honoring the value of an individual life.
Neysa	Matt	A design that allows for the majesty and beauty of the golden gate bridge and its surroundings would be much appreciated.
Dennis	Mattson	Adding any of the proposed barriers would be a travesty, and an insult to it's engineers. After walking the bridge this last June I was awestruck by it's beauty. AND the ability to look down over the railing at the water was thrilling.. I vote NO BARRIERS.. Let em jump, if not there, where next???

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Richard	Matzinger	<p>The glass panel solution will soon be covered in graffiti, acid marks and scratches, just like our bus and storefront windows. All of the suicide barrier designs will add to the maintenance costs for the bridge district, forever.</p> <p>The EIR doesn't discuss alternative uses for the 50 million dollars. More beneficial and less damaging projects could be funded with that money, for instance, the movable traffic barrier. People who jump want to die, people driving across the bridge don't want to die.</p> <p>Spending the money on more public transit would save more lives on the highways and via air pollution reduction.</p> <p>Preventing a tiny number of people from using the bridge to commit suicide just means they will go somewhere else, like the new Bay Bridge or simply drive their car into an abutment. There are a thousand other ways to commit suicide and they will simply use another.</p> <p>Barrier proponents who claim that "We must do everything we can..." should be viewed as extremists. We DON'T have to do everything we can and we shouldn't. Society would become bankrupt if we spent the money to do everything these people claim we must do. The suicide barriers are a non-productive use of that money. If we are going to spend money the result should be permanent jobs not temporary construction jobs. The result should be something that will give back to society, like the bridge itself does. That was a truly productive investment.</p>

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Jane	Maxwell	<p>The addition of any of the proposed physical systems (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3) would seriously diminish the beauty of this most beautiful of bridges.</p> <p>Further, such structures (especially alternative 3) would in effect be screaming "suicide." I love walking and biking across the bridge, and suicide is far from my thoughts. But with extensive barriers in place, I would be constantly reminded of this phenomenon.</p> <p>Please do not compromise the bridge's beauty, which is enjoyed by millions, in the hope of possibly deterring a few would-be suicides -- most of whom would probably kill themselves someplace else anyway.</p> <p>The No-Build alternative includes a generous amount of suicide prevention measures. In the long run, there is no way to prevent a person intent on suicide from succeeding -- if not here at the GGB, then someplace else.</p>
Alexis	May	This is really important to help prevent death. We are learning more and more that making the means of suicide more difficult really does cut down on the suicide death rate. People's lives are more important than a view.
noelle	maylander	I believe if someone wants to take there life, ie. kill themselves; then let them. This is a free country still.
noelle	maylander	<p>CA is 15 billion dollars in the hole, the gov. just rolled back min. wage increase....who do you want to pay for this??</p> <p>I think we should leave the GG bridge just the way it was intended and not mess with a good thing.</p>
Hilda	Mc Cann	<p>One or more of these suggestions are great!!! I don't know if you can really put a price on human life and if anything can deter someone from committing suicide on the bridge I feel it is well worth the money to do it!!!</p> <p>Too many young kids are confused and lost when they make such drastic decisions about ending their life!</p>

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Hilda Janet	Mc Cann McAllister	I am a mother of a 19 year old teen who has had dark periods but never so dark to think of suicide. She knew a couple of the teens that jumped and died off the bridge and she was sad about it but the bridge is a glorified landmark that attracts troubled people from all over the world but to loose a child is unthinkable and no one should have to go thru it. We find the money for other things. We need to fund a barrier NOW!!
Russell	McBrien	Suicide prevention is a mental health issue, not a GG Bridge issue. I believe that those who would jump would find alternative means to commit suicide. We have such a need for improving infrastructure in the Bay Area that I believe the money could be much better spent on those types of projects.
Russell	McBrien	I am strongly opposed to mutilating the bridge with any form of barrier
Russell	McBrien	No addition to the bridge would be acceptable
Russell	McBrien	Damaging the bridge with barrier additions would constitute a loss to all American and our visitors
Russell	McBrien	It appears fully adequate
Russell	McBrien	Resources should not be expended on bridge modification. Any suicide prevention funds should be allocated towards mental health services not the mutilation of a treasured landmark.
Cory	McCabe	SF has excellent public mental health resources. No barrier will deter someone who is determined. Visual impairment aside, the expense isn't worth it.
Delia	McCabe	Any device that will prevent suicides is acceptable to me
M	McCabe	I strongly oppose ANY kind of suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. I support, other kinds of suicide deterrent programs but a barrier is not the answer. The Bridge District has wasted too much time and money on this issue. Stop it NOW. No Barrier!!!
Barbara	McCann	Suicide success or failure is not determined by the venue. If someone really wants to take their own life they will find a way.
Barbara	McCann	How can a society that allows the killing of unborn babies not allow the living who wish to decide the same consideration?

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First	Last	Comment
Jane	McCann	Each life is important, people are not suicidal forever, help save lives by creating a barrier. I have walked the bridge and you can figure out how to build a barrier honors the beauty and saves lives.
Amy	McCarthy	<p>Currently, the Golden Gate Bridge is the most popular suicide spot in the world. This haunts me as I commute across the Bridge. I think of all the lives unnecessarily lost because we have failed to act to help people in need. The bridge barrier can save lives; therefore, I support the initiative. The suicide barrier will prevent people from acting on a suicide impulse. Experts attest to the fact that many suicides are committed on impulse and that, once blocked from an attempt, most potential suicides do not re-attempt suicide.</p> <p>I believe that those who oppose the barrier are misguided on three counts: 1) valuing aesthetics above human lives; 2) ignoring the fact that several of the proposed barriers WILL NOT significantly compromise bridge aesthetics and 3) discounting psychiatrists' expert opinion that introducing a barrier to impulse suicides can ultimately prevent rather than merely delay suicides.</p> <p>I hope that the Bay Area proves itself to be compassionate by adopting the suicide barrier initiative.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Maureen	McCarthy	My opinion is that this project should be rejected. Why spend money on preventing a possible few deaths from the bridge and put more resources to public health, outreach and conseling for those considering suicide.
Maureen	McCarthy	Reject the proposal

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First	Last	Comment
michele	mccarthy	<p>I fully support a barrier. Remember that people who are suicidal DO NOT WANT TO DIE. They are in unbearable amounts of pain and they are looking at ways to end the pain but not necessarily to end their life. Having talked with many people who are suicidal we often ask, "Who will find your body" and that often brings them out of the "suicide fantasy" and brings them into reality. For many they will say, "I can't do that to my family". That is why a barrier is so important. People that are suicidal are only suicidal for a short period of time. Getting someone through a suicidal crisis can sometimes take just a few moments and then they may never be suicidal again. Loss (any type) and isolation are the two key factors to determine how or if someone may become suicidal. Their coping skills are key and sometimes it just takes someone to listen to. That is why suicide crisis lines are effective. You/we literally have to ability to save a life and what could be more important than that?</p> <p>Michele McCarthy Director of Crisis Services Suicide Prevention Service of the Central Coast 831 459-9373</p>
Lynn	McCloskey	The suicide barrier will greatly destroy the look of this beautiful wonder. A net, ok, no distraction from the looks of the bridge but a barrier, NO WAY
Aaron	McCloud	I am appalled that people are more concerned with the aesthetic nature of the Golden Gate Bridge than they are with the 1300 people who have died jumping from the bridge. I am appalled that the same people are willing to allow more to die a similar death. The barrier will save countless lives and no cost should restrict its construction. It is disgusting that anyone continues to suggest otherwise.
Tamsen	McCracken	I see no reason at all to construct (or frankly study) a suicide barrier. It is a vast waste of money (mine, thank you very much) and the whole process to me is absolutely crazy. If someone wants to commit suicide, and knows the GGB is unavailable, they'll find an alternative. If they want to commit suicide, they will. Why spend millions and millions of dollars, all the while raising bridge tolls and bus fees, on something that likely benefits absolutely no one.
Tamsen	McCracken	See comments above. Don't build it, stop studying it, stop wasting MY money.
Susan	McCrae	The existing railing would not pass current building safety codes for an upstairs balcony on a 2 storey house. Please rectify this major design flaw.
bill & sharon	mccubbin	Bridge is just one of many ways a person will look to if contemplating suicide. I feel the expense and visual modification of the bridge is not warranted. What about more monitoring spots on bridge or officers patrolling on foot, bikes or something.

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Barbara	McCurley	I feel the price to change this is small, compared to the lives that are lost from suicide from the bridge.
Emmet	McDonagh	I have actually not looked at the designs - but as someone who has been stopped on the bridge (December 2005), from a time issue (if someone did try to jump with a barrier) - a vertical one would probably take longer to get over. Longer in terms of time most importantly means that it's more likely that someone would notice the attempt and help (or the impulse would go away - more time means more chances of something happening that makes the impulse stop). I also think that the chosen design should be safe enough for those trying to help stop potential jumpers (safe for both the jumper and any helpers).
Emmet	McDonagh	I am beginning to get involved with the Bridge Rail Foundation and everyone involved (whether opposed or in favor) really needs to let the general public know facts from both sides before people make their stance. It's the only right way. Right now (especially with the bigger media outlets) more or less only points opposed to a barrier are mentioned - that's plain and simply not the right thing to do with an issue that is as serious as this one. This isn't something where saying no can result in someone's life being more difficult, it's people's lives ENDING - and that's an enormous difference. I really hope that most people see that. And yes, I personally think that rationale people who are currently opposed would change their stance once they learn everything from both sides - because points and facts in support of the barrier do counter and essentially show how points in opposition are lies, shallow excuses, and not facts.
Maryke	McDougall	1A fits best to the design of the bridge
James	McDowell	You must save lives, build something now.
Scott	McDowell	Please don't spend any more money on this project. I think it's a waste of time and money.
Rita	McElhany	I work for the Missouri Department of Mental Health on our suicide prevention activities and my interest in the bridge is compounded by the fact that 2 of my children who are in the risk group ages live in San Francisco.
Maggie	McElroy	Review the visual/aesthetic impacts chapter of the Draft EIR/EA. The GG Bridge is renowned treasure. People from all over the world come to walk on the bridge and to enjoy the view, the design, and the engineering. Adding a physical barrier would mar the integrity of the design and impact the experience of enjoying the bridge.
Maggie	McElroy	Adequate
Maggie	McElroy	The procedure for comments is to formal and formidable.

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Barry	McGale	With regards the net, what happens to someone if they still jump over? How are they recovered from the net and how long before they are recovered and can they climb out of it?
Barry	McGale	I believe the importance of preserving human life must be to the fore here and though these other issues may be important they should not take precedence over this.
Teddi	McGehee	Any "safe" system would be good. The engineers know how the bridge can be failsafe. Suicides from the bridge must be stopped. I am not from CA but am a suicide prevention advocate and your bridge has been widlth discussed.
Teddi	McGehee	Suicidal people are usually at crisis for a short period and are impulsively drawn towards death. If a person cannot jump, it probably will save their life. Thank you for considering this solution.
Robin	McGinnis	I am sorry people feel drawn to the bridge to commit suicide, but I think if barriers were built on the bridge, they would find some other way to end their lives. Rather than build some type of deterrent, why not have the bridge patrolled on foot.
Mary	McGlynn	The safety and preventative benefits of a barrier project far out weigh the aesthetic and visual aspects.
Jim	McGowan	I think that any changes could irreparably harm the look of the bridge and ruin its appeal. Barriers obstruct the view and detract from the visual experience.
Jim	McGowan	I do not believe that a barrier will deter people from committing suicide, it would likely simly drive them to choose another method or to climb the barrier. The money could be better spent funding counseling activities that reduce all forms of suicide.
Jim	McGowan	This whole project shold never have been started - it is a huge waste of resources at a time when the district is again raising toll fees on haranged commuters.
Larry	McGowan	The obstructions above the current railing interfere with the view too much. A net below would be less intrusive.
Larry	McGowan	People who want to commit suicide will find a way. It is impossible to put barriers everywhere. How about along all the sidewalks and railways in San Francisco? I'm sure the Europeans would get a good laugh out of our silly attempts to keep the entire country totally safe!
Ann	McIntire	As a dear friend of an amazing man, friend and father who took his life a year ago from the Golden Gate Bridge, I know in my heart and my head that if the bridge had not been so accessible, he would probably be with us today. I strongly believe it is our responsibility to add the most effective deterrent that is aestically pleasing. Too many young people are now talking and enamored about the bridge suicides. In this society of protection of animals and our planet, the protection of our citizens is our first responsibility.

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Ann	McIntire	<p>Make the decision to do it NOW.....figure out the design and the funding later.</p> <p>In order to minimize the possibility of climbing the barrier, I believe the best option is a vertical one (2A I consider the better vertical option). However, I am aware of how determined a potential suicide victim can be, and I would have liked to have seen an option for a vertical barrier with a winglet at the top (such as in options 1B and 2B).</p> <p>A no build option is - to me - simply ludicrous, lending itself as it does to facilitate more tragedy.</p> <p>All of the designs have their pluses and drawbacks, but I believe congratulations are due on how the designs incorporate and retain the aesthetic and atmosphere of the bridge.</p> <p>This build is more than overdue.</p>
Eamonn	McKay	<p>After watching the remarkably non-judgemental documentary, The Bridge, I was struck by the absurdity of the current argument over aesthetics. The Bridge has been, and will continue to be, an "attractive nuisance" which any ambulance chaser should be able to get shut down.</p> <p>Why not put not less than five people on the bridge at all times to insure that people exhibiting the characteristics outlined in the "Bridge" movie-nervousness, solitude, all the others--don't have the time to get over the rail. Much cheaper, more humane, dismisses the aesthetics argument. Your inaction is really criminal.</p>
Richard	McKee	

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Jeffrey	McKenna	Building any "barrier" would be a waste of money. In fact, calling it a "barrier" is misleading because it will not block human beings intent on killing themselves from doing so. People will just climb over or otherwise find ways around these ugly barriers and we'll have ruined the look of the bridge and wasted \$40 million better spent else where. Indeed, let me be clear, I oppose all of these designs due to their cost, appearance, AND obvious ineffectiveness. Further, I think the entire concept is absurdly paternalistic and a tragic example of knee-jerk thinking that fails to address the root cause of the problem. Suicide is a tragic event, but to try to solve such a complex issue by building a [physical barrier on one structure is a joke. Even spending the \$40 million on improving access to psychiatric care would have more chance of saving lives.
Jeffrey	McKenna	Don't do this. You'll make the bridge ugly and the Bay Area the laughing stock of the country... again. If people want to kill themselves they are going to do it on the bridge or off it with or without your "barrier," the fact my tax and toll money was spent even studying this makes me furious. You should be ashamed of yourselves for wasting resources this way.
r	mckenna	Reasonable safety restrictions are necessary. \$50 million is an unrealistic amount. Mid span driving separation for traffic is higher priority.
Teresa	McKimmeY	It would help if you had actual images of what the barriers would look like. The only real visual you have is the handrail as it currently exists. Probably most folks will choose that option -- it's the only one adequately displayed.
Teresa	McKimmeY	The ingrained prejudice in this society against the mentally ill is evidenced by this debate. The depressed and suicidal are no more responsible or able to control their condition than those with diabetes, MS, or any other chronic illness. The GG acts as a magnet for those in pain, and clearly nonphysical intervention techniques have not slowed the tide of those drawn to the bridge to end that pain. This debate would not exist if the bridge was dangerous for those with a physical ailment, but somehow many folks cling to the archaic notion that those with clinical depression are somehow different and shouldn't receive the same protections. They do. Please erect a barrier NOW. There is no view worth this tragic loss of human life.
Anne	McLain	This is a total waste of money. If someone wants to end their life they will find a way. Why should the taxpayers be forced to pay for something that probably won't work anyway. This is a terrible idea.

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		<p>I am curious as to what the barrier would look like. People in Marin say that it will take away from the view. In all this information, they really don't "show" what it's supposed to even "look" like.</p> <p>And they showed the "median zipper", I'm not understanding that.</p> <p>Could you please post the proposed barrier on your site?</p>
Julie Melissa	McLisky McMahon	<p>As a San Francisco native, I would hate to see the bridge change. If it's not broken, don't fix it. However, if someone told me a barrier would save all those who suffer from depression or mental illness or would prevent all future suicides, then I would be all for it. This is not possible. I think the aesthetics are a non-issue because no one is addressing the real problem of suicide, which is depression, not the bridge. How about we spend \$25-\$50 million to treat people suffering from depression and mental illness rather than treating a symptom. This isn't about aesthetics it's about treating the actual problem. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death and firearms, suffocation, and poison are by far the most common methods of suicide, not jumping from the GG bridge. (http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-in-the-us-statistics-and-prevention.shtml). The loss of a loved one is tragic, but barriers do not treat the true problem. The \$2million already spent could've been used to treat people with depression or to educate the general population on how to spot the signs of depression and what to do.</p>
Catherine	McMichael	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is iconic and part of our historical heritage. It should not be marred with a physical obstruction that may or may not deter suicides. No evidence has been presented that can prove such action would reduce suicides. Suicidal people intent on ending their lives will usually find a way to do it, regardless of convenience or method.</p>
Catherine	McMichael	<p>Instead of permanently marring the beauty of a national treasure, why not invest the money into counseling, better surveillance, and more frequent patrols?</p>
Donna	McMorrow	<p>If a barrier is built on the GG Bridge, what is to stop potential jumpers from jumping off the Oakland Bridge, or the San Rafael Bridge? I am someone who suffers from depression and has attempted suicide. I believe people should be allowed to commit suicide if that is what they want to do.</p>

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Kathy	McMorrow	Although I understand the motivations of families who lost a loved one to suicide from the bridge, I don't think you should alter the design of this world-beloved landmark. Spend the money on suicide patrols on the bridge if need be but leave the beauty of the bridge alone.
Dana	McMullen	This is essential to save many lives!
Thomas	McNamee	All the barriers proposed would threaten birds passing through the Golden Gate, several species of which are threatened or endangered under state and/or federal laws.
Thomas	McNamee	The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the world's great works of art. All of the barriers proposed would be, in effect, acts of vandalism.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3--the nets--would be the least intrusive of the anti-suicide devices, but even it would seriously degrade the aesthetic qualities of the bridge.
Thomas	McNamee	The experience of walking or bicycling across the Golden Gate Bridge is a unique way of knowing the city and the bay. The city's and indeed the whole Bay Area's cultural heritage would be drastically degraded by any of the proposed barriers.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3--nets--would be the least degrading to the bridge's cultural value, but it would nevertheless function as a constant reminder of depression and suicide to the hundreds of thousands of bridge users who know the bridge as a representation of triumph and ingenuity.
Thomas	McNamee	The experience of walking or bicycling across the bridge is one of the great recreation opportunities in the Bay Area, and especially meaningful to our visitors from all over the world. Best of all, it's free. Any of the barriers proposed would significantly degrade that experience.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3 would intrude less on the recreation experience than the barriers, but it would still serve as a macabre image in what till now has been a picture of joy.
Thomas	McNamee	Alternative 3 would be least damaging to birds but would still increase bird mortality.
Thomas	McNamee	The quality of the barrier designs is very poor.
Thomas	McNamee	An increase in anti-suicide intervention by trained personnel could significantly reduce attempted suicides at a fraction of the cost of even the least expensive barrier.

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Jim	McNeal	We shouldn't build any suicide deterrent barrier on this Golden Gate Bridge because it will adversely affect the view that we currently have overlooking the Bay. To add barriers will greatly affect the view in the most adverse way. 23 suicide deaths in 2005 is not that significant to make such a drastic change; hundreds of thousands (perhaps more) people currently enjoy the view from the bridge each year. To make this change will surely affect that.
Jim	McNeal	Building a suicide prevention barrier is infringing on the personal freedoms of those people who genuinely want to end their lives. People are suicidal for a reason, and if they find no joy in life and would like to end theirs quietly and peacefully, then they should be allowed to do so. According to your website, 23 people jumped off the bridge in 2005. Far more people have died from other preventable ways that were far more painful or violent. The \$40-50 million dollar budget for the proposed suicide deterrent barrier should be better spent on other social programs to help clinical depression and the like, or other programs that will improve the way of life for people who live in the Bay Area.
marylee	mcneal	I believe the important thing first is to do all we can to prevent suicides on the bridge, and secondly, to do it in a way that is most asthetically pleasing. To me, this is alternative 2b.
Lisa	McNeil	Need for a barrier outweighs the above resource areas.
Geoff	McNew	Why not install a diving board for jumpers and charge a fee? Charge additional fees for options such as filming/DVD of the jump. Use the funds raised from the diving board to pay for a moveable lane barrier to protect commuters driving across the bridge.
Brett	McPherson	Visually and in a historical context I am against the barrier in all alternatives.
Brett	McPherson	I understand the "draw" of the bridge for potential suicides, but strongly feel people will and do commit suicide in many other ways. Funding prevention programs and looking at other potential means of suicide is where I would rather see our Federal money spent. My father committed suicide with a hand gun when I was two and it just makes me think guns are a much bigger threat than the bridge and much more lethal when making a split second decision to commit suicide. I really do feel for any family who's lost a loved one to suicide.

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DJayne	McPherson	Programs funding in the high risk populations: high school, college-aged, professionals (dentist, lawyers). Televised community resource in terms of language and problem solving during times of crisis, like relationship break-ups, career failures.
Jayne	McPherson	COMMUNITY RESOURCES REQUEST: Do you know whether there is a link for those affected by suicide victims? Would you be willing to link a resources site? Not for potential suicide but for "survivors" of suicide. There use to be a support group operated out of Hospice in Santa Rosa that went by the name "survivors of suicide". I think survivors of victims have a lot to deal with a may cringe or have phobias around the GG Bridge after such an event. Please consider this side of the equation as another outreach to community health. Thanks so kindly. Jayne McPherson
Ian	Mcqueen	Although visual/aesthetic aspects of the Golden Gate Bridge are important as it is such a grand icon for the Bay Area, they should never have an effect upon the lives of innocent human beings.
Diana	McVey	Let people make their own decisions about ending their lives. Why make a world tourist attraction look ugly due to a few people.
Barbara	Medlock	This is long overdue. A barrier, simply put, will save lives.
William	Meecham, MD	<p>One of the main objections to a barrier is the idea that people will kill themselves anyway, with or without the bridge as a method. However, suicide is not as easy as some people think. If the bridge option were not available, many potential suicides would be forestalled, for lack of an easily available alternative method. Many of those who jump would hesitate to hang themselves (which strikes people as gruesome,) or fill a car with carbon monoxide (which is difficult to work out,) or find drugs to OD on (which is a slow way out,) or use a gun (not always available, and leaves a tragic mess for loved ones,) etc. There is a perception of jumping as being quick, clean, and easy.</p> <p>Plus, of course, it is simple to drive to the bridge on an impulse, walk quickly to the center, pause a moment, then jump. Without such availability, many such impulses would otherwise pass. This is especially true in the case of young people.</p> <p>To argue that people somehow 'deserve' to have the bridge in order to end their lives at will, overlooks the fact that most suicides result from clinical depression, a treatable and usually transient illness. If elderly people with painful, terminal illnesses, say, deserve a way to die by choice, then the answer is euthanasia. Those who believe in this kind of suicide should work for a more humane option than jumping hundreds of feet into the dark waters beneath the bridge.</p> <p>Please work to install a barrier.</p>

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Carter	Mehl	Any barrier is better than none. However, the net is least effective because someone could still jump off of the net to their death.
Carter	Mehl	Most people opposed to a barrier focus on the aesthetics and mistakenly think asuicide attempters will just try somewhere else. They are mistaken. Most suicides are impulsive. Human lives should outweigh aesthetics.
Josh	Mehler	People will climb over anything.
Paul	Meier	I believe that Alternative 1B will still provide stunning photographs of the area while providing maximum protection.
		The vertical rails are barely noticeable when driving by and looking at the view. Removing the handrail will deter jumpers who want to climb on the handrail and will actually add to the aesthetics for drivers. Please avoid doing nothing. As an Assistant Medical examiner for the City and County of San Francisco I perform autopsies on jumpers and counsel their families when they die. It is my opinion and experience that many of these deaths are impulsive and can be prevented by building a barrier. Medical literature supports the fact that suicidal people often take the easiest available alternative and when easily available options are removed the overall suicide rate goes down. The notion that suicidal people will just "find another way" is not substantiated by the medical literature and is incorrect! I strongly implore you to choose the most aesthetic option that is the strongest deterrent: a barrier. In my opinion, the net idea will be expensive to maintain, will actually encourage jumpers (those who are "crying for help" as well as some thrill seekers) and will not be a sufficient deterrent.
Judy	Melinek	
Theo	Meneau	no more deaths
Theo	Meneau	no more deaths
Theo	Meneau	no more deaths
Theo	Meneau	no more deaths
Theo	Meneau	no more deaths
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Theo	Meneau	no more deaths
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Larry	Meredith	A suicide barrier is mandated to prevent this attractive nuisance from being used for unintended and unsafe purposes. In similar situations, such as with swimming pools or public works projects, public policy mandates that barrier protection be used to protect the public's safety.

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Larry	Meredith	The GGB with its 4 ft handrail would not comply with public health and safety standards if it was to be built today. It is an attractive nuisance that has resulted in more deaths by suicide than any other structure in the world. It is a threat to the public's health and safety in its current form and should be modified to include a suicide barrier. Considerable research indicates that not only will a suicide barrier eliminate future suicides from the bridge, it will not result in any significant displacement of suicides to other venues.
Arlette	Merritt	Any of the barriers would work. I do not favor a net. It would be more hazardous for anyone trying to retrieve a victim.
Arlette	Merritt	I think it is very important to build a barrier. The bridge is not just a convenient place for a suicide; it encourages suicide.
Jane	Mertens	We absolutely need a suicide barrier to prevent the many impulsive and preventable deaths that occur off the Golden Gate Bridge.
Lothar	Metten	I think this is a waste of hard earned money. We could save more lifes and lots of our money had we patrol 2 social workers 24/7 on our beautiful bridge. That might come from a different budget, but did someone do the math? 50 million not spend at just 5% interest would bring 2.5 million a year we could spend more wisely.
Daniel	Meyer	The bridge would look just as beautiful with a barrier there. And besides when did the cost of beauty become more important then human life?
Pam	Meyer	Do not penalize the public for the problems of a few. Do not diminish the beauty and allure of the bridge. We the public should not have to pay for the problems of a few. I am sorry for them, but this is not the right approach.
Sharon	Meyer	I have great sympathy for the families whose loved ones have committed suicide! However, if not from the bridge then elsewhere. I am totally against the defacing of an incredible engineering feat that gives me great joy and wonderment each day that I cross the Golden Gate Bridge.
patty	meyers	I believe any alteration to the Bridge will diminish its aesthetic quality. Certainly, the addition of a 10-12' cable system would dramatically impact the experience of both drivers and pedestrians crossing the Bridge.
patty	meyers	I feel any funds earmarked for the reduction of suicide attempts on the Bridge should be put into mental health programs in marin and SF. I believe any person who wants to kill themselves will find some alternative to jumping, so the money will be for naught. I cannot imagine anyone rejecting the idea of suicide simply because the GG Bridge is not an option. That's crazy.

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Ronald	Mick	I feel that \$40 to \$50 million can be better spent.
Willi	Mickelson	Anyone of the options that include increasing the height is going to drastically decrease the aesthetics of the GG bridge. The clear viewing stations will soon become scratched and graffitied making them useless. Even if they were not damaged, it would not compare to an unimpeded view.
David	Middleton	Do NOT waste the money
David	Middleton	Do NOT waste the money
Holly	Middleton	I am not wedded to one style. I would favor the least visually intrusive solution that is an effective suicide barrier (as proven in other similar sites).
Holly	Middleton	For whatever psychological reasons, the most highly motivated, active people in any public debate are always the opponents. I don't believe the 75% "anti" rate I read in today's paper is a representative cross-section. Mark me down as a PRO-BARRIER voter. I love the bridge passionately, but human lives outweigh aesthetics for me.
Maureen	Middleton	I think the \$50 Million would be much better spent if it was given to mental health facilities and services that help the mentally ill and suicidal.
Dale	Milfay	Any barrier will decrease the number of suicides. As Vice President of Nami San Francisco I can tell you that we know personally the tragedies that can be prevented.
Ray	Miller	I am no engineer but I can't believe the added weight and wind resistance of the alternatives presented will not adversely affect the bridge in the future. Continue to emphasize prevention as opposed to doing something that could damage a national treasure.
Beth	Miller	just close the bridge to foot traffic
brandon	miller	why ruin the views for everyone for the benefit of just a few people?
brandon	miller	we don't have the money to spend to begin with, and i'd rather see those dollars go to getting people mental help and off the streets instead of trying to physically prevent someone from committing suicide. surely they'll just go to a different bridge, building, find a gun, etc.
Daniel	Miller	Please do something. I've known several people that have committed suicide by way of guns. It was the quick and easy way out. A suicide barrier on the bridge will take away the 'easy' factor. I've long felt that if my friends had to work at committing suicide, they may be alive today.
Eugene	Miller	The addition of a suicide barrier will have no discernable effect on any of the visual, cultural, land use, biological et al resources related to the bridge.

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Eugene	Miller	<p>The provision of a suicide prevention devise is long overdue. It will deter troubled individuals and give them time to reconsider such a drastic step. Any of the proposed systems are acceptable, however a system at the hand rail level is preferable in that it will STOP a suicide attempt.</p> <p>I have been personally acquainted with two troubled individuals who would have been saved had a system been in place.</p> <p>Please this is an urgent need!</p>
Laura	Miller	Please do not change the bridge.
Laura	Miller	Please do not change the bridge.
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Marissa	Miller	Specific alternative: Vertical rods would require significantly more effort to climb than horizontal rods. Based on whether the barrier is new or added, there would be still be a 4-foot raised rail "whether it be the current barrier or the proposed rub rail. That leaves 8 feet. All that work would be a serious deterrent to most suicidal people.
Marissa	Miller	As someone who has attempted suicide in the past, I am passionate about preventing suicide. The bridge can remain aesthetically pleasing with the barriers while saving lives. Please read the NY Times Magazine article by Scott Anderson, "The Urge to End It All." http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/06/magazine/06suicide-t.html . The Ellington Bridge in NW Washington accounted for 50 percent of suicides in the state. Once a barrier was erected, that number significantly dropped. A barrier CAN save lives. Thanks for your time, if you read this comment.
Mary	Miller	I oppose any additional Bridge barrier. The Bridge is not the cause of suicides. Perhaps the money would be better spent by donating some of the projected building funds to the Mental Health Outreach services.

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Mary	Miller	<p>The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge has never had pedestrian access but the new construction will have this access. My understanding is that there is to be a four foot railing. Not one cent is being spent to add a suicide barrier to the Bay Bridge. I oppose any barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. We cannot deter people from their personal, and sometimes tragic, decisions.</p> <p>Thank you, Mary Miller</p>
Melinda	Miller	Option 3 is in my opinion the only option that remains true to the design of the bridge.
Melinda	Miller	As the grand-daughter of one of the bridges chief engineers, I cannot say how sad it is, that the Bridge Committee only offers one option, that doesn't dramatically change the view from the bridge for visitors. Option #3 is the only option that pays respect to the men who built the world's most famous bridge!!!!
Michael	Miller	A physical barrier is a poor use of money and will mar the beauty and aesthetics of this iconic bridge.
Ray	Miller	I am sympathetic to people who take their own lives but I strongly feel that the positive experience of millions of bridge visitors should not be altered to prevent a few misguided souls from taking their own lives. Leave the bridge alone. It appears to me that all these plans will add cost and structure where it is not necessary.
Susan	Miller	I would rather see a barrier between traffic to spare those who do not want to die. If someone wants to commit suicide they are going to find a way to do it. Better to have these bleeding hearts that want a barrier out there providing a human deterrent.
Susan	Miller	It is going to ruin the look of the bridge. I do not want it.
Teresa	Miller	Minimize materials used and focus on aesthetic value.
Whitney	Miller	a net is a great idea.
Joy	Millman	I'm also okay with Alternative #3

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Claudette	Mills	Although suicide is always a tragic and emotional event there is nothing we can do to prevent this from happening. The Golden Gate is a beautiful engineering feat. Driving and walking across it is breathtaking for me and also very emotional. The bridge should remain safe but with an unobstructed view for the millions of people who have enjoyed it and will continue to journey on it. There are tragedies but also many positive things in this world. Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion. (I mistyped my country earlier so I am resending this comment)
maureen bowler	mills	I can't believe it is taking this long and so much of our tax dollars to do something so simple and so sane.
M. David	Minnick	You are dealing with one of the great architectural wonders of the world. Each of the proposed changes to the bridge will reduce the visual beauty of its appearance. For all but the net it will greatly reduce the views from the bridge of one of the most beautiful harbors and cities in the world. This is a tremendous negative impact on not only those of us lucky enough to live here but on the millions of people that travel to our wonderful area. This is to say nothing of the cost of building any of the systems at a time when financial resources are more limited than ever.
M. David	Minnick	<p>It is a terrible loss that I cannot even imagine to lose a child let alone by suicide. My heart goes out to the parents who have had to share such pain. I know they want to do something that avoids such pain for others. However suicide is not limited to locations with bridges. It is the result of whatever mental events occur in its victim. The Golden Gate Bridge saves two thirds of the people who come to jump because they are identified and stopped so that counseling can help them. There are no such options for people who take pills, cut their wrists or use carbon monoxide poisoning to name only 3 options. But we do not call for banning knives or medicines or cars. They all have uses that benefit many more than those that die from them. The Golden Gate Bridge is no different. The millions of people that enjoy its beauty and views should not be deprived of that wonderful experience because of the unfortunate deaths of suicide victims. I doubt that the parents of victims really want to deprive the people that enjoy the bridge everyday of its extraordinary beauty. They want to do something to feel like they have stopped someone else from experiencing their pain. That can be done by bringing funds and attention to the many efforts to identify and treat the mental conditions that lead someone to take his or her life. It is not best served by depriving others of the beauty of the bridge and its views.</p> <p>Not all of us have the time or the motivation to attend your meetings that discuss this topic. You see those in pain who want to be heard. However you are charged with acting for the benefit of the public - all of the public. Please be sympathetic with the parents who have lost children to suicide. Offer them groups and funds that can use their energy to stop suicides at the source. Please do not take from the rest of the world this remarkable structure that identifies our city like no other. It is a structure that produces breathtaking views when crossing it as well as awe inspiring beauty when looking at it. You have a rare treasure. Please do not impair its extraordinary contribution to all who see it. Exercise your duty to the public good and know that you are doing the right thing to let this wonder of the world remain to be seen in all its beauty for generations to come.</p>

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Robert	Minot	If cost was not prohibitive, best solution would be to completely close the existing pedestrian walk and build a new walkway underneath the existing one...existing trusswork on underside of bridge would mask suicide barrier system, therefore adverse effect on bridge aesthetics would be minimal.
Bruce	Mirken	All of these represent a desecration of a unique and historical structure. None are acceptable.
Bruce	Mirken	The assumption behind all of these alternatives is that physical prevention of suicides is such an imperative that they justify desecration of a cultural and architectural treasure. In fact, free people have a right to decide what to do with their own bodies, including acts that we might consider reckless, foolish, or tragic. Not all suicides are irrational, but this attack on the Golden Gate Bridge is indeed irrational.
Ethan	Mirsky	Any of Alternatives 1 and 2 would result in the bridge looking a like a prison which would greatly negatively impact the experience of visitors and residents. I consider any of these to be completely unacceptable. Although I would prefer no changes, if a additional barrier is required, I believe that Alternative 3 (the net system) to have the least impact on the experience of users and viewers of the bridge and is vastly superior to any of the other choices.
Adrian	Mirvish	There is nothing aesthetically pleasing about a view that invites disturbed adolescents to kill themselves. We have safety measures for much less serious risks. Even the original designers were concerned about suicide risk.
Adrian	Mirvish	We have a moral obligation to do something about this risk.

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David	Mischel	Of primary importance is the integrity of the aesthetics of the Bridge. It is sad that some dozen or so people want to kill themselves at the Bridge. But how much sadder would it be if we killed the loveliness of this Bridge, a Bridge which inspires millions of people to cherish beauty as an expression of connection, strength and endurance by turning it into a prison walkway for pedestrians and bikers. That does not send a message that there are things in life worth living for.
chaim	missel	as a psychologist, I can attest that barriers save lives.
Alexander	Mitchell	I would definitely leave the Bridge alone. One way or the other; individuals who are determined to commit suicide will find a way to cross over the proposed barrier(s).
Marc	Mitchell	Don't ruin a good thing.
Carrie	Mitooka	A barrier is not necessary. If someone wants to committ suicide, they will find a way to do it whether that is jumping off the Golden Gate bridge or not. People come from all over the world to not only see the bridge itself, but also to admire the views from the bridge. A barrier would destroy the look of the bridge and block the view of the beautiful city of San Francisco and the bay.
Carrie	Mitooka	The people who jump off the bridge want to die. They will find a way to kill themselves regardless, so please don't build a barrier.
John	Mitre	This rail change is an absolute necessity and the sooner we proceed with the implementation, the more lives will be saved. Dr. John Mitre Kaiser Permanente San Francisco

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Mahmoud	Moayer	<p>With no suicide barrier, the bridge will look nicer</p> <p>and anyone with the idea of suicide has a good chance to change his mind when he goes to the bridge. Those who do attempt, they will have a good chance to be seen and saved by someone or police.</p> <p>This is better than an attempt alone at home where no one can see them or to stop them.</p>
Mahmoud	Moayer	<p>In fact those who try suicide on the bridge, they will have a better chance to be saved than those who commit suicide alone in their home, car or a private location. A better way to prevent suicide is to monitor and then prevent people. In fact the bridge can be a prevention medium if kept without the barrier.</p>
Brent	Moellenberg	<p>There is an unmeasurable effect of having an unblocked view from the Golden Gate Bridge that must certainly stop a few people from contemplating suicide. Please leave the bridge alone.</p>
Brent	Moellenberg	<p>This seems like a monumental waste of money. Please instead take this money (\$25 Mil minimum) and put it towards schools, counseling, or other more efficient and effective uses that would benefit a much larger number of people. Lets look at the cause of the depression rather than attempt to block access to all routes of suicide. These barriers will not stop the root cause which would drive a person to jump.</p>
Bill	Moeller	<p>Don't waste your money on such a project. Millions of people enjoy the view the way it is. You guys are going to put up a fence at a cost of millions just to stop a few people from jumping off !! You're idiots!!! Put in a gate that states "Jump here " & I bet the jumpers will decrease !</p>
Robin	Moller	<p>I am embarrassed that we still have suicides off the bridge. This has to stop.</p>
jeff and linda	momsen	<p>We think either of these desgins will have the least impact visually/asethetically, and will obviously deter those contemplating jumping.</p>
Ann	Monette	<p>I have not talked with anyone who is in support of this barrier.</p> <p>The \$40...\$50...\$60+ ? million it will cost would be better spent on mental health to help a greater number of people. Leave the bridge alone.</p>
Luis	Montalvo	<p>Human life takes value over aesthetics, duh.</p>

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Luis	Montalvo	Although I comment you on this forum, I'm dismayed that you even have to ask fellow human beings whether or not to put up a barrier to save desponded individuals and that the majority 75% are saying NO! Do you remember the story of the woman who was stabbed repeatedly in the streets of New York as she screamed for help over and over. Dozens of citizens listened, watched and did nothing. The same attitude of the 75% of San Franciscans that voted NO. A do nothing bunch lacking empathy and caring for those in so much emotional pain that they'd rather end their lives than go on living. I always thought of San Franciscans as a loving bunch of people. Guess I'm living in the 60s. How would a Jesus, Allah Bhudda or any messiah vote?
Gregg	Montarano	I am an electrician on the bridge. I feel for the families that have lost someone to suicide on the bridge, but a deterrent build onto the bridge would put my life in danger. I hope that the workers lives are taken in consideration, the danger would increase dramatically for us bridge workers. The difficulty of getting to our work areas would in danger my life, as I would now have to walk along the outside of the barrier up to 100-200 feet to access my worker area. What would you say the my family or the family of any worker who fell because this barrier? Personally I would probably end my career as a bridge electrician and have to find other job somewhere else (and I am sure I am not the only who would leave)
Gregg	Montarano	I am an electrician on the bridge. I feel for the families that have lost someone to suicide on the bridge, but a deterrent build onto the bridge would put my life in danger. I hope that the workers lives are taken in consideration, the danger would increase dramatically for us bridge workers. The difficulty of getting to our work areas would in danger my life, as I would now have to walk along the outside of the barrier up to 100-200 feet to access my worker area. What would you say the my family or the family of any worker who fell because this barrier? Personally I would probably end my career as a bridge electrician and have to find other job somewhere else (and I am sure I am not the only who would leave)
Mike	Montes	It is the right thing to do, please put politics aside- Those who have committed suicide were worth saving.
Stuart	Montgomery	I think it's absolutely outrageous that you would spend any money on this when you are running a \$90 million dollar deficit; especially for something that would affect a statically insignificant number of people. The only thing even more ridiculous is this debate is going on while you are raising the tolls by a dollar, considering rush hour toll increases, while doing nothing about the center barrier. Each of these things affect hundreds of thousands of people. As usual, you continue to hit the nail squarely on the thumb!

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Meghan	Moody	I am concerned that the net, however, may not completely prevent people from jumping. I believe the following questions should be considered. Has it been tested as safe? If you jump and fall in the net, can you get injured? Is it possible for someone intent on suiciding off the GGB to create an apparatus (e.g. a rope) that can launch him/her further than the 20 feet of protection the net offers?
Elizabeth	Moody	Safety has been fully considered, and aesthetically I would prefer no change. However, the number of suicides and especially of young persons can not be justified. The net below would seem to have least esthetic impact and be fully protective.
Meghan	Moody	I feel that the net deters jumpers while at the same time is the most aesthetically pleasing and maintains the structural integrity of the architecture of the GGB.
Anne	Moon	In strongly favoring the No-Build option, Visual/Aesthetic/View/Recreation is area of primary concern and Cost vs. Benefit is secondary.
Anne	Moon	The Bridge is a popular, healthy and happy place for the vast, vast majority of people who visit. The obvious suicide barrier modifications would make visitors and tourists feel as if they are visiting a depressing morgue instead of a breathtaking, magestic piece of Bay Area Engineering. While suicide can be a tragic decision for a person to make, the barriers may only reduce bridge suicides and not suicides overall. I feel that these grand measures would misdirect resources that could have more direct and proven benefits.
Kirk	Moon	Strongly opposed to altering current structure out of concern for visual/aesthetic impacts, cost/benefit considerations. The bridge is an iconic structure. It should not be altered.
Kevin	Moore	Extending the railing upward would make walking across the bridge like being in a prison cell. I would expect the plastic panels to yellow and be scratched up in a short time period. People will be scratching their initials into the plastic panels.

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Adam	Moore	<p>I don't have specific comments on the EIR, my comments are more general.</p> <p>I am vehemently opposed (so much that I surprise myself) to the barrier. I have two primary reasons for being so opposed:</p> <p>1) I believe the money could be much better spent elsewhere. The number of people killing themselves on the bridge is statistically completely insignificant. 40 people die from jumping off the bridge each year; thousands OD on Tylenol. If that money is indeed available, it should be dedicated to the expansion of already existing mental health programs.</p> <p>2) If I'm correct almost a million people visit the bridge each year. Approximately .004% of them commit suicide. The other 99.996% have an amazing experience, made so amazing by the very fact that there aren't bars, mesh, plexiglass, or any other hindrance between them and the absolutely awe inspiring views. Who hasn't been disappointed by the Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower or even Coit Tower. Separating the human element and the natural element by any means destroys the experience.</p> <p>My parents took me to the bridge when I was a kid and it completely blew me away. Now I've gotten to take my 2 year old and see the awe on his face as he looked over the railing down at the water. It's an experience he certainly hasn't forgotten yet, and I doubt he ever will. It doesn't make sense to take that away from millions and millions of people for the sake of the .004%. It just doesn't.</p>
Janeen	Moore	<p>The net option is a bad option for several reasons: 1) a net isn't nearly as effective as a barrier (someone can still jump from the net to their death); 2) retrieving someone from a net presents additional hazards for police officers engaged in rescue efforts; and 3) a net could attract people who jump as part of a [fraternity] initiation rite or other stupid endeavor.</p>

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Kevin	Moore	The bridge toll is going up. Counties are deep in debt. I would rather see money put into a center guard rail to prevent head-on collisions.
Joel	Morais	Alternatives 1A and 2A provide a sufficient barrier while also preserving the beautiful view that can be seen through the transparent panels and the vertical bars. The winglets of the horizontal system make the bridge feel like a prison and the horizontal bars might act as a ladder. The net system might not work because jumpers could still climb over the edge. 1A and 2A are the best alternatives.
Joel	Morais	I am a close friend of Casey Brooks and completely support a bridge rail. I hope this initiative passes because if it were up to me, I would take any possible action to prevent further deaths on the Golden Gate Bridge.
Vasco	Morais	According to teh engineering company, the Alternative 3 has been 100% effective as a deterrent against suicide in its existing installation in Switzerland. It has the least visual impact on the Bridge. It also have the added advantage of preventing objects carried by passers-by from falling off the bridge, and possibly injuring individuals on passing ships or windsurfers below.
Vasco	Morais	My congratualtions to the GG Bridge district in taking the tragic loss of lives of jumpers off the GG Bridge seriously, and concrete action to try to stop the Bridge from being a death trap to those who are unfortunate enough to be experiencing a momentary suicidal impulse due to improper medications, or a long term depression. As a long term resident, it would be nice to drive across the GG Bridge again and see it again for its architectural beauty, and not see it as the death trap that it has become for many poor individuals. I applaud your efforts to this end.
Melissa	Moran	The vertical cables of 1A are very distracting and negtaively impact the view from the bridge and the appearance of the bridge. The transparent windows are not a subsitute for the current unimpeded view. The horizontal cables of 1B are very distracting
Melissa	Moran	I am strongly opposed to any alternative which impacts the appearance of the bridge and especially the views from the bridge walkway. One important part of the GG Bridge experience is standing against the handrail and having an unimpeded view (no wires/cables or plexiglass). Any change to this would significantly diminish the enjoyment of the bridge.

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Melissa	Moran	Standing or biking on the bridge offers an experience that is unique to the Golden Gate. There is no other place in California to experience such incredible vistas and at the same time be so high in the air that one almost becomes part of the landscape. This is an incomparable resource and any alternative with the exception of the net would greatly diminish this experience.
Neville	Morcom	Any vertical alternative would adversely impact the visibility FROM the bridge which provides beautiful views and is one of the most significant tourist attractions in our city. The risk of destroying these views is not worth taking. The views should NOT be changed. Any horizontal alternative will adversely impact the look OF the bridge from all viewing sites. The architects did a phenomenal job a designing a beautiful, unique structure that should not be tampered with.
Neville	Morcom	The problem that is supposedly being addressed by a barrier (suicides) has nothing to do with the physical structure of the Golden Gate Bridge. It is a social one that must be addressed with different social programs to address the causes of mental stress leading to suicide. NOT by defacing the most distinctive structure in Northern California.
Arnaldo	Moreno	A barrier is long overdue for the bridge. Please help make the Golden Gate Bridge an attraction to the celebration of life, beauty, and ingenuity and not an ending to it.

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		<p>The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all ctually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable</p> <p>alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO</p> <p>BUILD alternative already stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be further studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost</p> <p>to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks who would make eye contact with people, which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far</p> <p>less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide.</p> <p>Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!</p>
Melanie robert	Morgan morgan	I did not find the expected stress from wind loads added to the bridge and what impact this may have to life and maintenance costs in the future.
amos	morgan	People who want to kill themselves will find a way to do it. Spend the money in more productive ways- mental health programs, police foot patrols on the bridge, help line phones on the bridge, etc.
Greg	Morgan	DO NOT ADD THIS TO THE BRIDGE!!!! WHEN WILL THIS NONSENSE BE OVER???
Greg	Morgan	DO NOT ADD THIS TO THE BRIDGE!!!! WHEN WILL THIS NONSENSE BE OVER???
Karen	Morgan	I am against the proposed suicide barrier. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will find a way; the barrier will not stop them.
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Melanie	Morgan	I do not believe that the Draft EIR/EA has captured the real value of the No Build alternative. In the midst of the public pressure to address bridge suicides, the visual and aesthetic importance of the bridge world-wide has been minimized or lost. The impact of the Golden Gate Bridge, like the Statue of Liberty, goes beyond measurements, sight lines, materials. I urge the District to look for other deterrents to bridge suicide - deterrents that do not so dramatically alter the Bridge's aesthetic perfection.
Melanie	Morgan	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.
robert	morgan	I first saw this bridge in 1963 and was awed by it. Living in San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma County since and it's always a pleasure to travel it or to take visitors to it. None of the suggestions will meet any reasonable goal to retain the beauty of this wonder.
robert	morgan	No build seems the right solution. 1A is second worst looking 1B is prison look 2A is ugly 2B is prison plus ugly C is less unsightly, but still ugly and apparently all these methods may make people choose a different site or worse, jump into traffic!
robert	morgan	I have reviewed the section (18 p) of this and the problem remains no matter which approach, but less than C.
robert	morgan	Sad that people jump off the GG Bridge, but they'll go elsewhere or figure or take the sidewalk into the roadway if the destination is the issue. A certain number of people in any city will attempt suicide and to modify a work of engineering to prevent this after the fact is folly. I'm surprised that the district spent \$2,000,000. to acquire this information.
robert	morgan	The apparent need for room to apply this and the cost to do so may be limited by prefabrication and installation during off peak periods. No doubt this change will impact many visitors the impact being unknown or difficult to pin down until it happens.
robert	morgan	Alternative No Build is the most effective means to retain the character of the structure and grant all citizens and visitors a benefit they expect.
robert	morgan	All the methods will require expensive maintenance and use of steel for this project increases the carbon footprint initially and over time, plus adds ongoing costs which trickle up to the users.

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David Kelly	Morgenstein Moritzburke	I think that the bridge should be left at is, in spite of the continued potential for suicide attempts. I think the money that is being discussed would be better spent on mental health counseling as opposed to any suicide barriers. If the public pressure is too great then the only alternative that should be considered is the net, so as to avoid ruining the view of or from the bridge.
Kelly	Moritzburke	Building any sort of deterrent to suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge of this scale implies that the existence of the bridge as is, is in some way causing suicide and/or responsible for preventing suicide. This attitude contributes to a larger issue of lack of personal responsibility. We as a society should be looking at ways to prevent suicide not safeguard physical structures that are used in attempts.
PETER	MORITZBURKE	The barrier will not stop people from committing suicide. It is a bad idea, and a costly one.
Peter	Morris	This is fantastic decision. In 10 years visitors to the bridge will wonder how people were ever allowed to jump off.
William	Morris	The bridge is too much of an icon to make such a drastic visual change to the bridge that would negatively impact walking or biking across it. The "No Build" option is the best way to maintain the bridge's visual draw and appeal. It would be more advisable to increase the scope and depth of the non-physical suicide deterrent programs.
michael	morrow	People don't commit suicide because the bridge is available. If it didn't exist, they would find another way and the suicide rate would be the same. Focus your efforts on mental health, not the bridge.
Dick	Morten	The bridge is a grand structure that should not be ruined with vertical fence.

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Dick	Morten	<p>I have had two friends commit suicide off the bridge. I do not think that a barrier would have stopped them from committing suicide, rather they would have found another way.</p> <p>Funds spent on a barrier could be beter spent on suicide prevention programs that would reach more people's lives; not just those trying to commit suicide off the bridge.</p> <p>Keep the engineering and beauty of the bridge for generations to enjoy without any barriers.</p>
shane	morton	<p>You're wasting your money. If you build a barrier it will not save one life. Clearly no one on that committee has ever been suicidal. If someone really wants to kill themselves then they are just going to find another way, like stepping in front of a BART train or jumping off the top of the H&M in Union Square. YOU ARE NOT SAVING LIVES YOU ARE WASTING MONEY. How about focusing on a more significant moving barrier between the north and south lanes on the bridge?</p>
Meredith	Moseley	<p>Alternative 1A would seem to cause the least disruption of what already exists while also ensuring the maximum amount of safety.</p>
Meredith	Moseley	<p>It is important that changes be made to ensure the public safety. I believe that a vertical system will provide safety while allowing the bridge to retain its beautiful views.</p>
Trevor	Moss	<p>The expenditure of +\$40M on a barrier which seeks, perhaps, to provide an obstacle to the acts of very few while ruining the enjoyment of very many is unacceptable. The interests of the majority should be paramount. We must remember that some will always find a way to do what they feel necessary. I expect that far too much from the public coffers has already been spent on this barrier. None was justified and certain no more should be spent.</p>
Amira	Mostafa	<p>I am in favor of any physical suicide barrier. We have a serious problem in our community that needs addressing in an aggressive manner. I would like to believe that as conscientious community members, aesthetics will always come secondary to saving lives.</p>
Jerome	Motto	<p>Installing a barrier is an essential project. It has been delayed far too long. The beauty of the bridge will not be diminished. Herb Caen wrote that a proposed addition to the present rail would ENHANCE the beauty of the bridge. It is a moral imperfative</p>

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Ann	Moyer	I think it is important to keep the bridge as it is. I understand a person's thoughts on losing someone to suicide but 24 per year isn't worth \$50 mil. If a person wants to commit suicide they will find a way unfortunately.
Vincent	Moyer	The proposed barriers and fences are both ugly and expensive. The GGB is an important monument known around the world. When I 1st moved to SF the first thing I did was come to the GGB. In the first week after moving here I participated in the 50th anniversary of the GGB celebration when the bridge was closed to automobile traffic. The bridge is important to so many people for so many reasons. Please keep the walkway and bikepath open to the 100's of thousands of people who enjoy the brige with no intention of jumping.
Vincent	Moyer	1A & 1B & 2A & 2B all have tall ugly fences. This fence makes it hard to enjoy the view when one is on the bridge and detracts for the beauty of the bridge from afar. #3 uses a strange looking net system that seems like it would detract from he views of people looking down ove the bridge toward the water below and would not be aesthtically please looking at the bridge from a distance or from Ft Point.
Marilyn	Moyle	It's difficult to visualize from these photos what the ultimate impact will be on the total change in appearance, but I prefer the vertical solutions based on what I can see in the photos.
Marilyn	Moyle	If these changes can save lives, they are worth the money. Freeway bridges and other bridges are frequent sites of suicides. Constructing these bridges with that possibility in mind should be part of every architectural design.
Emil	Mozaffari	A barrier will not prevent a suicide. A person who wants to commit suicide will do so using many available means. To fence-up the Golden Gate Bridge will only result in unnecessary expense and maintenance and detract from the beauty of the bridge.
Jennifer	Muehlenkamp	I choose the verticle option for visual reasons and because verticle poles are harder to climb up and jump from than horizontal.
Jennifer	Muehlenkamp	This is an essential addition to save lives and prevent many suicides and other potentially impulsive injuries/deaths.
Nancy	Muggoch	The bridge will look fine with either alternative and other communities have come up with money for solutions when faced with similar issues.
Nancy	Muggoch	I don't honestly care what you use--just stop creating such a draw for these poor ill/young/impulsive/confused people to kill themselves. What kind of people are we that we haven't fixed this a long time ago? I am ashamed to live here.
Jeanne	Muir	First priority is a barrier. Any effective barrier. Not a net.

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Jeanne	Muir	I am a long time resident of San Francisco, currently residing somewhere else. The beauty of the bridge is degraded by the deaths to which it contributes.
janet	mulholland	th gloden gate bridge is an icon. It should remain untamed as in the history books
janet	mulholland	Suicide is a personel choice. It is usually well thought out and planned. Not just your typical golden gate visitor deciding to jump. By creating the barrier you will just push the people impacted by this to another location. Why spend millions to target a few individuals that will most likely choose another local to complete their task.
Paul	Muller	<p>No -build Alternative</p> <p>The EIR and supporting documents do not clearly and consistently specify the number of human deaths likely to occur if the no-build alternative is selected. There has been a yearly average of 24 such deaths for over 40 years. This rate of death has been consistent irrespective of the non-physical suicide deterrent programs in place. Policy makersâ€™and the general publicâ€™must understand the no build alternative means these deaths will continue.</p>
Paul	Muller	<p>Net Alternative</p> <p>While the net is likely to reduce both the jumps and attempts it is not likely to be as effective as the taller railing alternatives. The argument for the net system hangs largely on a belief that the Swiss experienceâ€™installing nets below a popular suicide bridge and seeing no further jumping take placeâ€™will be repeated at the Golden Gate. I believe this to be highly unlikely. The number of jumps and attempts from the Golden Gate is much greater than those reported by Swiss authorities. Secondly the use of the Golden Gate as a suicide location has gone on for over 70 yearsâ€™far longer than the problem confronting the Swiss. Finally, while the suicide attempts might be reduced, the net could attract stunt jumpers and thrill seekers in a manner not seen on other less well-known bridges. Serious injury and death could result from these jumps as well.</p> <p>Further, those who do jump and are caught by the net may be able to climb the netting in and subsequently fall to the water. District officials have admitted this in public meetings. One can imagine how long it will take the suicide instruction web sitesâ€™and there are a number of such sitesâ€™to post detailed instructions of where and how to fall into the Golden Gate Bridge Net, climb and then fall into the bay. Indeed, knowing the net is a greater challenge could encourage more jumps.</p> <p>None of these problems exist with the taller railing alternatives.</p>

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TIM	MULLER	SOCIETY MUST BE MORE CONSCIENTIOUS AND AWARE OF THE COSTS ASSOCIATED IN PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS. A BARRIER IS JUST TOO COSTLY..THE NANNY ATTITUDE SADLY OUGHT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT YOU CANNOT GET THROUGH LIFE ALIVE.
Bill	Mullins	It seems to me that perhaps something horizontal of heavy wire mesh or heavy-duty nylon/plastic or other webbing added to the outside rail might work well, and not mar the view in any extreme way for walkers or drivers. Adding a net system below poses additional issues like how to remove a mentally-ill or perhaps insane person from the netting mechanism without dangerous consequences.
Bill	Mullins	Clearly If nothing is done on this matter than as a society we are continuing to say that we do not care about people that are experiencing tough times/depression and cannot turn back once they've made the wrong decision to jump! Now is the time to act-whatever is done.
K	Munjee	I cannot tell from the images, but in Alternative 3, it seems to me someone could jump from the sidewalk and land on the netting... from there could they not jump over that edge? If so, I think that is not a good idea. If this is not the case, I would be more interested in Alternative 3.
K	Munjee	I prefer the vertical options to the horizontal ones. Partly just personal preference, partly because it looks more elegant without the winglet at the top. I also like the idea of replacing the railing rather than having two sets of railings.
Bruce	Munro	All the ideas have negative visual and aesthetic consequences. It is also ridiculous for the bridge district to spend millions for suicide prevention when the toll keeps going up without such expense. Get busy painting the cables. They look terrible.
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above.
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above

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Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above.
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above.
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above
Bruce	Munro	See no. 3 above
Joseph	Munson	This is such a critical project that is needed, not just to save lives at the bridge, but to let people in the world know that suicide is a very serious issue and it is viewed as such. The alternative 1B will still allow people of all sizes to view the scene and still keep the integrity of the bridge intact, also preventing people from impulsively attempting to take their lives.
Kim	Munson	Vis/aes: I think the net system is a win/win, you can help save people from themselves without destroying the classic design of the bridge.
Kim	Munson	I know Kevin Hines' family, and what his father has gone through. I can only imagine this multiplied by all the other families that have lost someone. The net system would deter people, since they couldn't fall, yet it wouldn't interfere with the view, or be the design eyesore any of the barriers would be.
Elaine	Mura	Whatever system is employed, it should be done quickly to avoid suicides in future.
Marilyn	Muratore	Those people that have suicidal tendencies will just find another place to complete their act if a barrier is installed. By forcing them to select another site could jeopardize other people lives. The bridge jump jeopardizes no one, other than the suicide victim.
Patrick	Murphy	The Draft should be more explicit in stating that none of the proposed changes will ensure that there are no more suicides off of the bridge. In fact, one cannot even guarantee that there will be fewer in the coming years should one of the systems be added.
Bruce	Murphy	I am in favor of whichever deterrent structure/addition would be most effective. Aesthetics are secondary to preserving life.
Bruce	Murphy	I lost an acquaintance/colleague a few years ago after jumping from the bridge. He left a wife and 15 year old son. I'm the Chaplain at Marin General Hospital and have experienced first hand the trauma of surviving families. I also talked with a jump survivor who was glad he didn't die. The bridge has a lure and allure that draws people with suicidal ideation. A barrier will save lives. They won't necessarily find another way to do it.

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Dijuana	Murphy	<p>Suicide is a choice and no matter what steps are taken, it will continue (drug overdoses, guns, etc). I am a single mother of two girls and have sympathy for the families that are left to deal, but this is not the solution. How about we spend \$40 million on health coverage, better education, feeding the poor, finding cures, etc? In many cases being without health coverage, food or shelter, are not choices. There are people, children, teenagers and adults, that all have emotions but we choose to live and suffer - help them. How about we spend money on the people who want to live?</p>
John	Murphy	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is a globally recognized icon of American art, ingenuity, and industry and has and continues to serve as both one of the unique images of America and a beacon for visitors to San Francisco, the State of California, and the United States since its opening in 1937. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, the bridge received comprehensive seismic upgrades that will help improve its chances of survival when another earthquake of the same or greater magnitude occurs (estimated to be a 63% probability in California within the next thirty years). These upgrades were accomplished without undermining or compromising the design, engineering, or aesthetics of the bridge. This was of paramount importance in the approval of the upgrades because the bridge's design and appearance is nationally and internationally treasured.</p> <p>Since its opening to the present day, it is estimated (no hard data exists for the entire time period), that some 1300 human beings have leaped to their deaths from the bridge superstructure. While such tragedies are harsh evidence of the fragile purchase some human beings have on life, they are not uncommon to mankind. Evidence of suicide is found among all cultures, ethnicities, and religious groups in all areas of the world. Despite the institutionalization of services to address this uniquely human behavior, the rate of suicide has remained relatively constant (in relationship to the population of the world), throughout history. Try as we might, if someone is determined to take their own life, there is not much we can do about it.</p> <p>While certainly motivated by genuine concern and sensitivity for those who might choose to end their lives off the Golden Gate Bridge, the retrofitting of this one-of-a-kind structure akin to adding notes to a Beethoven symphony or color to a Monet painting.</p> <p>As the public knows that (forgetting for the moment the above concerns), the estimated cost of any public construction project (often in inverse proportion to its worthiness), is almost without exception too low. This is true for the costs estimated to place suicide barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>The Velveeta cheese cutter grids, whether they be horizontal or vertical, segment the view of anyone driving or walking on the bridge to such a degree that the entire visual and visceral experience is profoundly compromised. At the same time, anyone determined to commit suicide will simply scale the fence and leap.</p>

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		<p>The stainless steel netting, while not obtrusive for persons taking in the view horizontally, is so for persons taking in the view of the surface of the bay. The netting can well serve as a trampoline for someone determined to launch themselves into the bay. For those ensared by the net, then comes danger to their rescuers who must risk their lives to stop someone who has already evidenced their determination to kill themselves.</p> <p>Presently, revenue from the operation of the bridge underwrites all manner of public transportation, and constitutes an increasingly onerous burden upon those who choose to utilize the bridge in the principal manner for which it was constructed. The addition of additional charges for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the barriers present yet another bite into the pocket books of bridge users already ravaged by gasoline prices and increase in the basic costs of living. The few shouldn't be required to underwrite the costs of the many.</p> <p>The public weal is best served by the dedicated maintenance of the integrity of the design and aesthetics of a bridge that has outlasted the lives of millions who, with exception of miniscule percentage who took their lives, were enthralled by its magic. The Golden gate Bridge should continue to be able to enthrall those yet to experience its special place in San Francisco's, California's, and the world's heart, and not be subjected to well-meaning, but ultimately flawed efforts to prevent suicides.</p>
Marilyn	Murphy	I believe the bridge should be left alone, if someone is going to commit suicide, they will find a way - what we need to do is maybe not talk about how many people commit suicide from the bridge and how often, etc.
Patrick	Murphy	I cannot help but feel that all of this attention and effort is the function of a number of well-meaning individuals who wish to "do something" about suicides off of the bridge. Unfortunately, these changes will impose a cost on society (both financial and aesthetic) completely out of proportion to the "good" they hope to accomplish.
Patrick J	Murphy	I believe that a minority of individuals are rising up to manipulate a landmark structure that has unfortunately become a target for those who have lost loved ones to suicide. It is my strong opinion that by the time a person who has contemplated this action they will find a place to commit this act even if the bridge is fitted with a barrier. No barrier is my opinion!!

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Patrick J	Murphy	The drastic effect on this landmark will be something that deters from the beauty and the history of the bridge. If the barrier is placed on the bridge it will only serve as a reminder of the actions of those who committed suicide and not a deterrent.
Patty	Murphy	Why would anyone even dream of changing one of the most beautiful bridges in the whole world because someone might commit suicide?! Why does their problem have to impact the millions of people who love this bridge?
ryan	murphy	Unfortunately you can't just say no to someone determined to commit suicide. Let us count the ways. You can however say it to those who insist that a barrier on the G.G. Bridge is a solution. Please do so without further delay. Those who have lost loved ones certainly deserve and have our compassion, but I doubt saving lives is the driving force behind their efforts. I believe relief from guilt and to pay significant tribute to lost loved ones is what John and Erika Brooks, shown mourning the death of their daughter Casey on the cover of the Marin I.J. 8/24/08 really seek. The fight for a barrier is their crutch. Succeeding is their best hope for relief. The barrier is for them. Very sorry. That's understandable, but not justifiable. And yes, I do know their pain. My sister committed suicide by one of those many other ways.
Eileen	Murray	vertical lines sync w/ existing rails; most low impact of the designs
Eileen	Murray	The 'winglet' resembles a prison wall.. The net is a terrible idea, would look awful, be hard to maintain; and would literally 'tempt' or 'dare' people to jump on them, in my opinion..
Eileen	Murray	Shows how focussed our culture is on building walls/barriers as a 'solution'. My proposal is to install a 'turnstile' at each end of the walkway. Make them pay \$1.00 to cross the Bridge, give a numbered, commemorative ticket, perhaps have security cameras etc wired to turnstile etc..
Eileen	Murray	This 'positive', non structural deterrent would also generate \$\$ for GG Bridge District; could be used in combo w/low impact structural option 1-A. Innovative 'turnstile'(solar powered, of course)approach could lure special funding for related Bridge projects & for suicide prevention groups.
Eileen	Murray	see above
Eileen	Murray	see below
Eileen	Murray	construction of anything will have a big impact on the land use, recreation and biological resources of adjoining GGNRA.
Eileen	Murray	see above

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Eileen	Murray	see above
Eileen	Murray	see above
		<p>It's outrageous that a bridge known all over the world for it's unparalleled beauty should be seriously considered for a nightmare add-on of bars, nets and/or railings to assuage the grief of the survivors of the miniscule fraction of users who jump.</p> <p>This proposal only has legs because of vested interests: surviving family members, workers within the psychiatric industry, architects and engineers who presume to "improve" the Bridge and of course, bureaucrats at the Bridge District who have yet to find a project they didn't like.</p> <p>There is NO evidence a suicide would be thwarted by any of these measures. Why wouldn't they walk a mile to Lands End and jump off a cliff there?</p>
John	Murray	
John	Murray	Instead of destroying the Bridge to please the few, why not have regular patrols to deter suicides at a much lower cost?
		<p>As the poll in the Chronicle showed, though it was designed to tease out approval of one of the plans, the people of the Bay Area overwhelmingly rejected any tampering with the Bridge.</p> <p>Have the courage not to be stampeded by grieving family members into doing SOMETHING, and the decency not to succumb to the special interests. LEAVE OUR BRIDGE ALONE!</p>
John	Murray	
		why is any barrier still being considered when so few people want it? Why is the board not working to lower the cost to cross the bridge instead of pursuing projects that will increase costs? Did you see the recent Chron article on the barrier alternatives? 75% of people indicated that they did not want ANY barrier. Who is the board listening to? Obviously not the majority?
Michael	Murray	

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Scott	Murray	<p>The vertical systems seem more likely to physically prevent suicide attempts than the net system, which may be circumvented by (A) falling into the net and then (B) simply crawling outward, beyond the edge of the net. I favor an option like 1A with vertical bars (more difficult to climb, and therefore a more effective deterrent) but additionally with the clear shield on top, as seen in 1B and 2B.</p> <p>Another negative for the net system is that it's not clear how</p>
Adrienne	Myers	Upset about the designs presented by the consultant. Disturbed by the ugliness of the design, as well as the cost. Feels that there is a simpler way of handling this matter, and that is by using electronic, low voltage wire. She plans on locating a source for this wire and will contact the District when she finds one.
Janice	Myers	As a former opponent of a barrier, my mind was changed after debriefing US Coast Guard members suffering from extreme stress symptoms after recovering nothing but bloated, obliterated humans. The horror that these heroes deal with should not occur. I would rather my tax dollars go towards a barrier than trying to repair the psyche of first responders - something they are resistant to, as it makes them appear 'weak'.
Tracy	Myers	Although the emotional pleas of affected families members are compelling. Public policy should NOT be implemented based on emotion. Although family members may not want to admit this, very few people just impulsively decide to commit suicide. I have a close family member who suffers from mental illness who has considered suicide at times to end her suffering and I have a great uncle who hung himself to end his suffering due to schitzophrenia. I know what it is like to lose someone you love. Instead of the barrier, increase patrols on the bridge and create more outreach programs to stop people BEFORE they decide to end their lives at the edge of the bridge. I cannot say EMPHATICALLY enough that this barrier is a BAD idea. Please let reason win out over emotion and listen to the MAJORITY of Bay Area residents and decide NOT to build this barrier. It is the wrong solution to a tragic problem.
Rich	Myhre	A functional question: Could someone landing in the Alt. 3 net easily crawl over the edge? I realize psychologically they might elect not to, but how easy is it physically?

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Rich	Myhre	Tradition ("inertia") is a strong force, explaining why many people want no change, but suicides affect all of us in a lot more ways than people might imagine. There's been 70 years of pain and sorrow, and I think it behoves us to take some steps toward change.
J	Naish	Please decide to support a solid solution (barrier) to the outrageous numbers of people who jump off the bridge each year....even one is too many. The research shows that a barrier WILL make a difference and save lives. The madness has got to stop.
Patrick	Nance	I feel 2A is the most aesthetic and would provide enhanced view. However, agile young men might easily surmount it. It should have a winglet to prevent this. This is why 2A is my second choice. With winglet, 2A would be my first choice.
Patrick	Nance	Well done! I used to oppose a barrier, but the data is irrefutable. We must place a barrier!
Clarissa	Nantes	I think that the visual/aesthetics are a strong argument against any of the build alternatives, except the net. However, my concern with the net is that exorbitant amounts of money is spent, and people just crawl off the net and jump into the water from there. In all, I just don't think anymore money should be spent on this endeavor.
Clarissa	Nantes	Although I sympathize with survivors of suicides and suicide attempts from the bridge, it does not seem to be a reasonable expectation to build this suicide barrier. If we do this, why not ban knives from homes, get rid of cars, on and on. We cannot and should not attempt to protect people from themselves and what they would do with otherwise non-life threatening objects. There should be other means to deal with depressed people who would commit suicide. Please, let's use some common sense here and expect citizens to do the same.
Iran	Narges	I'm strongly opposed to anything that encloses the walkway and obscures the view -- the net system seems to be the only one that doesn't ruin the aesthetics of the bridge.
esmat	nasr	There are 1,300 reasons why a suicide barrier is needed. That's the number of documented suicides since the bridge first opened in 1937. The main reason why the Golden Gate Bridge is a magnet is because jumping off is easy
Lexi	Nation	The visual aspect does not outweigh the moral.

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Matthew	Naughtin	<p>Don't do it! Leave the bridge alone!</p> <p>If people choose to take their quietus this way, it is their free choice. Don't destroy the international symbol of the city out of a misguided impulse to "correct" other people's behavior.</p>
Michelle	Neal	I believe that it does not matter what the bridge looks like in comparison to saving people's lives.
Guy	Needham	See my comments below please.
Guy	Needham	<p>Eight years ago my best friend (38 years old at the time) committed suicide. He first went to the Golden Gate Bridge and contemplated jumping, but didn't, in spite of the lack of a barrier. The next day, however, he jumped off Evans Hall on the UC Berkeley campus.</p> <p>Eight years later, I cannot believe the amount of time that's being wasted on the issue of a suicide barrier. And the prospect of spending \$40M+ on constructing such a thing is almost criminal, considering this is to "potentially" prevent an average of 18 suicides a year, while thousands of eager, ambitious youths are getting short-changed on their education every day due to budget shortfalls.</p> <p>Stop pandering to the unfortunate few who so publicly & vociferously have decided to make this their pilgrimage, and show some sense by ruling against the barrier. It won't stop people who really want to kill themselves. They'll just find somewhere else to do it.</p>
John	Negley	We need to be extremely careful with putting anything on the bridge. The main reason for SF tourism is the bridge. If you put up a barrier and it takes away from the aesthetics or obstructs views from the bridge we will all lose.
John	Negley	This is a waste of money. The GG bridge is going broke and your looking to spend millions to make it so people commit suicide in another location. Your not dealing with the problem your just moving it to another location.
John	Negley	There should be no barrier. It will take away from the views from the bridge.

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John	Negley	This is a waste of money. The GG bridge is going broke and your looking to spend millions to make it so people commit suicide in another location. Your not dealing with the problem your just moving it to another location.
david	neighbor	the vertical system would be the most effective and invisible as it would blend with the vertical cables of the suspension bridge. If you integrate the design to mimic the current handrail that exists i think that it would be okay to add to or replace the existing handrail but if the new design does not resemble the original architecture of the bridge then i do not think that removing any of the original structure is acceptable as i see this bridge as a historical landmark and it should be left intact.
david	neighbor	the horizontal proposal would just act as a ladder and the netting system would just be a hinderance and anyone determined to commit suicide and they would just jump from the netting. maybe we can put counselors on the bridge 24/7
Ian	Neitzke	I picked Vertical system because I have seen a tower in Europe with verticle posts on top. It is aesthetically pleasing and doesn't interfere with sight seeing.
Brian	Nelson	The bridge is perfect the way it is. Anything more is less.
Catherine	Nelson	If a barrier prevents one human being from jumping, it will be worth it. For God's sake, for humanity's sake, construct a barrier.
Dawn	Nelson	The most important thing is to have some barrier!

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Donald	Nelson	I don't mean to pour water on your birthday cake candles because I am afraid that it will start a fire, but as a Transit and Bridge Authority that is endlessly searching for millions of dollars in funds to operate the bus and ferry system as well as to maintain the bridge, I find the question of spending millions on a Suicide Deterrent at this time, nothing less than plan and simply a totally irresponsible waste of precious funds. For the millions that you propose to spend you could hire a crew of three full time patrol officers for several years and still have millions left over to properly fund additional bus and ferry service. The Brooklyn Bridge and The V Narrows Bridge in NY (just to name two landmark suicide magnets)as well as many other bridges have managed to deal with the problem of suicide without without the wasteful spending on a barrier that many believe may or may not serve to deter those determined to take their own lives. I know it sounds hard hearted, but in this day and age of budget cuts and transit agency budget short falls all over the Bay Area, to spend millions on the proposed project is totally irresponsible and without any merit whatsoever. We as the paying public deserve a better check on how you spend the revenue that we provide via taxes and fee's, are spent during times when people go hungry, millions are without health care coverage and schools face closures and funding shortfalls. Sorry but this is just another half-baked idea that will serve a few and make the GG Transit Board feel better while the general public derives no benefit whatsoever from the proposed millions that are proposed to be "WASTED" on this project. In better times with a budget surplus; maybe...but now with \$6.00 Tolls on the horizon and the rising costs for fuel to run buses and ferries, the Suicide Deterrent Project in ill-timed and should be tabled until budgets free up for extra unneeded enhancements.
Emily	Nelson	For visual/aesthetic as well as recreational reasons, I do not believe that there should be ANY building of a suicide barrier on the GGB. If this terrible idea comes to fruition, the only option seems to be the net underneath the bridge. This is the only option that does not obstruct the view or vastly change the look of the GGB.
Emily	Nelson	I am strongly opposed to committing resources to a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. The vast resources it would require be much better spent on mental health services. I was born in San Francisco and the GGB is one of the most beautiful monuments and bridges I have ever seen. People come from all over the world to see it and walk across it, look at the view. Although I feel for the loved ones left behind by a suicide, it doesn't make any sense to change the structure of the GGB for a relative few people (compared with how many people travel across it daily). And it doesn't make any sense as a way to prevent suicide either. If the GGB isn't an option there are many other ways to take your life. Spend the millions of dollars on mental health and suicide prevention programs and help more people.
James	Nelson	Both 1A and 2A are visually acceptable. 1B and 2B look like prison fencing and are unacceptable. 3, the netting does not look effective. Why can't someone jump to the net and then crawl off the net.
Kate	Nelson	Ugh, Please do not waste any more time and money on this. The GGB is great the way it is. Maybe a physical barrier between the directions of traffic, but no suicide barrier. It will ruin the views and that aesthetic of the bridge

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Keith	Nelson	DO NOT DESTROY A LANDMARK LIKE THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE... Spend the 40 or 50 million (by the time it is actually built more like 100-200 million on suicide prevention programs in and through out the bay area. There are other bridges that your not protecting...just protecting (destroying)the GG seems very wasteful. If you really want to make this fair...lets have a statewide vote and let the voters, who the bridge belongs to decide iif they want it built or not!
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Kenneth	Nelson	Hugely expensive and not the only answer.
Kenneth	Nelson	Other methods such as a telephone for those feeling depressed should be considered.
Murrey	Nelson	It is utterly ludicrous to me that this much money would be spent to save NO lives. Sad to say that people who choose to commit suicide are going to do so whether or not the GGB is available. All that is being saved here is someone's face who can say, "well, at least they didn't do it here." What about helping those who didn't "choose" poverty or hunger or homelessness?
Ret	Nelson	I am vehemently opposed to the suicide barrier. The bridge district does not need to incur a minimum of \$40 million when additional toll increases are imposed regularly and we still have to figure out who is going to pay for Doyle Drive, with everyone thinking Marin/Sonoma residents should bear the cost of that state highway in San Francisco. The suicide barrier is ludicrous. Keep pedestrians off the bridge if there is such great concern about suicides. We still don't have a median barrier on the bridge to prevent deaths from head-on collisions. A Marin Resident
Matt	Nern	A little common sense here gang. So you stop em from jumping here. . . what makes you think they will not just jump into on coming traffic or go home and bite a bullet? What is the net gain here? Looks like no gain, just an expensive temporary band aid while hampering the views for the 99.999 of folks who just want a good view.
Stephen	Nestel	Build a suicide barrier now. It is the compassionate and right thing to do.
Stephen	Nestel	Why not take a survey with bridge traffic via the toll booths?
Dave	Nettell	see below

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First	Last	Comment
Dave	Nettell	<p>August 25, 2008</p> <p>Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors</p> <p>Ladies and Gentlemen:</p> <p>TO PUT IT AS SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE " IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES.</p> <p>I would think that the previous statement is all that needs to be said. Judging from all the commentary surrounding the discussion of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge, many more far less important and compelling (not to mention illogical and scientifically-baseless) issues have been raised.</p> <p>My involvement in this issue is personal " three people close to me have impulsively taken their lives at the bridge.</p> <p>Furthermore, my experience as a parent of two children (now in their early 20s) living less than 10 minutes from the bridge, each requiring more than normal emotional support during their teen years brings the issue into even sharper focus for me.</p> <p>My involvement in this issue is professional -- my training and experience as a mental health professional and as a professional with extensive training and experience in the historic preservation, have caused me to at first question and then discount all of the issues raised by the well intentioned laypeople who oppose a barrier.</p> <p>Arguments against these issues and, most importantly, documented scientific research discounting their findings have been more than adequately presented by others so I will not rehash them here.</p> <p>My involvement in this issue is scientific " I have extensively studied peer-reviewed, scientific (not merely Google) research into the other issues raised by detractors of a suicide barrier.</p>

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		<p>You have already heard compelling, reasonable, and scientific documentation discounting these issues (David Hull, John Brooks, et al,) yet opponents to a barrier cling to arguments based on what can best be described as "old wives tales." You have a responsibility to assess the scientific evidence in making your decision.</p> <p>The bridge, without a barrier to prevent impulsive action on the part of individuals in temporary crisis is akin to leaving " day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, decade after decade -- a loaded handgun with the safety off, unsupervised on the kitchen table with preschool children in the house. Plain and simple " it is callous and wanton neglect of the highest order. As a parent, if this was discovered and reported, my children would be placed in foster care immediately and I would be arrested -- rightly so.</p> <p>As Bridge District Directors, you are as responsible as the parent who leaves the loaded gun on the table.</p> <p>I urge you, in the strongest terms, not to treat this issue has a referendum based on how many responses you receive for and against a suicide barrier, but as an opportunity to do the right thing, to save lives, by "taking the gun off the table" in voting to install the most effective suicide barrier.</p> <p>A lost life on the average of every two weeks is not acceptable. Please remember that by voting for a suicide barrier you are reversing decades of neglect and are voting to save lives.</p> <p>Please " do the right thing.</p> <p>Dave Nettell Mill Valley, CA</p>
Laura	Nettell	See below.

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First	Last	Comment
Laura	Nettell	<p>August 25, 2008</p> <p>I watched Clive Barry grow up. He was a gangly, annoying seven-year old that used to pester his older sister and myself into giving him blackberries we picked that were supposed to be for the pie we were making. I saw him evolve into an intelligent, funny and compassionate young man that would roller blade to school, but forget his shoes so heâ€™d have to spend the entire day in his socks. There are not enough words to describe Clive. He was a part of my life and then one day, two years ago, he left it. He jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>He was sixteen years old.</p> <p>Iâ€™ve known of several people close to members of my family that have jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge. Iâ€™ve seen the devastation that has been caused by a suicide. Clive was the first real experience I had with losing someone close to me in that way. Itâ€™s hard enough knowing that Clive is gone and Iâ€™ll never get to joke around with him again, never get to hear about his newest girlfriend. Whatâ€™s even worse, is knowing that he could be here right now.</p> <p>I am not saying that a barrier, a net or any other options you are considering would be the magical answer to the youth suicide problem. Trust me when I say that I have come in contact with more suicidal people than most people do in their lifetime. Itâ€™s because I was in their numbers for a great percentage of my teenage years. I even attempted several times. There is a reason I am still alive today and thatâ€™s because I chose attempts that didnâ€™t have 98% risk of succeeding.</p> <p>Something I have come to realize is that teenagers, especially in Marin County, have been growing steadily worse in the mental health area. I donâ€™t care if parents, teachers or any other adults are choosing to ignore it, saying itâ€™s just a phase, theyâ€™ll get over it. Iâ€™ve seen my peers and my friends do horrific things to their bodies, like carving words, like "bitch" and "whore", into their arms with razor blades, starving their bodies into almost nothing. Just because we come from this rich and well-off area does not equal happy kids. When you add to that an iconic bridge with a four-foot rail -- that sits just a few miles from where we live? It spells disaster.</p> <p>This barrier would save lives. I know people have stated that this barrier is marring our cityâ€™s most recognizable monument. What baffles me is how would a barrier change that? They have barriers on top of the Space Needle in Seattle. They have it on the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building, and the Statue of Liberty. All of these monuments are still considered iconic and still bring in a huge amount of revenue for their respective cities. How is passively standing by and letting two people a month (that we know of) jump off the Golden Gate Bridge showing the Bay Area in a good light? That we care more about appearances of piece of architecture than the lives of our friends, neighbors and children?</p>

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Philip	Nettle	All proposed physical barriers create a an unacceptable, major degradation to the pure aesthetics of the bridge. The bridge should not be negatively altered to protect such a miniscule segment of our population from themselves.
Philip	Nettle	The estimated costs are astronomical! What is the benefit to vast majority of the population who must pay for this proposed white elephant? What a waste of Bridge District funds!

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michael	nevin	Unless one can argue that building a suicide deterrent system on the GG Bridge will ultimately result in cost savings (i.e. bicycle patrols, motor patrols, retrieval efforts) over and above the cost of implementation, this project is just a waste of valuable tax revenue. If implemented, the number of suicides on the GG Bridge will decrease. However, if people want to commit suicide they will find alternate locations or methods to do so (perhaps less effective locations or methods resulting in yet other potential problems). Ultimately, the city-wide number of suicides will be unchanged, and the city will be out \$40-50mn. We, as a society, cannot continue to believe that we can protect people from themselves. That is a role each individual must undertake.
Vivian	Nevin	This money would be better spent on other things in the city, like education, road construction or crime in the city. Even if the city had the funds to help the mentally ill or sad/depressed, it would be better spent to treat some of these people directly. This huge cost will not minimize suicide because people who want to commit suicide will just find other ways to do it.
Dan	Newman	I don't believe any suicide prevention barrier should be built. I believe people who want to commit suicide by jumping off the bridge should be able to do so. It is certainly one of the more picturesque ways to do it!
Larry	Newman	1b and 2b height and winglet in combination make for most effective preventive barrier. 1b would appear to be more effective for those with acrophobia
Larry	Newman	We must take action immediately to save lives.
Pete	Newman	If it must be a barrier system, I prefer Alternative 1B.
Pete	Newman	Alternative: Suicide permits, only issued 2 weeks after application, counseling, and re-verification of request.
Tima Zoe	Newman	Definitely better visually to have the view, and a net!
Tima Zoe	Newman	Alternative 3 - Add Net System that Extends Horizontally from Bridge -- Definitely better visually as it doesn't bar the view.
Dorothy	Newzell	Instead you might consider installing a pay as you jump turnstile and maybe even a springboard so they can do some fancy jumping as they go. If they are sincere in completing suicide, they will find a way. We cannot commit all of our resources to protect people from themselves. Maybe this is nature's way of thinning the genepool.
Kai	Ng	The horizontal system without the existing handrail looks aesthetically pleasing, and the wingtop definitely prevents climbers getting over the top.
Denise	Nicco	We should be focusing on a barrier for Doyle Drive. The lives of tens of thousands of drivers are at risk every day.

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Katharine	Nichols-Smith	A physical suicide barrier is LONG overdue in any form.
Craig	Nickell	If someone wants to commit suicide, and the bridge is not an option, then they are just going to do it somewhere else. So instead of wasting money, and destroying the look of the bridge, how about we spend the money on suicide prevention programs.
Craig David	Nickell	If someone wants to commit suicide, and the bridge is not an option, then they are just going to do it somewhere else. So instead of wasting money, and destroying the look of the bridge, how about we spend the money on suicide prevention programs.
David	Nielsen	I heard a radio broadcast regarding the building of a suicide deterrent on the GG bridge. I lost my 17 yr old son to suicide 18 years ago. (He did not use a bridge). I think committing 15 - 30 million dollars to deter 28 - 30 suicides a year is completely absurd. That kind of money could be used for research for cancer or (insert disease name here)that could help save thousands of lives. You cannot put a value on a human life however \$500,000.00 + per life per year makes no sense to me at all.
Estella	Nieto	I think that the huge amount of money can be better spent as donation to mental health services. Or, put the money toward creating a central barrier on the bridge to reduce the risk of head-on collisions/deaths. I don't believe this will deter jumpers--they can always jump from the netting, for instance, or turn their attentions to other public methods (BART, Caltrain, other bridges,etc). (I don't consider the impact of bridge aesthetics as a valid reason for shooting down this idea because I do consider human life more important than bridge beauty)
Alan	Nishioka	I am opposed to spending so much money on something that will have NO EFFECT on suicide rates. Someone intent on suicide WILL FIND A WAY. If you want to stop suicides, you have to stop them from wanting it. That would be money well spent.
chaim	nissel	As a psychologist involved almost daily in suicide assessments I can attest that a barrier will save lives. Chiam Nissel, PsyD, 917-923-5319

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chaim	nissel	<p>As a psychologist involved almost daily in suicide assessments I can attest that a barrier will save lives.</p> <p>Chiam Nissel, PsyD, 917-923-5319</p>
No	No	<p>A net or barrier will not prevent suicides. Those who wish to take their lives will find another way in doing so-- drugs, guns, throwing themselves in front of traffic or in front of a building. It does not help people with mental problems. Mental health and care is what needs attention, not wasting time, money and resources deciding on a barrier/net.</p>
Stephanie	Noble	<p>I don't think a suicide barrier will save lives at all. It will most likely cause more suicides!</p> <p>There are a lot of ways to kill oneself, but the bridge is one of the more public ways, so there is a better chance a potential jumper will be stopped by some official or concerned citizen, and thus will more likely receive what they are really seeking: help.</p> <p>Think about it: Most alternative methods of suicide -- pills, razors, asphyxiation, hanging, gunshot -- are done in private with no chance of intervention. The unbarriered bridge serves almost as a trap, luring suicidal persons out of their private misery into a public place. Instead of looking only at how many lives have been lost, we should also be looking at how many lives have been saved. Is there a record of the number of people who have been talked out of jumping? That would be well worth noting.</p> <p>There is a pro-barrier argument that states that when someone plans to jump, the existence of the barrier will give them time to pause and reflect. Once there is a barrier people will know that they can't jump off the bridge and won't even go there. We are talking about people who are desperate, not stupid.</p> <p>If we are willing to spend this kind of money on a barrier, why can't we spend a much smaller amount on funding a program of watchfulness, with teams of bridge walkers/cyclists trained to spot suicidal behavior, and to talk jumpers out of their plan and to contact the mental health resources they need.</p>
William	Nocetti	I support safety/prevention over aesthetics.
William	Nocetti	none.
Stephen	Noetzel	All designs look pathetic. Moreover they will not reduce the number of annual suicides in the Bay Area.
Stephen	Noetzel	Equivalent of Barrier money is better spent on suicide prevention services in the Bay Area.

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Stephen	Noetzel	If you want to save lives, spend equivalent \$\$\$ on Aids prevention or even mosquito bed-netting in Africa.
Sheila	Noii	The Golden Gate Bridge would be visually unpleasing with any of the alternatives.
Sheila	Noii	The cost of the projects is too great for something that doesn't even have funding. Funding should be created for suicide prevention programs and perhaps gate watchers.
betsy	nolan	Take a look at the Sydney (Au) bridge, it too is iconic and it's very difficult if not impossible to jump off of it ...
Ana	Noles, PsyD	FUND MENTAL HEALTH ADEQUATELY.
Andy	Noll	I do not think the protection of a few should impact the majority. The net system should be the only system and I prefer nothing at all.
Andy	Noll	My visual needs should not be impacted by this barrier system.
Andy	Noll	The 50 Million should be spent on other resources to help the people who would travel to the bridge to commit suicide. If you close the bridge to suicide they will find other ways to commit suicide. Death by train, other Bay area bridges, suicide by police and drugs. They will not just stop, they will find other resouces.
Andy	Noll	This is a waste of money and I will fight this expense whole heartedly. The Golden Gate Bridge is already spending too much money and wants another fare increase. The GGB district should be dissolved and put into the Caltrans bridge system. It is time for changes and the dissolving of the GGB district need to happen now.
Kirk	Norenberg	The Golden Gate Bridge is a California icon. Any significant change to its appearance would be disappointing. This would break its symbolic permanence and its connection to its history. The Build Alternatives would have an unacceptable impact on the Bridge users. Their sense of awe and wonder would be diminished, especially those who would remember the Bridge's former glory.
Kirk	Norenberg	The No-Build Alternative is the only option that is visually and aesthetically acceptable.
Kirk	Norenberg	We should not do anything to the Bridge that would jeopardize its recognition as an historical landmark.
Gil	Norman	The view to the multi millions a year out wieghts the possiable value of afew
Gil	Norman	Don,t 'Blow' the money...You cant save everybody from everything

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Matthew	Normand	<p>This is a waste of money. First, the number of suicides from the bridge is a drop in the bucket compared with the overall number of suicides. Second, this massive amount of money is better spent trying to prevent people from getting to the bridge (i.e., addressing the problems they have).</p> <p>Dr. Matthew Normand, BCBA Dept. of Psychology University of the Pacific</p>
Don	Norton	<p>The \$40-50 million expense cannot be justified. There are other resources that could stop suicide attempts on the bridge; such as trained foot patrols. The knowledge that foot patrols were working the bridge would also act as a significant deterrent, but hopefully interventions could also become part of this scope of prevention. This would be far less expensive and potentially more effective; a barrier is not a wall and even walls can be climbed for those willing to make the effort.</p>
Marilyn	Novell	<p>Any barrier would be an esthetic blight on one of the world's most spectacular, awe-inspiring structures. In concept it is akin to building the nearly 2,000-mile-long fence along the Mexico-U.S. border; in both cases agencies are attempting to address a problem with an unsightly physical "fix" that offends the senses and fails to address the underlying cultural issues.</p>
Chris	Nutter	<p>Even after reading the recent New Yorker article on suicide prevention, I can't help but feel that the burden is not on society to prevent any and everything from happening, especially things that people do to themselves. Make a strong statement about freedom - don't change this important, historical design.</p>
Karen	Nygren	<p>How much litter will the net system collect? How will the litter be safely removed? What will be the visual impact of having paper and other garbage collected by the net? Will the net be a "magnet" for people to throw "stuff" into? How much will it cost to continue to clean and maintain the netting?</p>

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Karen	Nygren	<p>What is the likelihood that suicidal people will find other ways to commit suicide if they are so determined, even if a barrier is installed on the Golden Gate Bridge?</p> <p>Could the money spent for a suicide barrier be spent instead for a barrier between traffic lanes. Would a barrier between north south lanes on the bridge also reduce accidental deaths from on coming cars? Which would be more cost effective and purposeful? Preventing people from death by accident or from those determined to commit suicide?</p> <p>Could the money proposed for a suicide barrier instead be used for needed improvements to Doyle Drive for seismic upgrades and safety improvements? Would this be a much better use for Golden Gate Bridge Districts scarce financial resources? Where would GGBD get the money for a suicide barrier? Would it take money away from limited transit funds and reduce transit service for many needy people?</p>
julia	nyquist	I think pedestrians should be able to view the city with minimal obstruction.
julia	nyquist	I wrote my comment about the no build option in the next box.
julia	nyquist	As a youth I went to the bridge to view the city and the bay. As I stood alone a lovely maternal african american woman approached me and initiated a conversation. Only after she had turned away and I saw her walkie talkie did I realize that she was on suicide patrol. If I had been in pain she would have helped in a way that a barrier never will, and she was more attractive and probably less costly.
julia	nyquist	j

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Linda	Obadia	<p>I am not unsympathetic to the tragedy of suicide. However, the idea of spending \$40-\$50 million dollars on this makes no sense to me. The small but vocal minority in favor of the proposal -- especially families of those who have suicided on the bridge, or individuals who actually survived a jump -- are understandably emotional about the issue. But this will not be the answer to their pain. An "outside fix" never is.</p> <p>I am less concerned about how the bridge's "look" is going to be changed than I am about the idea that society should be responsible for the choices that people make, requiring the expenditure of huge huge amounts of money to stop someone from doing jumping off a bridge, either impulsively or in a well-planned-out way. Do we take pills off the shelves at drugstores that anyone can use to kill themselves with, if they take enough of them or combine them with other substances? We do not. The means to kill oneself are many. We understand that individuals have free will and do what they choose to do. The sad truth is that if a barrier is put up, these unfortunate and desperate souls will find another way to take their lives.</p> <p>If someone wants to make the case that even one saved life is worth those many millions of dollars, it is hard to refute that; because in fact the value of a life IS infinite.</p> <p>When the little girl slipped through the bottom of the fence and fell to her death on the GGB, EVERYONE could see it was necessary to do something to protect young children's safety on the bridge. This difference between that need and the barrier that people are asking for is huge.</p> <p>Thirdly, nobody throws someone else off the bridge; so this issue is nothing like trying to protect society through enacting gun control laws. If the decision makers bow to emotional pressure in this case, they support a lack of personal responsibility that tries to get the public to compensate for the fact that our society is indeed, so sick, and individuals so troubled, that they would want to kill themselves. And THAT is where we all need to be at work, in prayer and in service to one another.</p> <p>Thank you for providing a public forum for opinion on this issue.</p>
kathy	ober	Leave this beautiful bridge as it is!
Alison	O'Brien	The bridge will never be the same if these safe guards are constructed. If someone wants to commit suicide they will simply find somewhere else to do it if the Golden Gate isn't available.
Alison	O'Brien	The verticle bars added to the railing look the most natural and effective of the options.
Alison	O'Brien	San Fran is known for the Golden Gate, lets not change it for a few thousand people that don't want to be on this earth anyway...
Jan	O'Brien	If a suicide barrier had been erected, Casey Brooks would still be alive.

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ellena	ochoa	The suicide barrier would degrade the visual and cultural resource that is the Golden Gate Bridge. There is no getting around that short of an invisible barrier. There are much better ways of preventing suicides in the Bay Area than erecting a barrier of great cost at one in a million potential suicide sites.
ellena	ochoa	This is a bandaid to a larger problem that would benefit from the \$50 million being spent on the barrier. With \$50 million, you could not only add additional bridge security such as increased patrols, video monitoring, etc, but the money could be allocated toward better suicide prevention treatment and awareness programs. This is a lot of money to throw at one of a million ways a person can kill themselves, which would also ruin a beloved landmark.
Denise	Ockey	Given that the most common method in the U.S. for committing suicide is by firearm (greater than 50%) and only 7% are from falls, I think that this is a HUGE waste of money. If someone wants to commit suicide, they are going to find a way to be successful. Spending \$50 million (likely to be more) on a suicide barrier is not going to make a big impact on the number of people prevented from doing this. California (in 2004) was 42nd in the nation in suicides, which is far below the national average and the average per 100,00 people.
Jerry	O'Connell	Minimize aesthetic changes and maximize prevention.
Stacy	O'Connell	People will continue to kill themselves, with our without a barrier. The issue isn't the bridge, it's people with problems. Let the bridge be the beautiful piece of architecture it is and let those who want to kill themselves blame something else for their thoughts of demise.
Stacy	O'Connell	Don't put up any kind of barrier.
tom	o'connell	Barriers do not address the problem. Spend the money on education and help programs.
Alan	O'Connor	This historic structure should remain unaltered and as its designers intended.
Cecile	O'Connor	What about a different more human approach., Why don't we fund a crisis intervention center right next to the bridge in the Presidio. Make it a walk in and have counsellors who could patrol the bridge. It would cost a lot less than 40 million dollars and it would probably save more lives than a barrier.
tim	o'connor	this is so STUPID. why we would spend money on people who want to DIE, when we could use the money on people who want to LIVE. i'm a born and raised citizen of san francisco who is adamantly opposed to this.

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kathryn	o'day	Suicide is horrible but the money needs to be spent on early prevention not trying to negate every possible manner in which someone could successfully accomplish a suicide act. If we prevent a jump from the bridge, how do we prevent the next individual who then throws themselves in front of a car on the bridge?
Sean	O'Day	Please stop wasting money on a barrier! Please don't ruin the bridge for the majority of people who enjoy it as it is.
Jan	Odell	I do not think you can really prevent suicide if someone is determined to do so. I also do not want to alter the GG Brige in any way.
Kevin	O'Driscoll	Whatever you do to the bridge will be detrimental to the overall aesthetic look of the bridge. If someone wants to end their life off the bridge, they will still find a way.
Ken	Oh	<p>Visual/Aesthetic</p> <p>Suicides can be prevented while still preserving the view and beauty of our Bridge.</p> <p>Build a 10 foot wide set of foot long, upward pointed spikes about 10 feet below the bridge deck. Anyone looking down will see rows and rows of spikes and a very painful death No longer will these troubled people see the calm sea far below but a horrible way to die. . Few, if any, will attempt suicide when faced with such a very painful death.</p> <p>Higher rails block the view and can be scaled. Nets are easily avoided by landing on the net and then falling.</p> <p>Jumping from the bridge is a painful death. Make the pain very apparent and no one will jump.</p>

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Mary	Ojakian	<p>1. Visual - 2B improves views from the bridge when driving across the bridge. I have always wanted an improved view from cars. Any suspected negative impact to views is offset by the invaluable benefit of human lives saved.</p> <p>2. Cultural - The original design of the bridge is flawed and this must be rectified as any construction that caused the loss of life would be. It is the ethically correct thing to do. This bridge is internationally recognized and will remain so.</p> <p>3. Land use and recreational - All impacts would be temporary and minor. The result would be lives saved for generations to come.</p> <p>4. Biological - Changes to the bridge would not have any impact of significance to the future of bird life (or other habitats) and would have a positive impact on the future of yet to be born human life.</p>
edward	oklan	Which one could be built most quickly? Is there much difference in timeframe? If so, I'd go with the quickest. the bridge is still beautiful, as are the views, no matter which option. Option 3 seems to have the least visual impact. If just as effective, I'd go with that one; if less effective as a deterrent, I'd go with one of the others.
edward	oklan	I don't really care which of the options are constructed, as long as one of them is put in place as soon as possible to reduce the likelihood of any more fatalities.
Andrea	O'Leary	Other than ugly fences, there will be no deterring people determined to end their lives. The City of SF needs to increase it outreach and services for people to find alternatives to better their lives/talk to someone versus feeling there are no accessible alternatives. THE NET ALTERNATIVE WOULD ONLY PROLONG THE AGONY FOR VICTIM AND OBSERVERS...VICTIMS WILL FALL TO THE NET THEN SCRAMBLE TO TOSS THEMSELVES OVER ANYWAY. OBSERVERS WILL BECOME TRAMATIZED AND VICTIMS WILL NOT TURN BACK. This is no solution at all
Andrea	O'Leary	Explore further alternatives for people, including volunteers, to walk the span and keep open a vigilant eye and sympathetic ear.

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fernando	olivas	<p>While we are all concerned and hope for the best for people wh o seek to end their lives but to what extent does society's 99% if the population have to pay millions to prevent a tiny few from killing themselves.</p> <p>Put all these millions toward the future of young people who wanat to live and learn.</p> <p>These projected plans costing multi-millions will also have to be maintained with millions of more dollars for perpetuity.</p> <p>Society cant stop all suicide tendencies nor attempts.</p> <p>Will we control drug abuse to prevent an overdose seeking d death?</p> <p>Do we sell plastic knives? Do we provide plastic razor?</p> <p>Why allow the greater public good be continually watered down for just a few whom we really cant control since our society is not supposed to "control" people.</p> <p>So no money, no barriers, no more wasted time, and energy. Put same to better use. Donate to school to prepare lessons to prevent suicide.</p>

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First	Last	Comment
Sophie	Oliver	It is my belief that an addition to the existing handrail would be a perfectly viable and substantial solution to this sad problem. The addition would need to be of a material or structure that cannot be easily climbed over, nor should it obstruct any views. I am currently an architecture student at Cal Poly university in San Luis Obispo and believe that some form of thick plexiglass, polycarbonate or acrylic panelling should be sufficient as long as it is of a decent height. By curving the top and connecting the panels on the outside (leaving only the small heads of the bolts on the inside), any scaling of the panels would be next to impossible as the polycarbonate provides no grip or potential for leverage. The material lasts an exceedingly long time and takes well to water and erosion. Panels will eventually suffer damage from salt, sand, wind and human interaction but should not need to be replaced more than every decade as long as the panels used are of accurate thickness. These barriers would be best placed on the inside of the existing handrail as the latter could obviously be used as leverage unless the panels exceed a height above the handrail of an average to tall human being. Plexiglass and the like are relatively inexpensive and the whole system should be feasible especially considering how many deaths it could prevent. Your attention is greatly appreciated and I hope we can solve this problem as soon as possible.
Ann	Oliver	I feel a net system would be totally inadequate. Chances are a person could jump from the net after landing there. Also the risk to rescue personnel would dramatically increase. The board is son intent on making the bridge safe for bikers and motorists, but how many deaths dto bikers or motorists compared to the number of suicides. A barrier is essential!
David	Olivier	The idea of spending this kind of money on a project that MIGHT prevent SOME people from committing suicide is absurd. Why not prevent people from jumping in front of BART trains? Why not line every city street with barriers so that people can't step in front of a MUNI bus? And don't forget to ban guns, knives, sleeping pills, razor blades, and rope. I feel bad for the victims and their families. But there is no solution that can prevent Golden Gate Bridge suicides without major, visible, and expensive changes. There can be no reasonable expectation that an individual who is prevented from committing suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge isn't going to try it again somewhere else. My uncle tried to commit suicide half a dozen times before he was finally successful. Some of these people lead tortured lives and are chronically miserable. Why should it be up to anyone to decide what is best for someone else in their private lives? Live and let die.
dale	olson	Adding barriers wont change suicide rate. all it will do is make those who want to commit suicide,find another means or location to do so.

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First	Last	Comment
Jenni	Olson	The aesthetic impact of 1A seems the least problematic (the horizontal options have a more "fence-like" appearance) so I prefer the vertical options. That said, it seems like perhaps the vertical option with the winglet might be the most insurmountable, so 1B is my other choice. I would prefer to retain the original handrail because it is an aesthetically significant part of the Bridge history, and, frankly, it is a vivid reminder of the reason the barrier is being erected -- people will be able to experience the original height of the railing and see how low it is/was. The net system seems like it would create problems, but presumably the Bridge District will be better at evaluating the pros and cons of these options. Lastly, I feel the need to express that this is a public safety issue requiring the leadership and vision of the Bridge District to solve the problem; this is not an issue to be left solely to public opinion (a public which is inevitably not fully informed). There are so many complex aspects that require significant amounts of expertise and knowledge in order to evaluate and arrive at the best solution to this extremely serious public safety issue. I commend the District for all of the hard work on this issue and look forward to the day when the barrier is erected.
Lisa	Omer	let's not destroy a national landmark...this will not rid the world of suicide, just make it less fortunate for those who decide to kill themselves where their family may find the body. volunteer at a suicide prevention facility if you are really passionate about it.
Katherine	ONeal	I think it would be awful to have the views of San Francisco obscured from the bridge by some kind of suicide barrier. While I appreciate we should try to stop people from jumping off, I don't think a big, ugly barrier is the answer. And the money could be better spent on other things, such as bus service.
Carole	O'Neil	As a health provider, i am attuned to the mental health issues related to suicide cause/prevention. while each and every life is precious, the barriers while efficient, have not been proven to reduce suicide rates, albeit at this particular attractive nuisance.
Tom	O'Neill	The question of whether to "suicideproof" the bridge is a no-brainer- of course it needs to be done. I'm an architect, and as such I would say that "monkeying with the bridge design" is not the deal- the deal is that adding a suicide barrier is actually "fixing a design flaw"- period. I think you should add tightly stretched vertical stainless steel cables on top of the existing rail- just like modern cable railing systems on buildings, only running vertically. With this, max. visibility is maintained for those walking across bridge. Other option is to replace rail with full-height cables-but why take out the existing rail-when it is nice, and not required ? As for a net below, what's to keep people from crawling out of the net and jumping ? A stainless stl. cable rail, topping out at 10', say, would be quite nice. Like I said-there shouldn't even be any debate on this-do it. I read in the paper that most people commenting prefer leaving things as they are. Boy, is that incredible. You should, as they say "ignore alien orders" in this regard-and how/no kidding. Like I said, the bridge has had a "simple design flaw" from day one- fix it !

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Bob	O'Neill	<p>Obviously, no one wants to ruin the aesthetics of the bridge, myself included. However, I believe the latter is being misconstrued as the object of controversy instead of dealing with the real humane issue of helping those in distress whom have some issue that would cause the desperate act of suicide. Otherwise, what is being pressed here is that officials are saying "Go kill yourself somewhere else!" because they don't want the world renown and much loved icon associated with suicide, even in the light of logic that most classic famous bridges or buildings have either a history of the act or some other legend tied to its provenance.</p> <p>So I believe that other methodology be applied using different resources to assist people at risk in a decent and helpful way. The latter could be accomplished perhaps with bridge patrols and counselors and or surveillance equipment. Then the initial budget requirement would be less of a hit than the proposed \$40-\$50 million estimate and the program could evolve over time to be more effective and less intrusive than a one time bridge mangle-over.</p>
Bob	O'Neill	I hope the officials take the time and use common sense and appropriate analysis of the stakeholders' issues to arrive at a decision for the direction of the action or actions that will be taken on the part of those people in disparate straights and them that appreciate San Francisco's greatest icon.
Michael	O'Neill	<p>I'm sorry, but I feel this is a waste of money. If</p> <p>people want to commit suicide, and they can not use the bridge, then they will just do something else. I'd rather see the money spent on programs to help people deal with problems that cause them to commit suicide.</p>
Janice	Opferman	This is an extraordinary amount of money for something that will not be failsafe.
Dennis	O'Reilly	Altering the classic design to become a cage will force people to think about suicide.
Dennis	O'Reilly	There are too many sourpusses on this planet now, so I propose a coin operated turnstile in the railing near the center of the bridge for any who are willing to leave.
Thomas	O'Reilly	The key is to save lives by eliminating the bridge as an means to suicide.
Mike	Orenich	I strongly believe that a physical barrier will not prevent suicides. Any barrier would be detrimental to the look of the GG bridge as well as impact the structure soundness of the bridge itself.

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Mike	Orenich	I strongly believe that a physical barrier will not prevent suicides. Any barrier would be detrimental to the look of the GG bridge as well as impact the structure soundness of the bridge itself.
Mike	Orenich	Commenting on the cultural resource impact is nonsense to me.
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Mike	Orenich	As a cyclist, runner, walker, hiker and frequent user of the GG bridge when not in a car, I feel this would be a HUGE waste of money. Not only that, it would destroy the beautiful views that people enjoy when walking, running or cycling across the bridge
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Mike	Orenich	Instead of spending millions of dollars on a barrier that will not prevent determined individuals from committing suicide (they could just jump into traffic), you could spend this money on Doyle drive seismic work. Or you could plant a lot of trees.
Mike	Orenich	Instead of spending millions of dollars on a barrier that will not prevent determined individuals from committing suicide (they could just jump into traffic), you could spend this money on Doyle drive seismic work. Or you could plant a lot of trees.
		Because so many people seem to favor the no build option I think that the netting system will meet the objective of creating a suicide deterrant and not obscuring the view from the bridge. I think the netting system creates a win win solution. Thank You.
Shari	Orgill	
		I am strongly in favor of a suicide barrier---any of the build alternatives---in order to return this bridge to its original purpose of transporting vehicles and people, and to return it to its original identity of a beautiful monument to engineering, rather than a symbol of death and despair.
Nanette	Orman	
Bill	Ormsbee	I den Springs Dr

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Charlotte	Osborn	Instead of defacing a national landmark with an ugly barrier that detracts from the bridge's simple beauty, provide a better mental health system and bolster our support services for our citizens who are slipping through the cracks. During times of economic hardship, people are finding themselves without recourse and support in our society. Address the source of the problem rather than just the symptom.
Sara	Oser	As taxpayers and caretakers of the bridge, we need to make the GGB as unenticing a suicide destination as possible. We don't want more people leaping to their deaths knowing their final act was a glamorous one. Let's keep the bridge beautiful in its architecture while building the best suicide deterrent we know of to make people rethink ending their lives on our beautiful tourist attraction.
Sara	Oser	Build the barrier that says, "No, don't do it."
andrea	osgood	All the alternatives are nicely designed, *if* you had to add something. But, the un-obstructed, original view is the most pleasing -- from an aesthetic standpoint.
andrea	osgood	Alternative 3: Best of the build solutions b/c it does not obstruct views out from bridge. But how far out does the net reach? Hard to tell. Could one jump past it? Alternative 1B and 2B: Horizontal solution best for panoramic views out from bridge (less obstruction), but don't fit the flow/design of the bridge as well as the vertical.
andrea	osgood	Bridge is a great cultural resource as-is. No barrier needed.
Joan	O'Shea	I oppose a suicide barrier.
Joan	O'Shea	My brother committed suicide by jumping off the GGB so I am an immediate family member, and I oppose a barrier.
Joan	O'Shea	I do not think there should be a barrier at all.
Joan	O'Shea	My brother committed suicide by jumping off the GGB. I do not believe there should be any barrier at all.

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		<p>The GGB is an historical, recreational and cultural monument. It is viewed and photographed by thousands of people from every angle every day. Driving over it never ceases to be a beautiful experience. Spending 40million dollars on this project will not prevent suicides. There are many ways of doing that. Installing cameras, personnel, etc. is probably a better alternative because it might identify and ultimately save the lives of some people who need help.</p> <p>That amount of money could be used in so many more ways to benefit the community. I think it would be a big waste of money to build a barrier.</p>
Susan Benjamin	Oshiro Ostapuk	Resources should be spent on general suicide prevention, not to specifically prevent the few of overall total suicides that happen on the bridge.
Susan	O'Sullivan	Will improve visual/aesthetics because it will show the world that San Francisco cares about people.
nancy	oswald	<p>People will continue to commit suicide with or without a barrier.</p> <p>I would rather see the money spent on police on bikes on the bridge (as now) and/or more programs to help the mentally ill.</p>
nancy	oswald	If ANY barrier is to be built, I would prefer just the "safety net" under the bridge.
C	Overberger	The ongoing cost of each alternative isnt clear; nor are the statistics which follow those who attempt suicide to their next effort.
C	Overberger	Loss of ones loved ones is unquestionably horrible. Yet a barrier on this bridge will not stop those in crisis from finding a new magnet for their death. Americans always believe we can solve hurt with money; we cannot. Let us use 40B\$ toward some life affirming positive social end.
David	Owen	<p>I am very concerned about the impact of any vertical barrier that would be visible from the roadway. The impact on the nature of the historic resource would be comprehensive and unnecessary.</p> <p>The net option would still create a visual impact to the most notable and important San Francisco cultural resource, however, it would be much preferable to the other more visible options.</p>

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Noelle	Owens	<p>To continue to leave the Golden Gate Bridge with no suicide barrier sends the message, "they are going to kill themselves anyway, why alter this tourist destination to prevent them from doing it now?". My mother, afflicted with bipolar disorder, hanged herself in 1992. She did so during a moment of mania, when my father left her alone long enough to go to the store to get her a newspaper and donuts. In the few minutes he had left her alone, she listened to the voices in her head and tied an extension cord around her neck and jumped to her death in the basement. True, she may have done it another time if my father had not gone to the store at that moment. Even more possible, however, is that the manic moment would have passed, and she would have battled the bad thoughts and found the help she needed.</p> <p>If a physical barrier could prevent just one death, I don't understand how there is a question about what is to be done. Kevin Hines is just one person who has given a first-hand account to how this can happen, and how the jumper can regret it so terribly. The bridge will continue to be magnificent with any style of barrier, and like all changes, we will all get used to it. The view will still be accessible and the tourists will still visit. Please go forward with the barrier.</p>
Mike	Oxford	<p>ANY barrier system is preferred to the no-build option. Non-physical deterrants have not been substantially effective; for the number of people "saved" by these measures, we are still losing the approximate same number of people to suicide at the Bridge now as before these were adopted. Many visitors, using the sidewalks for their "intended purpose", are not suicidal when approaching the bridge. There is a strange effect the Bridge has on people that causes them to contemplate their mortality and draws them over the existing rail. I have felt it myself, and can understand how a person in a weaker emotional state could submit to that pull. I believe there is a "moral imperative" to get some kind of barrier built as soon as possible. Any deterrent is better than none. Do not let a more vocal minority influence a decision not to build a barrier; the majority would want a barrier if they knew all the facts. Too many folks do not know of the issue at all and are shocked that this problem even exists. How many lives saved make the barrier worthwhile? Only one, especially if that one person is your loved one.</p> <p>Build a barrier.</p>

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		<p>The DEIR/EA is thorough and impressive. I found some of the wording to be slanted towards a no-build preference, which was disconcerting. There seemed to be a comparative shortfall in the description of the problem and the comparison of this Bridge to other world landmarks who have taken effective measures to prevent suicides from those locations.</p> <p>Build a barrier.</p>
Mike K	Oxford P	<p>They will find a way if they want to do this thing.</p> <p>Don't you see that? Especially the net! It will work as a trampoline and toss them higher!</p>
Gerard	Padilla	The Bridge is a national landmark and should be left alone. We do not have the funds for this costly project-please leave the bridge alone.
Nancy	Padilla	As a psychiatric nurse practioner I think that patients need this protection from their impulses. I also think children would be kept safer by these barriers.
keith	pahre	It would appear that the costs far outway any advantages that might be created by any of these alternatives.
Andrew	painter	I think a Barrier would help prevent suicide.
Genevieve	Palace	I do snot think taxpayer money should be spent on a suicide barrier. People who have determined they will end their lives will simply do so in another way; therefore the expenditure is pointless.
Jane	Palecek	I am completely opposed to changing the bridge design in any way! 40 to 50 million to make the bridge ugly- all in the name of preventing 30 troubled people a year from leaping. This is ludicrous.
Bobbi	Pallas	<p>Those who are endgame suicidal are going to find a way to commit that act.</p> <p>The real GGBridge focus should be on head-on collision protection (center divider and Doyle Drive improvements).</p> <p>The proposed funds for GGBridge suicide barrier should be better directed towards more availability of additional suicide prevention programs.</p>

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Mimi	Pallas	Why are our public monies aka tax dollars going towards a project like this? Leave the bridge alone. You cannot insulate every part of this world to accommodate the few (compared to the greater population). Use this money for something that will make I
		As a native San Franciscan, one would think I would have a preference in regards to the visual and aesthetic nature of the bridge. The whole point of the bridge is to allow the flow of traffic between Marin and SF; it was not designed to be a suicide method, and in its current state, it continues to serve that purpose as it has since it was finished in the 1930s. I would rather have a tall fence on the side of my bridge than imagine all the blood stains that cover it and will continue to cover it the longer we delay on taking any steps towards this plan.
Corey	Pallatto	
Corey	Pallatto	I don't care which barrier is put up, as long as one is put up. In the event that the bridge is left as is, the current state of affairs MUST be improved! More patrols, more phones, more cameras. Something MUST be done to stop the suicides regardless, so I hope that no matter what the committee decides, they will take action to improve the situation regardless.
Ryan	Palmer	I don't think any change should be made to the Bridge. It is perfect just the way it is. I see the Golden Gate Bridge as one of the wonders of the world. You don't see them altering the Egyptian Pyramids to prevent suicide. If people want to jump from the GG bridge, they're going to find a way to do it, even with one of these "solutions". I just think its a terrible waste of 50 million dollars.
Shivaun	Palmer	
Sue	Palmer	I am a Registered Nurse and routinely interact with individuals who have attempted suicide or are threatening to. It has been my experience that if an individual is so mentally ill that they are planning on committing suicide, they will find ways to do it regardless of whether or not there is a suicide barrier on the GGB. We cannot make this world suicide-proof for these troubled souls. The most effective way to prevent suicide is to keep the dialogue open and get these people the mental help they require. Thank you for opening up this forum and encouraging feedback.
Michael	Palombo	I STRONGLY oppose any efforts to create a barrier.
Michael	Palombo	Ugly! Ugly! Ugly! Do NOT damage a San Francisco landmark.

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Cara	Panebianco	<p>There are three reasons I oppose suicide barriers being added to the bridge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will subtract from the design aesthetic and integrity of the bridge, and 2. It is a waste of resources. \$40 million dollars because 1,300 people who CHOSE to jump off the bridge over 70 years is a lot of resources. The cost of maintaining the bridge is not cheap, the cost of driving across it continues to rise. There are no new alternatives for crossing from San Francisco to Marin. These are all pertinent problems that affect thousands of people A DAY. If people feel the compulsion or have the desire to kill themselves, they will do it elsewhere or will find ways of doing it on the bridge, even with barriers. 3. Execution of new barriers will burden the thousands of people who use the bridge daily, either for commutes or as tourists. How will installing these barriers for the average of 18 people a year that jump off the bridge (very low if you think about the number of people who use it for transit and as tourists) impact the thousands who use it legitimately?
Meaghan	Pang	The nation needs a better mental health system, period! A suicidal person will find an alternative way to take their life if the bridge is not an option. I am sorry for those who have lost a loved one, but putting a barrier up will not bring them back or make the pain of their loss go away. The money can be spent elsewhere.
Andres F.	Paniagua	<p>It's time to implement a suicide barrier.</p> <p>Let's do it.</p>
Lyn	Pannone	At a time when all levels of government have major budget shortfalls and are cutting millions and millions of dollars from education, health care, homeless programs and so on, spending this much money for a suicide barrier is lunacy. If someone is determined, they will just go somewhere else. And yes, I have personally been touched by a suicide.
ANTONIO	PANTILLO	<p>ALTERNATIVE 1A: Birds can collide on the vertical bars.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE 1B: Obviously, kids can climb up, somewhat like a stair well.</p>
ANTONIO	PANTILLO	ALTERNATIVE 1A: Environmentally, harming birds when they fly a significant speed.

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First	Last	Comment
Martha	Park	It needs to be fixed. Too many people die each year on a bridge that should be a beautiful landmark and not a scene of tragedy.
Patricia	Parker	<p>In researching the phenomena of suicide and the GG bridge, I was impressed that over 500 lives have been saved by the use of non-physical suicide deterrence measures. It occurs to me that the GG bridge as a "lure" for the suicidal has provided an opportunity for intervention that might not otherwise have been available to these people, and I am wondering if the use of a mechanical barrier forecloses an opportunity for important intervention to people who are isolated in their pain. It would be worthwhile to test whether increased funding for a more aggressive person-to-person approach might provide more benefit than a barrier. Perhaps a fee could be imposed for pedestrians to walk the bridge to fund this assistance, and the kiosk and gating system could be used to create an opportunity for contact between each walker and a GG Bridge staff person. There should be sufficient staffing available for each bridge walker, especially lone walkers, to be personally greeted, with a warm smile, sincere eye contact and an exchange of heartfelt pleasantries. There should additionally be a more visible campaign at the entry of the GG bridge visible to drivers and walkers that says: "The beauty and wonder you see from the GG Bridge is real and lasting. Painful emotions and complicated interpersonal, health and financial hardships are often temporary and can be overcome. Choose to fight for life to see another vista such as this. GG Bridge staff are here to help you because you matter. Let us help." I would also put up signs from surviving family members testifying to what the suicide cost the family and what the jumper has missed in choosing a permanent solution. I would put up the testimonials of survivors that say, the minute I jumped, I regretted it. I would put up a sign that describes what the fall will do to you in black and white terms.</p> <p>An arguably "bummer" media campaign on the GG Bridge that reminds all people of the fragile state of others seems more caring, effective and appropriate than putting up a very costly net that will deter suicide in one particular location while doing nothing to bring hurting people the help and connection they might otherwise receive.</p>
janet	parker	please do something to help prevent more terrible tragedies.
Martha	Parker	I am a school nurse, and I believe that teenage lives will be saved if a barrier is erected.
Holly	Parks	I do not want any visual barrier which would obstruct the view for pedestrians/cyclists - many thousands (locals and tourists) who enjoy the vista.
Holly	Parks	See response to #3.
Holly	Parks	I do not believe the estimated cost (which would likely increase considerably by completion of any project) can be justified. Although you cannot put a price tag on human life, there has to be a cost/benefit analysis and \$25 million (at the least) is, I think, too high a price to place on taxpayers (assuming that is where funding would come from).
meredith	parnell	I think the vertical options work better with the aesthetics and proportions of the bridge.

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meredith	parnell	I think that the Board has a tremendous opportunity to show real moral leadership in this area by building a barrier. We now know the huge role impulsivity plays in suicide and we have an obligation to stop people from killing themselves. \$40 to \$50 million dollars is well worth the cost when you consider how many peoples' lives are ruined by each suicide. We also need to show the rest of the world that we are not the entitled selfish people that they think we are. I cannot imagine how anyone who actually knew someone whose life was ruined by having a friend or family member jump off the bridge could possibly oppose a barrier.
Shannon	Parratt	Alternative 3 at least doesn't change the visual appeal of the bridge, however, talk about a new reason to jump off the bridge!- complete extreme thrill sport! People would pay a lot of money to have the chance to jump off the Golden Gate into a net below. Maybe this should be considered as a new tourist attraction/money maker like the bridge with the clear walkway over the Grand Canyon.
Shannon	Parratt	Please don't build a physical suicide deterrent program- please do keep an effort to keep a physical human presence on the bridge to prevent people from jumping or to talk to if they are feeling suicidal. Please do not spend money on ruining the aesthetics of a beautiful iconic bridge.
Fred	Parris	Net makes the most sense and allows some reflection which might prevent another attempt which may not occur if the barrier turns away someone who then goes elsewhere
Suzanne	Parsell	I know the survivors of a suicide feel this would deter suicides but, in truth when someone wants to commit suicide they will. It is not easy to park your car, get on the bridge, and jump. It takes time,effort and thought to go through this process. Please do not let these survivors dictate their will to build this barrier which will ruin the aesthetics of the Golden Gate Bridge. The Barrier is not the answer!
clayton	parson	I am an MD neurologist (retired) and must respectfully disagree with the (dysfunctional)psychiatrist who is pushing this thing. Stop wasting money on this silly project. People have the absolute right to commit suicide and will continue to do so - off a bridge, with a gun or.....
Brett	Parsons	Hate to be cold but you can't safety net the entire world. The proponents of this safety barrier are diverting the blame on an in-adamant object. The real issue is mental disease and recognizing signs of depression and suicidal tendencies.
Denise	Parsons	Please stop the suicides. I would prefer to save a life rather than worry about changing the look of an icon.
Gemia	Pascale	No matter what you build, if the person wants to die, they will find a way. For the small percentage that this might help, spend the money elsewhere.

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Mark	Pasquale	This is the right thing to do. You cannot put a price on life and one life saved is worth more than the money it will take to make this happen.
Kate	Patrick	there needs to be a suicide barrier on the golden gate bridge, it's ridiculous that it doesn't have one. The change to the bridge from the perspective of a tourist like myself would be negligible, except perhaps that we could be reassured people are not jumping to their deaths from this beautiful bridge, thus making it a happier place to visit.
Grant	Patterson	The draft should provide pros/cons for each alternative. If there is a ranking for the projected effectiveness of each alternative, it should be listed. It's really hard to wade through all the dense language to figure out the real differences between the alternatives.
Claire	Patterson	I don't think we should alter the appearance of the bridge. The money would be better spent on the movable traffic barrier.
Grant	Patterson	Please make a best effort to prevent suicides on the bridge. Please at least choose one of the alternatives.
M	Patterson	I firmly believe that if someone is determined to commit suicide they will find a way to succeed with or without a barrier. The amount of funds necessary to put any of these barrier alternatives in place could be used for much other worthwhile purposes.
Edward	Patton	The simplest and cheapest solution is to ban pedestrian/bike traffic from the bridge. People can use ferries, GG Transit or a shuttle could be provided to those who want it to access the vista point or bike/hike the other side. No one is NOT going to come out to the Bay Area because they can't walk across the bridge.
Chris	Paul	There are better uses for millions of dollars than to build any of the above systems. If a person is going to commit suicide they will do it - on the bridge or off.
clinton	paul	classic argument. the bridge is an international treasure that defines our area of the world. DO NOT DO ANYTHING TO THAT BRIDGE OTHER THAN MAINTENANCE
clinton	paul	why should we alter a treasure and incur millions of dollars of expense (out of our pockets here in marin)to maybe save 20-30 people. why should so few effect so many others negatively. more people get killed crossing streets. why don't we pay millions to have crossing guards on every major crossing? many other examples exist.
clinton	paul	would it not be cheaper and less intrusive to have human guards patrol both sides every hour of the day. not only sick suicide people be watched but tourists and others could be served as well.
clinton	paul	huge waste of time and money when so many bigger issues in the country need resolving

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Don	Pauli	Leave us alone. Gov. beaurocrats are nuts.
Eleanor	Paulsen	The one thing about a bridge suicide is that nobody else gets hurt,whereas if someone decides to use a car, a building a gun etc. there could and would be injuries innocent people.
Joyce	Pavlovsky	The visual/aesthetic results of the barrier are of little concern compared to the benefits of a barrier,and eventually,as time passes,people will take the "new look" for granted.Perhaps not the current older generation,but we should be thinking of the future when the barrier will be taken for granted.I believe the suicide barrier will not change the look of the bridge from afar,and it will retain its(the bridge's) beauty.
Joyce	Pavlovsky	I strongly support a Suicide Barrier on the bridge,with the safety net being my last choice.Any of the designs will work to make committing suicide much,much harder.
Robert	Payne	A change to man's contribution to God's gift of beauty is surely our responsibility as universal caretakers.
Robert	Payne	As a Baby Boomer, father, Business Executive, grandfather, philanthropist, and a Californian, I implore you to act responsibly and build a barrier insuring lives saved for decades to come, a legacy to be proud to own.
Samantha	Payne	It is time to act, how many more young, depressed, lost humans must choose to die with no help before you commit. You only have an upside in real human value. Forget the hue and cry of the 'me's' of this universe, and save one life at a time. Leave the rest to God and for those of you who do not believe in His mercy then to fate.
Samantha	Payne	A resounding PLEASE Add a vertical system to the outside handrail.
Terese	Payne	None of the proposals above with the exception of doing nothing is worth one human life.
Terese	Payne	Show mercy to every one who has or who will lose a loved one to the 'draw' of jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge and you will receive justice.
Jim	Paysen	May I suggest that you take a pole of professionals in the area of Suicides and decide based on that knowledgeable opinion. My own opinion is that any barrier is a waste of time and money. The helpless victums will find a way, maybe not as glamorous as "The Golden Gate" jump, but they will find a way.!!!
Elizabeth	Pearce	Out of compassion for the families of people who commit suicide using the bridge, I believe the bridge district install some type of barrier.
Edna	Pease	The important thing is to get a suicide barrier in place as soon as possible.

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First	Last	Comment
Bob	Peck	Absolutely makes sense to put up a physical barrier that will save lives. The aesthetics of the bridge will not be at all changed from the range at which viewers see it, even as they pass by on car. It's cruel and heartless not to do something to protect other losses.
michael	PECK	If we had a system in place hundreds of lives would have been saved
Richard	Pedemonte	We need a suicide barrier as soon as possible
Therese	Pedemonte	I am in favor of the suicide barrier
will	peden	Not enough attention given to the "No Build" status quo option that provides the best aesthetics for bridge & visitor experience. Small, vocal few dominate debate with cumbersome alternatives.
will	peden	People are going to find a way to do what they are going to do. We should not be asked to pay hugely for the small efforts that will be ineffective in any meaningful sense.
mia	pee	kl
mia	pee	kl
mark	peldius	Keep our landmark untouched
Eve	Pell	The net does not impair the bridge experience--everyone will be able to enjoy the magnificent views just as they do now.
Eve	Pell	Other Alternatives interfere with the view from the bridge, creating a "cage" effect with their bars.
Eve	Pell	The net doesn't impinge on the history and only minimally on the architectural effects of the structure.
Eve	Pell	The vertical and horizontal extensions change the character of the bridge experience, emphasizing its history as a suicide magnet. I would rather see other aspects of the bridge emphasized.
Eve	Pell	Net does not interfere with land use or recreation.
Eve	Pell	Please vote for the net--it's simple and effective, it won't change the visual character of the bridge and it's the least expensive of the changes proposed.
John	Pell	Any suicide barrier if desired by groups or individuals should be funded by them through a creation of a Fund for that purpose. You'll save more lives by building a safer bridge and bridge approaches. Suicide starts long before someone does it. Since you are strapped for money keep to the basic goal of the bridge to move traffic.
Jeffrey	Pelo	The bridge's unique design and character will be destroyed by adding walls. It will look like a giant cage for bridge crossers

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Jeffrey	Pelo	None of the options improve the bridge's design or character. In fact all of the options look ridiculous.
Jeffrey	Pelo	If someone can't commit suicide on this bridge, they will do it somewhere else, like the bay bridge or the cliff house Putting all of these resources and efforts behind this project is a waste of time. Putting the \$25 million toward more important social programs would be a lot wiser and way more beneficial.
Jeffrey	Pelo	Part of the wonder, fascination and drama of this bridge is being able to look over and see the water and boats below. Unrestricted views of our natural treasure which is the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean is a quality of life issue. I've been enjoying the views for over 30 years and I hope my children can as well.
Judy	Penn	Leave it alone. The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful bridges in the world, located in the most beautiful locations anywhere, people travel from around the world just to see it, photograph it and walk across it. I'm more interested in preserving a historic monument in it's original form. If any changes are to be made they should only be made by making sure it is well maintained and will stand up to any earthquake or terrorist attack.
Judy	Penn	The money would be better spent supporting the Mental Health Systems in Marin County and San Francisco. If someone is going to kill themselves by jumping and they no longer have access to the GG Bridge they will start jumping from any of the other bridges in the Bay area or any tall building to which they have access.
Stacie	Pennington	I do not think that extending anything horizontally with benefit much, there are still ways or jumping with that...
Paul	Perencevic	Do NOT spend/waste taxpayer \$\$\$\$\$ on this. Keep the bridge just the way it stands today. People will do what they will, and this plan to stop them is misguided at the least. Find a new mission, people.

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zec	perez	im not sure if im doing this right but i belive there shouldnt be any form af barrier reasong being we are human beings we make choices they may not always be the right ones but we do each and every human being should be able to have the choice of taking their life or not if its a commetment they're willing to make they shouldnt be stopped now i do know that people taking their own lives impact others emotionally and in a public place it would impact a lage group and it could disturb them emotionally seeing something like that but when it comes down each and every person on this earth should have the right to take their life if they want or not not saying my self that i want to do it but as a young kid i decided if i were to ever take my life i that i would do it on the bridge now im suer this probably wont change anyones mind and who ever reads this will probably think im a sick person because thats how people are now their tought to feel that way death should not be feared death is expeted death is the only constant in life
Scott	Perkins	I definitely believe that their needs to be a barrier, but I also understand that there are other factors involved. I believe that Alternative 2b does the best job of balancing these factors, while still making the bridge safe.
Scott	Perkins	Thank you.
Margaret	Perlstein	I don't really care what kind of structure you build. I just support building SOMETHING that deters someone from ending their life on that bridge.
Tom	Perot	The bridge needs a traffic divider to save drivers and passengers lives before considering new ways to reduce suicides
Tom	Perot	see above
olivia	perreault	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable
olivia	perreault	The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!
David	Perry	The vertical bars with no handrail would actually enhance views on the bridge, since you would be able to have a steep viewing angle from the pedestrian walkway. However, I'm not sure I'm a big fan of the proposed glass/plastic viewing points.
David	Perry	I fully support a physical suicide prevention system. The bridge barrier would save lives, no doubt. The tremendous opposition to a suicide barrier, while understandable, is misguided. People just do not understand the nature of suicide. Thank you.

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carol	peters	are people that heartless that they will vote against a suicide barrier, instead of possibly saving a life ??? lots of depressed people, especially young people....are only reaching out for help, they see no other way out of their pain.if a barrier is put in place, then, there is a better chance at saving a life.the idea that people will only commit suicide somewhere else is INSANE !!! why can't we have compassion for those that feel helpless, and at least, put up the barrier to possibly give these people a second chance....or, better yet....a second thought?
carol	peters	would love to help on any committees that are related to g.g.b barriers
jennifer	peters	i think it's a waste of money and unnecessary. the bridge should stay as it is.
Charvet	Petersen	ANYTHING you can do to prevent someone from taking their life on the bridge is welcome to me. A good friend of mine's son committed suicide by jumping off of one of our bridges so PLEASE - do what you can!!!!
blair	peterson	The bridge appearance should not be changed. No suicide barrier should be built.
blair	peterson	All of the alternatives will impose an unacceptable visual impact. No suicide barrier should be built.
Connie	Peterson	<p>In 1956, I believe it was, there was an earthquake in San Francisco strong enough to crack my school and get us all sent home.</p> <p>My father, who was an officer working at Ft. Baker near the Marin foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, called home to check on us and told us he could see the Golden Gate Bridge swinging during the quake!</p> <p>The important thing here is that this beautiful bridge was engineered so well in its current original design and weight, that it has been flexible enough to sway rather than collapse or break during these quakes-- INCLUDING THE LAST ONE THAT BROUGHT DOWN PART OF THE BAY BRIDGE!</p> <p>Please keep this in mind when considering altering the original brilliant engineering feat that is the Golden Gate Bridge. It is not only a matter of wind!</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Connie Peterson</p>

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Ellen	Peterson	<p>I think we should definitely have a barrier to prevent suicide. I will leave my opinion, on which barrier is best, to those who are spending more time on that decision. But I am definitely FOR THE BARRIER, whichever is best.</p> <p>Thanks so much for asking for opinions. I am not sure if many people know they should be voting here! I didn't know till Sunday's article (8/24/08). Maybe you need to publicize the vote. Does the vote actually make the decision as to whether you would construct one or not? or look at public opinion.</p> <p>Thanks so much,</p> <p>Ellen Peterson</p> <p>eftpeterson@comcast.net</p>
Erica	Petrofsky	<p>The money used to go through the whole process of approving and constructing the suicide deterrent structure would be so much better used in ways that help prevent people from WANTING to commit suicide. If they find they can't jump off the bridge, people who are serious about suicide will find some other way. The bridge is historic and is perfect the way it is. Please don't mess it up with some ill-conceived useless piece of junk that makes someone feel that they are helping people not kill themselves. Also, all the metal that is used is really bad for the environment. Before you start thinking about buying more metal, include the social and environmental effects of mining in other countries in your environmental report. Thanks for paying attention to what the public actually wants.</p>
Peter	Phaal	<p>All the barrier designs alter the appearance of the bridge. The clean lines of the Art Deco structure would be spoiled by a barrier. The barrier designs that alter the view from the bridge (1A,1B,2A,2B) would ruin the dramatic views from the bridge that never fail to impress.</p>
Dominica	Phetteplace	<p>Spend the money on mental health programs. Don't ruin the aesthetics of the bridge. No barrier!</p>
Nicole	Philips	<p>I've heard that nearly 50 potential suicide victims are spotted each year by police patrols and observant citizens or visitors, and they are prevented from jumping. If there was no possible way to complete the act on the bridge, then these potential jumpers would never be discovered and helped. Surely, more of these 50 potential jumpers would be successful elsewhere, where they may go undetected. Statistically, I believe that this makes perfect sense.</p>
Ashley	Phillips	<p>I am not in favor of any change to the Bridge that would alter its appearance and historical value. It is a global icon of the ingenuity of mankind.</p>

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d	phillips	don't let the few who yell the loudest determine the outcome. go with a majority of opinion.
		Do not change the looks of the world's most beautiful bridge for this frivolous reason. People will commit suicide anyway if they want to -- better they jump from the bridge than from a building and kill someone else. Maybe there ARE a few people so unstable that they will jump from the bridge just because they happen to be there and wouldn't otherwise. This is anecdotal and unproved in practice. But we should not spend \$50M and wreck the lines of our bridge for that speculative purpose. You could build a barrier in the middle of the roadway, too, to stop people from committing suicide by driving into the opposing lane. You can't nut-proof the whole world. Beef up patrols if you want, but leave the physical structure of the bridge alone!
david	phillips	
		You are going to destroy a beautiful landmark for the sake of POTENTIALLY saving some lives. The GGB is recognized world-wide to change it by adding an ugly barrier is unconscionable. The barriers, with the exception of the net (which will probably promote kids to jump for the sheer thrill) will block the view substantially when our driving and just be plain ugly when you're walking hte span.
Hollis	Phillips	
		Specifically all of the options are horrible. They will block the view and change a landmark that should not be changed.
Hollis	Phillips	
		This is a landmark bridge. It is s much a part of SF as cable cars. Land marks (especially one with so much beauty) should not be changed.
Hollis	Phillips	
		There will be no land use impacts i can see. However, everyone who crosses the bridge for recreation (walkers, bikers and drivers) will be affected by the diminished view.
Hollis	Phillips	
		Why is this even being analyzed?
Hollis	Phillips	
		I haven't read it.
		The Golden Gate Bridge is a structure of such great design and visual strength that it will not be marred by an alteration to the railing sufficient to prevent impulse suicides. Put another way, it will remain an icon even after the barrier is installed.
Charles	Pick	

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Charles	Pick	This is a practical, do-able project. The bridge is not just an abstract sculpture nor is it simply a tourist attraction. It is a hazard to our local community. While some in our community place pride(The bridge as a collective status symbol of Marin) over the lives of our children, I do not. To me, the resistance to the barrier is no different than handing your kids the keys to a Porsche 911 that they will wrap around a tree. Why should a kid need to drive such a car? To make the parents look good. Why cant our bridge have a taller railing? To make our local status symbol look good. Does it always have to be about appearance here?
William	Pickelhaupt	Savings lives must be the overriding concern!
Laurie	Piel	The Golden Gate Bridge is a landmark that is iconic to San Francisco. It is used by many films and travelogues for the bay area and the United States to entice visitors to come here rather than somewhere else. I believe that it will have an impact on the
Laurie	Piel	See above!
Shana	Pierre	Please consider it a priority to install a suicide deterrent barrier, especially since there are options that do not distract from the beauty of the bridge and its environment.
Christine	Ping	I am totally opposed to the entire notion of spending tax payer dollars for a suicide barrier! Especially when those so inclined could accomplish the same thing by just stepping into the bridge traffic instead of jumping. Our money would be better spent on mental health services.
Barbara	Pinkston	the idea is ridiculous
Erin	Pinto	I would agree to the benefit of the \$50 million expenditure if there were evidence that it would have prevented the deaths that have already occurred on the bridge. In order for this project to make any sense, you must be able to show evidence that, in the future, people intending to commit suicide would choose not to because of the barrier. Otherwise, people will simply choose another location, and what will be the benefit of the expenditure? Seems like the money could be better spent on suicide prevention programs even though the federal government prefers building things to funding needed programs.
Mana	Pirooz	I am really happy to see that something is being done to help save countless lives. The design is aesthetically pleasing and will allow us to enjoy the bridge for its beauty and not have it be known for its suicide rate.
Simone	Pisias	It seems to me that the obvious has been overlooked. And, that is to hire 24 hour security guards posted in areas on each side of the bridge. Having 4 to 6 people trained in suicide prevention constantly walking the bridge would be a lot more beneficial, and certainly a lot more cost effective than expensive, design ruining alternative that have been proposed.

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thomas	plagemann	This money would be far better spent on mental health facilities that treat depression.
BASIL	PLASTIRAS	IF A BARRIER COULD BE ERECTED AT VERY MINIMAL COST AND VISUAL DETRIMENT IT SHOULD BE DONE. HOWEVER, THE \$50,000,000 FIGURE I HEARD MAKES ANY BARRIER AN EXCESSIVE AND UNREASONABLE EXPENSE. THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE GGB OR ITS RAILINGS, ANY MORE THAN TALL BUILDINGS OR RAZOR BLADES OR SLEEPING PILLS ARE THE PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM IS SUICIDE; FIND A WAY TO SPEND THE MONEY ON SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH.
Eric	Platt	None of the proposed options are acceptable disfigurements of the Golden Gate Bridge. You want people to stop killing themselves? Create a society that makes sense. This proposal makes no sense.
Eric	Platt	40 million spent on, say, ending an illegal war or curing a pernicious disease makes far more sense. If I was suicidal, a bridge barrier would not stop me from killing myself. If I could be saved, I'd pick up the suicide hotline phones that already exist.
Eric	Platt	It's (currently) a beautiful landmark, isn't it.
Karen	Platt	I thought Tom Meyers' editorial cartoon on July 30 in the SF Chronicle says it all. I don't really care what kind of barrier is used, but how, as human beings, can we not put up a barrier when we know it will deter many suicides.
David	Plemons	To add any barricade is unsightly, it would detract more from one of the Largest Tourist attraction in the bay area, California, The bridge has already been bastardized with futile attempts with ugly fencing etc. A serious suicidal person will find a way. I really believe we United States CITIZENS should take a lesson from the Europeans, there are very few unsightly barricades..
Mark	Pletcher	I like Alternative 3 for aesthetics, but the main point is to actually proceed with the building of the barrier, which will save lives! Thank you for pursuing this project.
Viviana	Ploper	It is very important to erect a suicide barrier as other cities have. I hope San Francisco decides to do that. As a mental health provider, we see how suicidal feelings pass...and people figure out thing and go on living. ANYthing to stop people from hurting themselves has my vote. thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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Wendy	Pohlmann	I believe that the money would be better spent on mental health programs, which counsel people with suicidal tendencies. While the barrier may prevent some suicides, I don't think that it is worth the expense. A depressed person will find another way to commit suicide. My husband committed suicide, so I feel very strongly about this.
Dorian	Polite	This is an idiotic waste of money. Why not build gun and pill resistant barriers too?
Dorian	Polite	Why not also build barriers on every office tower in SF at taxpayer expense??
Dorian	Polite	FOR GOD'S SAKE, and for the sake of COMMON SENSE, spend that money on a moveable barrier between head-on traffic lanes! Why would you spend money on people who WANT to kill themselves and IGNORE those who WANT to live??????
Mark	Polite	This is a complete waste of money. I do not support any investment of money in creating a suicide barrier. Money would be much better spent on a moveable lane divider to prevent head-on collisions.
Marcia	Pollioni	If you want to spend money preventing suicide, bravo. Fund better medical and psych care. Make jobs. Or do something about hand guns. Spending money ruining the Golden Gate Bridge is worse than meaningless in terms of solving the problem: It diverts attention from many more significant threats to sanity and life.
Marcia	Pollioni	Has anybody compared the number of bridge suicides to the number of suicides in general? This is a ridiculous exercise and should not be pursued further.
Joseua	Polton	Placement of horizontal or vertical wires would destroy the beauty of the bridge and do nothing to prevent a person dead set on committing suicide from taking the plunge.
Joseua	Polton	This is a solution in search of a problem.
Brooke	Pomerantz	It is imperative that the city of SF add a barrier to prevent suicide.
Mervyn	Pomeroy III	With money in such short supply and in light of the state of this country's economy it is foolhardy and short sighted to entertain construction of a suicide barrier to deter people intent upon doing away with themselves at this time. Those intent upon committing suicide with certainly find alternate means of doing so. We will never even be able to maintain statistics on how many we dissuaded from using the bridge as their final exit from this world.

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Jackie	Pomies	I would much prefer to increase the use of "suicide patrols" on the bridge, rather than changing the appearance of this bridge, but the net system seems the best compromise of all the alternatives.
Rachel	Popkin	Please! It's worth it to save young lives.
Ian	Port	Please don't add a suicide barrier to the bridge. It will cost too much and make the bridge ugly. There are better ways to prevent suicides "and better uses for \$50 million.
rich	potts	i advocate that no change should be made to the gg bridge. if people are truly interested in saving lives this is and inefficient way to go about it. for example putting trigger locks on guns would save many more lives for a lot less than 50 mil.
Don	Powell	<p>Any of these solutions will not prevent suicides but only prevent suicides using the GG Bridge. If this venue is not available to a potential suicide that person will simply seek out an alternative. Suicide prevention must be dealt with at the emotional level not the physical level. I doubt the GG Bridge has ever caused a non suicide thinking person to revert to suicide.</p> <p>Sorry, any of these plans is a waste of public money and a devaluation of a great asset.</p>
Robyn	Powers	I was born in Sydney Australia and our icon, The Sydney Harbour Bridge has had a suicide barrier for as long as I can remember and has no impact on the beauty of our bridge ... and it saves lives.
Charles	Pratt	
Charles	Pratt	<p>A fence or barrier could also prevent objects from being dropped on passing ships going underneath the bridge, especially our military vessels.</p> <p>So maybe the barrier has a two fold value.</p>
Danielle	Prevot	This seems like such a waste of money. Please continue to have support groups and such, but changing the way the GG Bridge looks would be a punishment to all those who don't want to die.
D	Price	Excuse me??? The state's pretty much bankrupt, people are now deciding buy food? or buy gas? or get my preventive medical care done so I don't get REALLY sick? and you guys think we need to spend WAY too much citizen funds to meet the needs of a VERY VERY FEW poor sick souls, most of whom would benefit greatly from simple therapy & anti-depressants?? give me a break. this idea is absurd....

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TIMOTHY	PRZYGOCKI	This question is not about the rail, but whether or not it is OK to allow suicides.
TIMOTHY	PRZYGOCKI	Your EIR/EA does not ask for a preference to the barrier. It is really asking if it is alright to allow human beings to destroy themselves at the bridge. The answer to the real question must be that you will do everthing you can to prevent people from killing themselves.
Marlene	Puai	Crossing the Golden Gate Bridge never fails to raise my spirits. It is a beautiful embodiment of the Art Deco style, a classic. Any alteration to its form would ruin it.

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Marlene	Puaoi	<p>The proposed suicide barrier is founded on "if onlys." The premise is that a physical barrier or impediment of some sort would stop cold any person who had decided to kill himself. I believe much of this relates to survivors' guilt: If only we had paid attention; if only we had gotten him/her some help; if only we had known; if only he/she had had a flat tire on the way to the bridge. You can list "if onlys" ad nauseam, but the fact remains that once a person has determined that his death is the only way out of his problems, he will find a way. The bridge does not cause people to kill themselves, period. I sympathize with those who have lost their loved ones to suicide, but under no circumstance do I believe that suicides will cease once the bridge has been uglified.</p> <p>Do something instead about creating a protective barricade between north- and southbound traffic so that those of us who want to live have a better chance of doing so. Increase suicide patrols. Please do not ruin the bridge at the behest of a guilt-ridden, vocal minority.</p>
John	Puccini	<p>This is a waste of public funds. These folks are still going to be an impulse risk whether or not a protective barrier is built. Stop pandering to the minority in SF and listen to the majority. I think I heard 75% of these comments are against a barrier, and that is only because the minority opinion is strong and will jump on these chat boards when they get the chance. Any of the 5 solutions is very intrusive to the overall look of the bridge. If people can scale the cables of the bridge to protest certain public acts, what is really going to stop a somebody from figuring out how to scale the 'barrier'. It will only be a matter of time before we get our 1st barrier suicide and the whole thing will be considered another boondoggle that once again could have been avoided. How many of these things do we need to incur? People die. It sucks. It is miserable for the families. No doubt. A barrier isn't going to solve the deeper mental issues these people are dealing with. It can only prolong another impulse event. There are many things to jump from including spots in the Marin Headlands. Just like SF's dealing with the homeless, a barrier will just push suicide ready folks to other locations. Spend the money on something else.</p>
Mary Jo	Pugh	save lives
Mary Jo	Pugh	save lives
Rita	Pumilia	Do not build any barrier on the bridge. Use the money to fund suicide prevention.

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Alan	Pursell	Folks, Let's use some common sense here. There are so many suicides on the GGBridge simply because it is such a famous icon of a structure. Some people just want to go out in style. IF it were at all possible to build an effective suicide barrier, these people would simply go somewhere else and do it. Who are we to try to stop them?! The proposed barriers are a joke. A higher fence will not only cost millions and spoil the view, but suiciders will simply scale it and jump. Didn't you see the "Free Tibet" banners last April? People climb! A net will also cost millions and suiciders will simply jump into the net then crawl out and jump over it. DUH! What WILL work is a movable traffic barrier. THAT will saves the lives of people who do NOT want to die. THAT is what we need to spend our money on. Where is it???
Mitzi	Quan	It's a waste of money.
Chris	Quartetti	I prefer No Build and Alternative 3 because they have minimal aesthetic impact for people on the bridge.
Chris	Quartetti	I do not think any physical barrier is necessary. If people want to commit suicide, they will find a way around the barrier or go elsewhere. It is ridiculous to spend millions of dollars for this purpose.
Georgia	Quinlan	I strongly oppose putting up any kind of physical barrier to prevent suicides. This is a beautiful artistic landmark and we cannot mar that beauty. That money can be spent on other suicide prevention measures. Soon we will be putting up barriers on anything that could be a place for people to "dramatically" commit suicide.
Patrick	Quinn	I believe vertical steel posts with top curving inward and a height of 10 feet with space between of eight inches would deter jumpers and not adversely change the view or appearance of the bridge. The costs should not come anywhere near the millions of dollars estimated.
Joseph	Quinn	I support Alternative 2A, but without the transparent panels. The latter are an unnecessary maintenance problem and will probably be distastefully reflective under some lighting conditions. This is the choice that will alter the slim lines of the bridge the least.

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Joseph	Quinn	<p>Regardless of which barrier is built, the Golden Gate will lose some of the elegance that makes it such a beautiful art deco expression.</p> <p>Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the data that states that a barrier will SAVE LIVES. That is, that almost ALL of the potential jumpers who were deterred did NOT try again.</p> <p>When aesthetic sensibilities and human life are weight against each other, a compassionate man has only one choice to make.</p>
Patrick	Quinn	I am a Psychiatric Social Worker with The San Francisco Mobile Crisis Treatment Team, In my experience a barrier to suicide jumping is imparative and lack of such is in my opinion criminal.
Paul	Quinnett	I would support to build suicide prevention devices that are most compaitable with environmental and asthetic review committees... no build is not a choice for me.
heather	quisenberry	Looks good!
heather	quisenberry	Let's build the damned thing ASAP
heather	quisenberry	all options look great.
Mariah	Quisenberry	My brother was killed by the bridge when I was 16. PLEASE do something to show us you really do care and you are not just a bunch of animals in human bodies.
Mariah	Quisenberry	<p>THere is not one option (other than the net maybe) that will interfere with the so called beauty of the bridge. I say so called because the bridge is a knife in my heart each time I see it. It is an ugly, lethal death bridge to me.</p> <p>God bless you all.</p>
d	r	All I can picture is tons of trash caught in the net system sullyng out view and costing untold dollars in matience to keep it clean.

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j	r	I had a very close friend commit suicide several years ago. No matter what we did to help prevent his suicide , he would have found a way to succeed. If you add barriers to this beautiful historical landmark, a person with suicidal tendencies will find another way to end their life. Why should the public have to suffer?
K	R	If you don't put this up you are so selfish
Nitin	R	Installing hand rails and nets is more like treating the symptoms than the problem. In addition to ruining the appearance of the bridge, it will do nothing to stop a person in depression to seek other means.
Jack	Rabin	The cost financially or aesthetically of putting a net under the bridge is a small price to pay for the countless lives like Casey Brook's who are no more.
Jack	Rabin	My daughter grew up with Casey Brooks. My daughter is now at Smith College waiting to start her orientation and first year of college. Casey Brooks and others like her deserve to have the same benefits and a future to look forward to. When aesthetics come before the lives of innocent children, I question the moral fiber of the community I live in.
Jason	Rachel	Dangling a net below the bridge or building up the railings would make one of the world's most beautiful structures look like something that belongs in an amusement park with a notice that you must be "this tall to ride."
Jason	Rachel	\$40-50 million dollars seems incredibly wasteful on something that has no guarantee of actually doing anything. How about spending \$40-50 million to repair the roads leading up to the bridge from San Francisco? That seems much more useful to me.
Peggy	Radel	As much as I feel for those who have lost loved ones to suicide, it is not reasonable to remove every possibility of places where one could commit suicide. What next, boxing in every viewpoint in the city? We need to make publically accessible places safe for the vast majority of users, not engineer against every possible misuse of that place. Even the net system will trap birds. And how does that system actually prevent someone from landing in the net and then propelling himself over that barrier? The cost and impact would actually be lower to employ guides to patrol the bridge to intervene.
Virginia	Rago	This is a ridiculous waste of money. If these people want to kill themselves they will find a way. Leave as is!
Annelies	Rainer	Vertical and horizontal systems give a claustrophobic feeling, too closed in, no view, no width. The beauty of the golden gate bridge is its openness, this should not be altered in any way.
Annelies	Rainer	See above. Terrible idea.

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Annelies	Rainer	Horrible waste of money, which is so badly needed in other places, such as non physical suicide prevention and public transit options. This has become an overly emotionally laden and political issue begun by small interest groups. Has there ever been a referendum on this topic? The people of Marin County and San Francisco should be the ones to decide, they will bear the brunt of the cost, I think. Small, vocal groups should not force decisions which impact the beauty of this extraordinary bridge.
Annelies	Rainer	See above.
Annelies	Rainer	view destroyed, each alternative destroys the view in a different direction. The net probably has the least impact, but for someone like myself, whol loves to look down into the water, even the net option is not an option. Just leave the bridge alone,please.
Annelies	Rainer	See above.
Annelies	Rainer	I cannot speak to specifics as I am very much opposed to any alteration of the Golden Gate Bridge. It is beautiful as it is and should be left alone. Increase other precautions, such as foot patrol on the bridge, telephone suicide hotlines etc. Spend funds on other suicide prevention/therapy interventions which would help a much greater number of people BEFORE they go to the bridge. Studies have shown little to no overall reduction of suicide by placing a barrier around one monument. The whole suicide barrier notion comes from small, vocal groups presenting a very emotionally charged view not based on facts. Please do not let the bridge become the victim of false notions of prevention. Thank you, A.R.
Linda	Rames	While I can understand the angst of Dr. Blaustein and other suicide prevention proponents, I do not believe this most beautiful of bridges should be desecrated by any of the proposed barrier designs. One day last year I was crossing the bridge into Marin County just before a young man jumped to his death. I glanced to my right and was immediately aware of this person. It was clear he was in distress. None of the barrier designs address this section so the barrier would not hacve done any good. The boy had attempted suicide before. This time he succeeded. I think a much better plan would be to hire at least 3 more bike riding, trained people to patrol the bridge. I also believe all the agencies involved should pay a part of their salaries,bridge district, Marin and SF police and any other agencies involved in dealing with suicides off the bridge.
Linda	Rames	Marin law enforcement, SF law enforcement, the bridge district and whoever else becomes involved in suicides off the bridge. Surely this would be much less expensive and more effective.

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Linda	Rames	None of the plans leaves the gorgeous bridge untouched. All would significantly alter the beauty of the structure.
Linda	Rames	Of the two suicides of which I have personal knowledge, one person survived a jump from the GGB only to commit suicide years later. The other had attempted before and finally succeeded. Because of these, I do not believe in the impulsive act theory. Even the teenager Casey Brooks stopped to have a cigarette before jumping. Is this not an act of contemplation?
Oscar	Ramirez	<p>There is nothing that will deter individuals from committing suicide if they are determined to go through with it. Suicide is a matter of personal decision and one that will continue for as long as there is life on earth.</p> <p>None of the alternatives to the "No Build" option are viable ones. Building addition options are mere attempts to calm the general public. Any new system is a waste of taxpayer's money.</p> <p>Are we ready to build a barrier over ever bridge in the State?</p> <p>Oscar S. Ramirez PhD</p>
Joseph	Ramirez-Forcier	I prefer the verticle lines as this is consistant with the overal design of the bridge
Joseph	Ramirez-Forcier	Its about time we take these losses in life as priority number 1, each loss of life is untold loss to the community and our families
Ingrid	Ramsay	Before spending so much money for a physical barriers to prevent people from committing suicide on the bridge, please consider the lives of people driving on the bridge, who want to live first and put the money towards a physical barrier in the center of the road dividing the bridge.

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Sean	Randolph	The net system is the least offensive, but they are all bad. I do not believe that a graceful, local and global icon and symbol of San Francisco should be defaced in an effort to protect self-destructive people against themselves. This would be the ultimate nanny-state, where the government steps in - at very high cost - to protect everyone from any kind of risk, and ignore their personal responsibility for their behavior. Nobody would deny that suicide is tragic. But this is a bad idea and a bad use of funds - particularly at a time when the Bridge District is complaining about deficits and relentlessly raising tolls.
Velia	Ranlett	The problem of suicide does not exist because the bridge exists. The notion that a rail on a bridge will deter a suicide is both naive and irresponsible. To think you can waste money to erect a rail so we as a society can absolve ourselves of guilt when someone decides to commit suicide is to take the back way out of addressing the root problem. And it is naive to think that someone who wants to kill themselves wont find a way to accomplish their task. If that door is closed to them they will find another opening, whether a window or even an air duct. Those in a suicidal frame of mind will seek a means to accomplish their goal. With our declining economy it is very disappointing to see our officials, in all walks of government, try and pacify the people by putting out(and up) costly and showy patches on the surface of our societal woes. I appreciate the grief that those who have lost loved ones on the bridge feel. A rail will not prevent future generations from experiencing that same sorrow.
Nancy	Ranney	The Draft EIR/EA makes a valuable contribution to the discussion. To me, none of the resource area impacts outweigh the value of preventing impulsive suicides.
Thomas	Ransohoff	Looks like it would work without detracting from the view or appearance of the bridge.
Thomas	Ransohoff	Although not currently a resident of California, I used to live in the Bay Area and fully support this important initiative to help prevent suicides off the Golden Gate bridge.
lawrence	raphael	Either of the two alternatives that I listed above are necessary for this all-important change in the bridge. Making it more difficult for would-be suicide attempts is critically important. Thank you.
Evan	Ratliff	In addition to my first and second options, I would prefer ANY of the barrier options over no barrier at all.
Jenna	Ratto	I think that putting up additional barriers will greatly diminish the appearance of the bridge.
Jenna	Ratto	I think that the additional barriers will make it difficult for visitors and tourists to take in the view of San Francisco.

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Gayle	Ravenscroft	The cost of this barrier is completely outrageous when considered side by side with mental health services funding in the area and the number of people potentially affected by both. A miniscule number of people helped on the bridge vs thousands who need help and don't get it due to lack of funds. In addition, the Golden Gate Bridge will be detrimentally affected aesthetically by any of the barrier options. When one considers the number of people affected by this change who appreciate the bridge for its beauty and views vs the number of lives possibly saved (not definitely) then there is no justification for this enormous, ugly project. No barrier for heavens sake.
Gayle	Ravenscroft	I appreciate all the effort and work that has been put into this project. It reflects a genuine humanity and concern for suicide prevention. I hope that this finally puts to rest the idea that the bridge is somehow responsible for suicides. Let's move on to trying to solve the problem by focussing our efforts on better suicide prevention programs in communities and stop trying to deface the Golden Gate Bridge.
Jeremy	Raymer	What should we do next... put a recall on all rope just in case people want to hang themselves?... maybe stop all of the bart trains so people don't step onto the tracks???...better yet .. lets just do away with any tall structures all together including bridges... we don't want people to jump off of them.
christopher	read	Please, don't go looking to spend millions of dollars on a false promise. I don't doubt a physical obstacle can prevent a spontaneous jump or fall, but for those looking to end their lives, they'll find a way. We went through this in Washington DC with the Calvert Bridge - an unattractive, expesnive fence was installed. the psychological appeal of bridges is apparently in part the "jumping into the void" - if any bridge modification is done, what about lighting underneath the bridge, the towers, the water? A solar power/battery system would be far less expensive. The existing partial fences are ugly. Please, don't further disturb the bridge's visuals for questionable outcomes.
christopher	read	Either tall fence is just ugly. Netting will make the bridge look like it's in perpetual repair. For those of us walking or biking the bridge, it's an unpleasant scar on a beautiful landmark.
christopher	read	The bridge provides an uninterrupted vista of the bay, City and surroundings. Fences will create the feeling of a cage. For us local, regular users, it's claustrophobic at worst, a feeling of being "gypped" at best.
Jeffrey	Reagan	We cannot afford to protect people from themselves. Attempts to do so are pervasive in our society. Unreasonable expenses always result. This is unsustainable at any level.

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Lissa	Rechtin	I think 2B actually looks better than the existing system. As a child and adolescent psychiatrist, I cannot think of a better use of resources than to prevent needless death and tragedy while adding to the aesthetic enjoyment of the bridge.
Lissa	Rechtin	Something HAS to be done. We don't allow other safety issues to go unaddressed. There is ample scientific evidence that doing what we can to limit accessible, dramatic ways to commit suicide saves lives.
Barbara	Redfield	Please do something, and include an educational component so people can understand how important it is to respond to those who contemplate suicide with a message of hope and love. We need to do this as a civilized society.
Evelyn	Reece	Why not make it illegal to walk the bridge alone? If someone wants to walk across and doesn't have a companion, an official can accompany the pedestrian, giving historical info, etc. making it possible for everyone to traverse the bridge. Seems a whole lot more economical to hire a few "guides" and a "gate keeper" than to build a barrier. Isn't it worth a try?
Deana	Reed	The beauty/aesthetics of the bridge along with the historical importance of the bridge make this a structure not to change. Suicide programs are important and all citizens need to be more aware of the needs of people around them - but the bridge is not causing deaths - hopelessness of people does that.
Ralph & Arlene	Reed	My husband and I, our friends and our family are ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY AGAINST ALL OF YOUR PLANS!!!! Most of us were born in San Francisco and still live in the Bay Area. If people are going to commit suicide, they will find a way. DO NOT DESTROY THE BEAUTY OF THIS LANDMARK THAT IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Before any of you do something like this, PLEASE put the issue on the ballot in a general election. You'll find out how much support or lack thereof that you have.
Ralph & Arlene	Reed	My husband and I, our friends and our family are ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY AGAINST ALL OF YOUR PLANS!!!! Most of us were born in San Francisco and still live in the Bay Area. If people are going to commit suicide, they will find a way. DO NOT DESTROY THE BEAUTY OF THIS LANDMARK THAT IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Before any of you do something like this, PLEASE put the issue on the ballot in a general election. You'll find out how much support or lack thereof that you have.
Jessica	Reedy	It will prevent impulsive suicides. I think that is more than enough reason to implement any of the alternatives. The netting is not an effective deterrent, and I prefer option 1A for aesthetic reasons, but any of the high railing options would work wonderfully.
Jonathan	Reese	No build is the only way to preserve this landmark. The money would be better going to suicide prevention services

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Francine	Reich	As a mental health professional I've seen too many impulsive suicides off of the bridge. I don't really care that much what kind of barrier is built as long as something is done to prevent the needless deaths.
Leah	Reich	The Golden Gate Bridge is an historic landmark that reflects the beauty,culture and environmental purity of San Francisco worldwide. No matter how depressed I may feel on any given day, the sight of this bridge and its simple beauty lift my spirit and give me hope every single time I see it. I strongly oppose any alterations to it. I empathize with those who have lost loved ones. If someone is committed to suicide, they will find another way. Marring the GGB, and the beauty of our Bay is not the answer. Please do not build any appendages to our bridge, which is one of the man-made wonders of the world. Thank you.
Victoria	Reichenberg	I'm in favor of a suicide barrier being added to the bridge. Thanks.
Holly	Reid	With 1200 suicides over 70 years, the average is approximately 17-18 suicides a year. I am wondering; If \$50,000,000 were spent in mental health programs, would the effective rate of suicide prevention be greater than the deaths from Golden Gate Bridge suicides. I believe we should address the source of the problem, instead of moving the outcome to another venue.
Daniel	Reidenberg	Saving lives is far more important than aesthetics or any other excuse offered to not build the barrier.
Russell	Reiff, MD	I don't like the horizontal systems--it looks like they could be climbed up like a ladder.
Russell	Reiff, MD	There is no question that a new barrier should be built.
Barbara	Reising	The alternatives are too expensive. Prohibit walking on East side of bridge Mon - Fri and allow walking on Sat - Sun when a lot of people are using the bridge. This would be a compromise.
Barbara	Reising	Are there any statistics on what day of the week people jump from the bridge?
Jody	Reiss, LCSW	My understanding is that the original design for the bridge called for a higher railing, so the original intent was for a design that would be just as stunning with more safety. I believe it is imperative that we put all of our resources into saving lives, and this is one important way to do it. Other mental health measures are necessary, but they can't take the place of discouraging impulsive, desperate attempts.
Jody	Reiss, LCSW	I am a social worker in private practice. I have lost a client, a colleague, and a colleague's 17-year-old son to the Bridge. In the past 6 months, two of my clients attempted suicide from the Bridge and, thankfully, were taken to SF General instead. One of those clients tried calling from an emergency phone, only to find it not working. She kept walking and used the next phone, but we almost lost her.

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Bill	Remington	The aesthetic beauty of the bridge includes the 4 ft wall. Millions of visitors each year walk across the bridge to view and take pictures of the city. Any barrier there would ruin that experience as well as becoming aesthetically unappealing. If a net is in place, how would that prevent one from crawling across the net into the water?
Bill	Remington	I sympathize with family members of jumpers and have seen The Bridge documentary along with numerous articles on this issue. That is all very unfortunate but to mar a world renowned landmark to millions of visitors for the few that make a decision to take their own lives, does not seem practical.
Lisa	Remmer	how shortsided to wreck the aesthetics of a historic artistic landmark. and to ruin the joy of walking and driving across this bridge for millions of people, while restricting everyone's freedom to enjoy the bridge.
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Lisa	Remmer	Save Californians' money. If we want to save innocent lives, lets tear down death row and save at least one innocent life.
Deborah	Renard	I prefer the verticality options for aesthetic reasons. I think that maintaining the handrail is important as a matter of accessibility for the widest range of sidewalk users.

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Deborah	Renard	<p>First, I appreciate the thorough, detailed report. It allowed me to speak from a more informed perspective than would otherwise be possible. The Golden Gate Bridge is a beautiful, symbolic, historic treasure that merits careful consideration.</p> <p>I have worked in mental health and crisis services in the Midwest where I have heard a number of people fantasize about the Golden Gate Bridge as a "perfect" place for committing suicide. These people typically describe their images of jumping to their deaths from the GG Bridge as "fast and easy," "not messy," "a sure thing," "beautiful," and other such positive terms. I imagine that proximity to the Bridge is a constant concern in Bay Area suicide prevention.</p> <p>I would like to see the value of human lives deterred from successful suicide be given highest priority in this decision, so I would find any permutation of options 1 and 2 acceptable.</p> <p>I do not support the third option, the net. It may present a false sense of safety re going over the edge and could attract show-off/bravado behaviors. Moreover, suicide comtemplators who make it out onto the bridge may convince themselves that "if it's God's will, the net will save me, and that's how I'll know...otherwise, I'll die." It seems that the net itself could harm jumpers and/or rescuers, and it sounds like a net would require more maintenance than the other options.</p> <p>Thank you for the oppportunity for input.</p>
Brian	Renken	<p>Alt 1A,B and 2A,B adversely affect the appearance too much from the bridge itself. Alt 3 only affects appearance from outside the bridge, which is better. I would prefer no change, however.</p>

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Tracy	Rentz	I appreciate the diligence of the investigation, but I strongly disagree with the idea of changing the Golden Gate Bridge & investing \$25M to \$50M in an attempt to prevent suicides. My own father committed suicide (elsewhere) & he, like many, would have found a way to take his life somewhere regardless of the impediments. Millions of people enjoy the bridge now in its current format, and we're talking about investing millions of dollars for just tens or hundreds of people. That just doesn't make sense from a financial or sheer logic perspective. If you want to spend the money for mental health, invest in preventing this type of behavior in the first place - not in changing a structure in the hope that it will really change the outcome for the tens/hundreds of people who choose to jump now. Or better yet - invest it in our schools & employment initiatives, to change the lives of many, many more people. That would make a real difference, instead of being a total waste of money. Please don't invest in erecting suicide barriers!!!
Lee	Resnick	My first thought was ..is it possible for someone to jump further out than the Net...but after reading what the said in Switzerland...that they no longer have jumpers...I guess I'm wrong ..just not positive. From the pictures..it sure looks like someone could jump further out..if they really wanted to. Anyway that's what I was thinking. Thanks..
agnes	reti	its a waste of money! Use the 40 million and do not raise the bridge toll. We are in hard times for a lot of people that dollar is hardship. Think of the poor rather than those who will commit the suicide in some other way anyway. Use the publics money wisely, do not build anything!
theresa	reynolds	I think that the horizontal system is most compatible with the lines of the bridge and allow the greatest panoramic viewline from the bridge.
Karen	Rhodes	A physical deterrent WILL save lives.
Robert	Riccomini	You should not do anything. If someone wants to kill them self, they will find other places or ways. What are you going to do if they throw them self on to traffic if they have to do it on the bridge?
Nora	Rich	I may live in Nashville, but I feel that the Golden Gate Bridge is a symbol of America and that I also have a right to vote on this. You NEED a barrier. The suicides that happen on that bridge resonate throughout America. It is a black eye on the San Francisco Government and should be remedied soon.
Tracy	Richard	International Historic Monuments should not be tampered with.
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Ralph	Richardi	<p>Given the reality of limited resources, I have only read of a \$40M price tag for a suicide barrier. A vertical fence cannot possibly be worth \$40M to build.</p> <p>While one life lost is too many , the reality of limited resources begs for some prioritization. Is this best use of funds or a barrier between lanes of on coming traffic. Where is the money to come from and why such an outrageous price for what appears to be a fence?</p> <p>Guiven all the data on wind studies and environmental impact, why not info on how costs are derived ,what can be done to minimize them, and sources of funding?</p>
Jeannette	Richards	I think the vertical barrier is aesthetically more pleasing and physically more effective as a barrier.
Jeannette	Richards	An enhanced barrier is needed and should not be delayed. I am particularly concerned about the need to deter "impulsive" suicides among youth.
Kevin	Richardson	I have lost several friends to suicide off of this bridge and I think that should stop.
Ricky	Richardson	should have design in mind to help promote beauty as well as function.
dorothy	richman	Please help save lives and build a physical barrier (not net) on this bridge!
dorothy	richman	I would prefer any of the alternatives to the No Build. Please do something!
Mark	Ricksen	A net will still maintain the scenic views while providing protection and a deterrent for suicide jumpers.

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Linda	Riedel	<p>Hear me loud. And hear me clearly.</p> <p>NO NO NO NO NO suicide barrier. I had a brother who committed suicide and I can adamantly say this: WHEN SOMEONE WANTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE, THEY WILL AND NO BARRIER IS GOING TO STOP THEM.</p> <p>And whoever the idiot was that said "50 million is just a drop in the bucket" is EXACTLY what is wrong with government today!!!! Sure is easy to dismiss the taxpayers' money, isn't it?!!</p>
Linda	Riedel	<p>I have known 4 people close to me, including my own brother, who have committed suicide. In all cases there were multiple attempts. It is a FACT that people who want to commit suicide, WILL succeed eventually. In other experiences, I have found that with people who are suicidal, what works is NOT deterrents, but rather counseling and medications. Suicide involves focused obsession and such a mind will continue to focus on that goal, until it is successful. Changing the bridge may save lives, but it will only be for that attempt, until another is tried.</p> <p>I do not believe this is the burden of society to alter what is the #1 landmark for San Francisco. There are so many better places for the money to be spent: i.e., Doyle Drive where numerous other lives are UNVOLUNTARILY taken each year.</p>
Linda	Riedel	<p>I have known 4 people close to me, including my own brother, who have committed suicide. In all cases there were multiple attempts. It is a FACT that people who want to commit suicide, WILL succeed eventually. In other experiences, I have found that with people who are suicidal, what works is NOT deterrents, but rather counseling and medications. Suicide involves focused obsession and such a mind will continue to focus on that goal, until it is successful. Changing the bridge may save lives, but it will only be for that attempt, until another is tried.</p> <p>I do not believe this is the burden of society to alter what is the #1 landmark for San Francisco. There are so many better places for the money to be spent: i.e., Doyle Drive where numerous other lives are UNVOLUNTARILY taken each year.</p>

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Robyn	Riedstra	do your best to not detract from the beauty of the bridge. do not deform the bridge or it's original structure. It is a landmark and the original walkway and handrails SHOULD NOT BE ALTERED.
Jennifer	Rienks	Too many suicides are a result of a potentially passing impulse. Unfortunately, the bridge has become associated with suicide and too many see it as a quick way out. Much more needs to be done to prevent suicides on the span, and these deaths can't be prevented by human efforts on the bridge, then we must put a physical barrier in place.
Ben	Riggs	This is a waste of resources that will only divert suicides to other available methods that potentially would likely be more harmful to others.
Catharine	Riggs	The moral imperative to build a suicide barrier outweighs any political, cultural, aesthetic, financial, or environmental concern. The proposed barriers do not detract significantly from the beauty or use of the bridge, but would diminish one very sinister meaning of the bridge.
Henry	Riggs	Most unfortunate to add well intentioned but questionable "barriers" to this historic structure
Henry	Riggs	Unfortunately, the proposed barriers will not "catch people and let them rethink" - people who want to do this will find another location or method. Regrettably, the most popular alternative is to step in front of CalTrain which has more than 50 miles of accessible track and no realistic way to seal it from deliberate acts (there are other similar train and truck options). Please consider the train conductor about how he feels when his train takes out a human being before you put your heart behind the bridge barriers.
frank	riley	any barrier will significantly reduce the experience of walking or biking across the pedestrian portion of the bridge. Being able lean over the railing and look straight down to the water is quite thrilling and pure. taking that away or otherwise diminishing the GG bridge experience would be a sin. I notice in your logo you have faded out the lower portion of the span. well thats what you,d be doing if you couldnt lean over.
frank	riley	on the net alternative... if you put a net down there in such a way that the only way to access it would be to jump from far enough up that you might get injured just doing that then that would be a deterrent. because then you would be suffering before you jumped to the water and jumpers dont want that, they seem to want one clean jump, not get beat up on the way to doing it. Or heck just get a flying robot to catch people. I think they have them in China already.
Julie	Ring	I think this will be great, something needs to be done to prevent suicides off the bridge. I've lost someone this way, and maybe his life could have been saved if there was a barrier. I chose the alternatives I preferred, but I would be fine if the others were chosen, EXCEPT for the no build one.

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First	Last	Comment
Jordan	Rinker	The impact on the visual aesthetics and cost-maintenance issues is too great to support the proposed changes to decrease the risk of two dozen suicide attempts per year. Given the thousands upon thousands of visitors walking the bridge each year, to permanently alter this icon and symbol of SF Bay Area, for a few persons who will commit suicide from the GGB is not good policy or risk management. Please spend our money wisely on projects which will impact the majority (such as retrofitting Doyle Drive) rather than the minority which is driving this issue.
Jordan	Rinker	What is to prevent a person from jumping onto the netting and then crawling over it to jump (alternative 3)?
Toni	Riss	my concern with the netting is that someone jumps, lands in the netting, but then is able to crawl out of the netting and jump from the netting? Is that a possibility? If not then netting would be my first choice if it can be done so that the person in the net isn't going to be able to crawl to the edge and jump from the net.
S M	Ritchie	Visually 2A and 2B appear to have been borrowed from the surrounding walls of a federal penitentiary. The clear viewing windows of 1A and 1B would be fine if they are routinely replaced after becoming scratched, marked or frosted. Alternatively, it would be great if the current sidewalk railings are retained and the 40 to 50 million dollars would be spent towards suicide counseling/prevention programs for all. Between a 12' high pedestrian barrier and the ongoing proposal for a movable roadway barrier, the bridge will lose its original aesthetic appeal of simple, clean lines.
Roy Marrcele	Ritola Ritter	Bridge barriers cannot stop suicides....they will find another bridge or alternative...the Bridge should be preserved as it is.
Marrcele	Ritter	extended nets probably would deter 'would be' jumpers. Also, add motion detector lights with the ability to signal a jump to a central station that would be an added deterrent.
Marrcele	Ritter	The horizontal net would be the least offensive.
Bridget	Rivero	It's an icon; don't ruin it.
Bridget	Rivero	The money would be better spent on suicide counselors on foot / bike patrol. Why should the relatively few people who jump be prevented, when we don't prevent street people from killing themselves slowly on our streets everyday? Put the money into mental health programs!

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Beverly	Robb	I do favor a deterrent system addition to the Bridge. I work in suicide prevention. Most suicides are impulsive acts, and the deterrent will prevent someone from acting on his impulse. The impulse will pass, and that person will probably never think to make an attempt again. There unfortunately will be others who are more deliberate in their act, and a barrier may not save them, but I believe it is definitely worth the try. We are spending billions killinh people in Iraq. Could we not find the money to spare to save some others?
Darrel	Robbins	Nothing "innovative" please, just match the structure as possible.
Darrel	Robbins	The informed opinion and uninformed opinion on this issue are exactly opposite. We must not rely on uninformed decision makers.
Tim	Robbnsn	\$50 million is to much. Put the mney into mental health.
Leonard	Robel	I almost didn't see the net alternative here, maybe it should be more prominent. From what I've read, it sounds like a powerful deterrent and won't harm people's aesthetic experience of the bridge.
Brian	Roberts	It is a foolish notion to believe that spending millions of dollars on a bridge net or rail will prevent someone from taking their own lives. They will just do it elsewhere. Resources would be much better spent offering help to suicidal individuals rather than trying to "baby proof" San Francisco.
Doug	Roberts	I think that a barrier is not absolutly necessary. I think that the if a barrier is to be installed then it should be the least visible.
Doug	Roberts	If the decision made by the GGB District regarding a suicide prevention barrier is to install a barrier, I think that a bridge toll increase should not be granted to pay for the prevention barrier. If a toll increase is the deciding factor, then there should be no barrier.
marsha	roberts	while my heart goes out to those who have lost family & friends to suicide, i do not believe a barrier will prevent these people from taking their lives -- they will just do it another way
Carol	Robertson	I feel that spending 25-50 million dollars to potentially stop suicides on the bridge is rediculous and fiscally irresponsible. People will find another way to kill themselves. We should not spend that kind of money trying to stop them.

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Rabbi Bernie	Robinson	It seems ridiculous to be deciding the issue of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge on the basis of an opinion poll. Human life so far outweighs in importance the aesthetics of a 71 year old architectural icon that has been the site of over 1300 deaths, that the public policy decision should be obvious: build a barrier! My preference is for whichever alternative will deter and prevent suicides most effectively.
Steve	Robinson	When people of any age are determined to take their own lives,you can't blame the gun or the pills or the razor blade they use to do it. It's the person,not the bridge! Let's not compromise an icon, it doesn't bring back the dead.
Yetta	Robinson	Just build a barrier and save lives!!
James	Robison	Any barrier proposed would be a incredible waste of money.
Julie	Roby	The barrier would be a misuse of public funds. Continue suicide patrols for the human touch.
stacia	rockfeld	First, I can't believe that considering suicide to be a public problem, and altering the bridge with public funds, is still even viable. If people landed on a busy sidewalk where it would be costly to have emergency vehicles there and the closing of the thruway; or if someone could possibly be injured by someone jumping (such as the eiffel tower or empire state bldg), I could understand the concerns. These people (suicider's families) are being exploited. It's ridiculous. That being said, if something has to be built, it should be alternative 3, which doesn't impede the view from the bridge itself.
Charles	Rockwell	Any suicide barrier on the GGB is not going to solve the problem. Alterations or barriers will only challenge a person to circumvent the safety nets or change their means of accomplishing their goal. After reading the suicide reports of the subjects that jumped from the GGB since the opening of the bridge, it is very apparent that their mental condition would have resulted in suicide by other means. Would those other means threaten the safety of other people--those that would not be involved in a jumper situation-- highly possible. Statistically suicide from the GGB is minimal in comparison overall. Unfortunately a barrier is not the answer. As a side note, I did suffer the loss of close friends to suicide and understand the pain.
May	Rodgers	There should be a barrier. It is not responsible to ignore the ease at which people can jump. If a car maker had an issue that caused fewer deaths than this, they would be required to make changes regardless of the cost. The bridge should do no less.

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Alma	Rodoni	As a 3rd generation native of Marin County and an experienced traveler I still get a thrill every time I go over the GGB. It is one of the most beautiful sites in the world. I am strongly opposed to anything that impacts that experience. It is hard to imagine that we are going to save lives by preventing one of a myriad of choices a person has to end their life once they have decided to do so. Are we also going to ban kitchen knives, pharmaceutical drugs, ropes, guns, etc. etc.
Margaret	Rodriguez	I don't really care which barrier is built - but please, build one! I've been following this story in the paper and I don't really understand the reasoning behind leaving the bridge as-is.
Margaret	Rodriguez	Thank you for surveying the public.
Nicole	Rodriguez	I would almost feel like a caged animal. The bridge is amazing and to place any type of bars or nets up would take from our history and beauty of SF.
Terry	Rodriguez, RN	There should be nothing to change the appearance of this remarkable historic landmark. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will find a way. Altering the GGB will not prevent one single suicide. Believe me, I know this to be true.
Terry	Rodriguez, RN	The only alternative I can suggest is NO alternative.
Terry	Rodriguez, RN	Spend the money on mental health programs, 24/7 phone counselors, etc.
Jackie	Roeing	I believe that the death of even one person from suicide is one too many in today's society. The high suicide rate from jumping off of the bridge is a poor reflection on the city of San Francisco and the value that it places on the life and well-being of its citizens. A physical barrier or rail is the option that shows the best promise for the saving of the highest number of lives. As someone from Chicago, I appreciate the architecture and grandeur of the urban center and the history behind a city's features, but we can no longer ignore the loss of life; the "iconic view" from the bridge simply cannot compare to a lost life.
Bridget	Roeser	Please, please no, no, no barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. I am convinced that a person who is determined to commit suicide will find a place to do it anyway. I listened to the Michael Krasny show and in regard to the Father who called about his daughter, an only child who ended her life that way. Did the parents not notice any different signs in her? Wasn't there anyone the young girl could confide in? I feel there is more to this story than we have been told. And that's all right, but, please do not blame the Golden Gate Bridge for this tragedy. Again, NO BARRIER ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. It is a magnificent structure and it should be left exactly the way it is.

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Bridget	Roeser	<p>I am reminded of the great day in May 1987 when three of us got up in the wee hours to catch a ride on a bus to the parking lot next to the bridge to walk across on the 50TH Anniversary. On May 25TH the Chronicle headlined the paper, THE GREAT PARTY Massive Bridge Walk. Gridlock for 800,000. It was a glorious affair. A day to remember for ever. Keep the Golden Gate Bridge as it was designed by Charles Alton Ellis and engineered by Joseph Strauss. As it was then, as it is now and as it will remain for future generations.</p> <p>And I haven't even mentioned the cost. That alone is out of the question. TOTALLY.</p>
John	Rogers	<p>32,000 successful suicides take place in the U.S. each year out of approximately 816,000 attempts.</p> <p>If they fail, they will try again. Numbers don't lie, liars do. Consider pro choice on Abortion.</p> <p>Last year 1,228,000 potential citizens were slain</p> <p>in the most safe place, the mothers womb. How much are those lives worth. Think about it while you labor over a barrier, and those were not permitted to be survivors.</p> <p>John Rogers, Carolyn Rogers and Jonathan Rogers</p>
richard	rogers	if their serious enough to jump, they're serious enough to do it anyway someplace else!
Shawn	Rohwedder	I do not support any change to the bridge.
Phyllis	Rokes	<p>My husband and I, our friends and our family are ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY AGAINST ALL OF YOUR PLANS!!!! Most of us were born in San Francisco and still live in the Bay Area. If people are going to commit suicide, they will find a way. DO NOT DESTROY THE BEAUTY OF THIS LANDMARK THAT IS KNOWN AND LOVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Before any of you do something like this, PLEASE put the issue on the ballot in a general election. You'll find out how much support or lack thereof that you have.</p>

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Phyllis	Rokes	My husband and I, our friends and our family are ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY AGAINST ALL OF YOUR PLANS!!!! Most of us were born in San Francisco and still live in the Bay Area. If people are going to commit suicide, they will find a way. DO NOT DESTROY THE BEAUTY OF THIS LANDMARK THAT IS KNOWN AND LOVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Before any of you do something like this, PLEASE put the issue on the ballot in a general election. You'll find out how much support or lack thereof that you have.
Greg	Roldan	I am a lifelong Bay Area resident and have grown to love what the GG Bridge brings to the state. The current appearance, with no additions is preferable to me. A net would really serve no purpose. If a person was intent on jumping, he would just move from the net and continue his fall.
Greg	Roldan	If a person was intent on committing suicide, he would find other ways to get around any type of barrier or find another method. If the district was serious about suicide prevention they would ban all pedestrians. They could use that extra space to add an additional traffic lane. Not an option.
Aaron	Roller	The bridge is beautiful and historic. The percentage of people that commit suicide off the GG Bridge compared to total bay area suicides is not that high and not worth the money. The cost is too high and the aesthetics are too invasive.
Aaron	Roller	It is fundamentally wrong to think that we can stop people from killing themselves by making it more difficult. The people can be saved, but it will be through counseling and helping those that seek help.
Lauren	Roller	I feel that the greatest impact of the change would be visual/aesthetic, but that impact could be minimized by using the net alternative (which disrupts the view from the bridge least) or by using a horizontal system (which minimizes the look of obstructions to viewing). The cultural impact is also a consideration, but I believe that the preservation of lives is more important than the preservation of a historical landmark in its original state.
Lauren	Roller	I'm so glad that this project is going forward. Projects like this in other areas of the country have had a significant impact on the number of jumping deaths. It's important to consider the aesthetic and cultural effects of these projects, but even more important to consider how many lives they could save.
Alyssia	Rollins	My Friend Henry Lew committed suicide on this bridge. I would like to know that families and friends of future loved ones who commit suicide will never have to look at the bridge as i and many others do now. It is a representation of beauty yet I see it as a sign of death. If this net saves at least one life. Don't you think it would be worth it??

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Iris	Rollins	Why should tax payers pay for a barrier when those who want to commit suicide will find a way to do so anyways.
ROBERT	ROMERO	if any barriers are to be installed,a MOVABLE TRAFFIC BARRIER should be the priority. There are INNOCENT people being killed, whereas with a jumper that is a choice they're making
Linda	Rose	The \$40 million would be better spent on foot patrols and call boxes.
Linda	Rose	While suicide is tragic, expecially for the surviving loved ones, I fail to see why everyone else should be more concerned about individual lives than they may be themselves.
patti	rose	I think if someone wants to kill themselves it is their choice. If they jump off the bridge they won't hurt anybody on the ground. Also it is too much money to spend on people who want to die when it could be spent on people in the state who want to live and are having a hard time.
Elika	Rosenbaum	I do not want to have to look at ANY suicide barrier. This is not a safety issue like a center barrier for crossovers where unintended accidents occur. Suicide is an intentional action. The rights of the many should outweigh the desires of the few who choose to end their life. They have control of what they do and those of us who choose to not commit suicide should not be held hostage to a few vocal people think a barrier will save every life. At what cost? This idea needs to be voted down.
Elika	Rosenbaum	Use our very scarce resources, including your time, on other things. The health care system is charged with maintaining the mental health of individuals not the transportation system. Please use our funds accordingly. People who want to commit suicide will find somewhere to do so and I do not want my bridge tolls or tax dollars for transportation used in this way.
Elika	Rosenbaum	Vote NO on any suicide barrier.
Matthew	Rosko	Any type of barrier will cost millions to taxpayers and destroy the aesthetics of the bridge.
Cherie	Ross	Please see comments below.

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Cherie	Ross	What is accomplished by installing any of the 5 "suicide deterrents" listed above for the Golden Gate bridge??? If someone has made the decision to kill themselves by committing suicide and 1 of the "deterrents" is put into place on the GG Bridge, that person will just go the Bay Bridge or some other tall building in San Francisco and jump from there. Are we then going to put suicide barriers in all over town in the hope of stopping people who are intent on ending their lives?? My heart does go out to the families of those who have made the decision to jump from the GG Bridge but, it is my opinion and many of those I have spoken to, those families would still be mourning the loss of their loved one who had ended their life by jumping from another high place. Do not blame the GG Bridge and spend hundreds of millions to build "deterrents" and forever change the beautiful profile of the bridge because you will then be having this same discussion years from now about how to "save lives" and then spending billions building more "deterrents" on the Bay Bridge. This problem has no end since people who want to end their lives will find a way.
Dave	Ross	Money should not be wasted on this project.
Ken	Ross	Any of the proposed designs take away dramatically from the beautiful look of the bridge, and, in the case of four of the proposals, take away from the wonderful look from the bridge.
Ken	Ross	From what I can tell, the Net System would have the least negative visual impact on the look of and from the bridge. Alternatives 1 and 2 create a prison-like look.
Ken	Ross	<p>The bridge is one of the most beautiful man-made structures in the entire world. Its design should not be compromised in any way. Its original and current beauty should be able to be enjoyed by the millions of people from all over the world who come to look at it.</p> <p>I do not believe that a barrier will reduce the number of suicides committed; it will only move them to other locations and means.</p>
Ken	Ross	As strongly as possible, I encourage you not to build any kind of barrier.
laurie	ross	a barrier is very important, show we care. even up here in Seattle.
Min	Ross	You should not waste money on building a suicide barrier!
Min	Ross	A person should be allowed to commit suicide.
Vicky	Ross	From a view point the Horizontal system would be better. If looking out you can look through the bars horizontally. Vertical system might block the view.
Vicky	Ross	Other option is get rid of the sidewalks altogether and just put a bike lane in that is blocked from traffic and have people shuttled from one side of the bridge to the other to the vista points. That certainly be a lot cheaper. Or have the sidewalks open just one day a week for people wanting to walk across.

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Michelle	Rossi	The money would be more well spent on mental health resources. Put counselors in schools, help make Doctors more available to all in need... You are not saving anyone by putting up this block-they will just do it another way. This great amount of money is wasted and it's sad!
Kay	Rousseau	I only hope that Board will, in fact, ultimately listen to the voice of the people in this critical decision. Overwhelmingly, people are against this barrier. We must~ and we will~ find alternatives. A barrier is NOT the answer.
Barbara	Rowe	We MUST build a suicide barrier. The Seiden report is clear that it would save lives. There is NO COMPARISON between the issues of saving lives vs saving views. LIFE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT. PLEASE, PLEASE VOTE TO BUILD BARRIER! Rev. Barbara Rowe, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon
Barbara	Rowe	Saving lives is more important than saving views!! PLEASE - for future victims of this #1 suicide location in the world and for their families, VOTE FOR THE BARRIER!!
Rev. Barbara	Rowe	The net would least impact view and may be the least expensive. A barrier MUST be installed!
Rev. Barbara	Rowe	Life is vastly more important than view. This deterrant would save lives of the one who impulsively tries to jump as well as the emotional lives of their friends and family members that are deeply impacted as the result of a loved one's suicide. DO IT!!
J.A.	Rowley	It seems this suicide barrier is to PROTECT the REPUTATION of the Golden Gate Bridge, rather than a real concern about the people potentially using it to take their life. Having a "prevention" mechanism on the bridge likely would not deter someone committed to suicide " they will just go somewhere else. Having a "prevention" mechanism on the bridge would likely remove the perception of the bridge being a beacon for suicides - and suicides on the bridge would go down. But this only prevents the Golden Gate Bridge from being associated with suicides " thus only protecting its reputation - and nothing really to help people who are considering suicide. It seems \$40 million dollars could be better spent to support programs to prevent suicides " as the 45mph speed limit on the bridge has helped reduce accidents.
Charles	Rubin	Any suicide barrier will detract from the look of the bridge, and in most cases, from the view FROM the bridge.
Charles	Rubin	Any suicide barrier will detract from the look of the bridge, and in most cases, from the view FROM the bridge.

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Charles	Rubin	It is unconscionable that the GGB Authority is even contemplating spending millions to stop a few suicides when it is continually in the red. People will always find ways to kill themselves, and none of the alternatives here will prevent that from happening on the bridge. This is a colossal waste of resources.
Sandra	Rubin	it is important to do all we cn to SAVE LIVES!!!!
		Sadly, people have taken their own lives for centuries. Sadly, they will continue to do so for centuries to come by whatever means they deem necessary. Ruining the visual appeal of landmark such as the Golden Gate Bridge is NOT the answer. The Bridge is a landmark of a great city, the western gateway to America and should not be altered. I am begging you, please don't do this. It's an insult to the Bridge and the City of San Francisco and it will not stop people from killing themselves when they have reached that moment when living is too painful!
Lee-Ann	Rubinstein	
Maggie	Rufo	My only concern with a barrier, which I favor, is that is not impact birds that use the bridge. For instance: would a net be something that birds would easily become entangled in?
april	ruggiero	I feel that if someone is going to kill themselves they are going to do it one way or another. It's just another way for politicians to spend our money that we don't have.
bill	rundstrom	As a frequent walker on the bridge, I think it will be a travesty to deface it and ruin the views by putting up a barrier of any kind. Non-suicidal people (despite what some psychiatrists may opine--the ones you can pay to testify anyway you want in a court proceeding) do not go to the bridge and then decide what a great place to kill myself. And, a truly suicidal person will find a way, with or without the bridge.

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Jonathan	Runge	<p>After working in a psychiatric crisis unit in Marin County, and also understanding in depth the impact of suicide jumpers, I think a suicide prevention barrier is long overdue.</p> <p>I believe alternative 2A will be the least disruptive aesthetically from both driver/pedestrian views and from various distant viewpoints of the bridge. After a few months of adjustment, I believe the change will be hard to discern from the previous railing.</p>
John	Rushworth	The barrier will not help prevent people from taking their life. If you must put one up use the net system. That way it will not keep the thousands of people from viewing the city.
John	Rushworth	What does EIR/EA mean ?
Dale	Russell	Something needs to be done. My 20 year old nephew just recently jumped from this bridge. If there had been some type of prevention up on this bridge, he may not have done this. Yes, he might of had some problems, but if this project can help save lifes, then my all means, lets fix the problem.
Donald	Russell	Spend the money on a moveable traffic median barrier. This barrier will save lives of those who want to live.
John	Russell	I appreciate the bridge in its current form.
Mike	Russell	Let them jump. If they want to die, it's okay. Death is but a transition and we will all get the experience.
Brian	Russo	The GGB should not be a destination spot for suicide attempts. It's time to do the right thing and stop the tragedies regardless of aesthetics.

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		<p>How can you change the design of a beautiful piece of architecture that millions of people visit every year? If people want to commit suicide, they will find a way to do it.</p> <p>I can see that the Golden Gate Bridge may be one of the "preferred" spots to committ suicide, but I am sure there are many others, i.e. cliffs, tall buildings, etc. What are we supposed to do protect every such site to prevent people from doing themselves in?</p> <p>This whole discussion is preposterous.</p> <p>DO NOT change our beautiful bridge.</p> <p>Mimi Russo Mill Valley, CA</p>
Mimi	Russo	
Roxanna	Rutter	Thank you.
Carol	Ryan	To add any of the suggested barriers would irreparably damage the beauty of the bridge, for an (at most) negligble reduction of suicides
Justin	Ryan	They are all detrimental. Leave the bridge alone.
Justin	Ryan	Leave the bridge alone.
Justin	Ryan	Leave the bridge alone.

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		<p>It seems to me that the few people who take advantage of the free view and free and open society by taking their lives in this way should not ruin the view for the rest of us (99.9%) People do not need to be protected from themselves. we don't lock people up in their home because were afraid they might get a virus. We don't stop people from driving, or drinking and smoking. We let everyone decide for themselves what to do with their bodies, thats the benefit and sometimes tragic price we pay for a free society. Please use the money instead for suicide prevention programs within the city itself.</p> <p>thank you</p> <p>michael ryan</p>
Michael	Ryan	
Patrick	Ryan	40-50 million dollars could be put to much better uses, including other programs/initiatives that may help more people and save more lives.
John	Rynski	Concerned about the number of birds who may be entangled by net in Alternative 3 and their ability to get loose. Birds would also slam into transparent panels in Alternatives 1 and 2.
John	Rynski	The path of least visual impact needs to be taken.
John	Rynski	As for Alternatives 1 and 2, it would be a shame to alter the design of the bridge so radically AND to block the views in such a dramatic manner. How long would transparent panels remain transparent? Bad idea.
John	Rynski	Since the bridge is so often undergoing renovation and upkeep, its lines are already frequently marred by scaffolding and such. Thus Alternative 3 becomes merely a more permanent extension of this. It is inelegant but clearly necessary.
John	Rynski	I have walked, bicycled, and driven over the GG Bridge countless times, and enjoyed the views from the bridge and of the bridge. I have also lost a friend to suicide there. I'd like to see an end to bridge suicides but not by destroying the bridge itself.
Rob	Rynski	All of these barrier options are offensive; perhaps the net fits in best of these alternatives. Nonetheless, what a disaster for such an amazing architectural treasure. That being said, I lost a dear friend to the bridge this year and am torn beyond be
Rob	Rynski	The barrier options (1 & 2) look silly and out of proportion. The net fits in better. And, this will add to troubled upkeep of the bridge. Look at the bike barrier. It is rusted and poorly maintained - and yet only a few years old... Imagine trying to maintain these ugly barriers.

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Chad	S	The money could be greatly used to help other who need it more. If someone wants to jump, let them. One way or another they will commit suicide if they really want to. Use the money to help children so they dont become future jumpers.
M	S	This is just another politically correct waste of time and money project! If folks wanna jump, let them, if they wanna die, they will find another place to do it, and that it their right... do not waste our money and ruin the looks of the bridge! The GG Bridge is incredibly beautiful, and it would be tragic to ruin it with this expensive boondoggle! We do not have the money to waste on this UGLY UGLY barrier project!!!!
M	S	UGLY UGLY UGLY BARRIERS, ALL ARE GROSS AND VILE AND WRONG AND JUST LEAVE THE BRIDGE ALONE!
VIVIAN	SACHS	The Golden Gate Bridge should be left as the world recognized icon that it is. People intent on committing suicide will find a way around any barrier. there have to be better ways to deal with this problem. Patrols appear to be a good alternative. Visually I would hate to see the bridge altered and I don't believe that the impact of the barrier will be effective.
Clifford	Sacks	<p>I think that you are just pushing the problem somewhere else. If you know such people are coming, it would be better to have appropriate services at the bridge, than to spread such services thought the city or bay area. Concentration could be good, even if it sounds kind of like a morbid thought.</p> <p>Plan 2B will give the visitors the best view lines of the area. Not sure how it effects the wind and earthquake stability, but the visual lines would be the best after keeping it the same</p>
Karin	Safrit	I am sharing the opinion of the majority and hope that the Golden Gate Bridge authorities will not build a suicide prevention barrier. Everybody who lives in or visits San Francisco enjoys walking across the bridge and seeing the city on one side and the pacific ocean on the other.Please keep the beauty of the bridge intact!
Michael	Sagar	Nothing should be put up on the bridge.
Daniel	Saint James	No barrier. Do not waste our money and do not change our beautiful iconic bridge. Anyone who wants to commit suicide will just find another place to do it.

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Christian	Salak	This issue has considerations that need to be considered prior to EIR/EA. Let me address those here. An expensive suicide barrier MAY ON OCCASION impair or prevent an individual from succeeding acting on the impulse to end his or her life by jumping from the bridge. The question is whether there is a public obligation, legal or moral, to intervene. There is no specific legal obligation to my knowledge. It is not part of the social contract. I do not believe that there is a moral obligation to build a barrier, or that the decision to not build a barrier violates any moral law. I do not accept the premise that there is a self-evident obligation for taxpayers to carry the burden of the cost of the barrier design, planning, construction, and maintenance. That is a point to be argued. So far I have not heard a convincing argument. There is also a practical issue, which is how is the effectiveness of a suicide barrier to be measured? How can it be possible to claim that an event was prevented when the event did not occur? It is possible to identify a suicide only after the fact, and not before. To think otherwise is to think in terms of the operative concept in the film/short story "Minority Report". In quantitative terms, a barrier may result in a statistical change in the number of suicides per year. However, it will not be possible to claim that it prevented the suicide of any particular individual. In my opinion, environmental issues arise only after the initial considerations have been resolved.
Debra	Salan, MSW, PhD	I think that either of the alternatives I voted for would be visually aesthetic.
Debra	Salan, MSW, PhD	The ethical imperative to save lives outweighs any recreational considerations. If a person can be deterred from jumping off the bridge at the actual time of crisis, it is much more likely that longer term types of prevention would be effective (such as longer term treatment, therapy, medication etc...).
Maida	Salcido	Any barriers will take away from the visual and aesthetic appeal of a very historic & infamous landmark. Leave it alone! It would be like erecting barbed wire around the statute of liberty and saying this will prevent terrorists from attacking New York again. Its a ridiculous idea.
Maida	Salcido	This is AMERICA, land of the free... If people wish to end their lives, let them! Who are we to tell anyone they shouldn't? Its none of our business. That's why we have suicide hotlines and counselors and other free resources that people can use. Why deform a landmark that will surpass all of our lifetimes for the sake of "preventing a suicide". If they are really intent to do it they will, barrier or not!

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Ernest	Salomon	<p>If people are determined to kill themselves, they will do so. If not on the GGB, then somewhere else like the Bay Bridge or another site in the arealke the roof of Fort Point.</p> <p>At least when they jump off the GGB, they have little chance of hurting or killing someone else.</p> <p>Take the money and open a suicide prevention center!</p> <p>BNy the way, you will need a barrier on the west side as well if you put one on the east side.</p>
Jessica	Saltin	Maybe if there's new technology made that can reduce the cost and impacts of the project, then more people would be happy.
Jessica	Saltin	As someone who's been depressed before, this project seems like a good idea. It should go through and be built.
Susan	Samols	I do not think the cost of the deterrent and reduction in beauty of the bridge to others is ratio based to the number of individuals who would benefit from it. While I am horribly saddened by the many suicides, I do not think the cost of the intervention is warranted and I oppose it at this time.
Armando	Sanchez	All of the proposed suicide prevention barriers look terrible and destroy the aesthetic beauty of the bridge. They also do nothing to prevent suicide as people who want to commit suicide will find alternative means. A suicide barrier is a useless, expensive, ugly exercise, the funds would be better spent on general suicide prevention programs.
Armando	Sanchez	Funds would be better spent on a movable median that prevents accidents.
Gary	Sanders	I don't care what barrier type you build, just build one!
Gary	Sanders	Not building a barrier will cost more lives unnecessarily. Please just build a barrier. How many more lives have to be lost before you get something done?
Katherine	Sansone	My comment? Stop spending money coming up with these ideas!
Katherine	Sansone	A ridiculous idea! People are going to do what they are going to do. If they can't jump, they will find an alternative. Enough already.

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Terry	Santos	<p>PLEASE do not put up any kind of barrier to prevent suicides on the gorgeous GGB! In my opinion, it's the most beautiful man-made structure in the world, and it should be kept in its original, pristine condition. As the daughter of a mother who committed suicide, I think I understand the passion people feel who have lost loved ones to suicide on the GGB, but the tremendous amounts of money that have already been spent on the EIR/EA and that will be spent erecting a barrier would be much better used for mental health care and suicide deterrent programs. THEY deal with the root causes and potential positive treatment; a barrier on the GGB does not.</p> <p>Why not put the issue to a popular vote and abide by that rather than forcing it on the public via a commission of people who have already made up their minds that a barrier should be built? What's wrong with letting the people decide? I would still be upset if the vote went in favor of a barrier, but at least I would take comfort in knowing it was truly an expression of the popular will.</p>
Ira	Sapan	<p>I feel that a suicide barrier is very important.</p> <p>I personally knew a troubled teenaged girl who committed suicide by jump off the GGB.</p>
Brad	Sargent	<p>If either Alternative 2A or 2B were implemented, I wonder if the increased visibility of the Bay due to thinner posts would prove enough of a distraction to auto drivers to cause slowing on the bridge and/or accidents.</p>
Alicia	Saribalis	<p>Suicide is tragedy. It is also a permanent aspect of the human condition and best prevented by increasing services to those suffering from mental illness and depression. Physical barriers are well-intended but ultimately futile. What about the Headlands? They too could become an iconic alternative for suicides in the absence of GG bridge access. Do we then put a barrier beneath the Headlands as well? The truth is we cannot effectively suicide-proof our physical environment. My heart goes out to all families suffering from the loss of loved ones, but physical barriers will not prevent those committed to suicide from ending their lives.</p>

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Anton	Sarry	<p>The State or the Bridge District has neither the duty nor the right to dictate how we leave this world.</p> <p>We San Franciscans have always had a saying, "... well, there's always the bridge." I believe suicide is wrong and have never considered jumping, but I've always cherished the cool wind of choice blowing through that open window.</p> <p>To close it in with bars, or to bind it with nets would destroy this soaring monument of human freedom. The freedom it embodies, through inspired architecture in the perfect setting , is immediately recognized by all who see it. Just watch their faces.</p> <p>Don't imprison it with bars and nets. Let it be.</p>
Derek	Satre	<p>I think the net is a good approach because it provides added protections but minimal change to the look of the bridge.</p>
Amy	Saucier	<p>Please do not build a barrier to keep people from suicide. I would prefer we spend 40-60 million dollars on the people who are starving to death, dying due to inadequate medical care, and homeless because they have no resources in the expensive bay area. What about schools that teach children how to manage emotions? What about mental health services that continue to get cut? Why not have social workers on each corner of the bridge? That way we can create jobs and do more one on one services with those who are emotionally unstable. The cost of four social workers 24 hours a day is a lot less than 60 million. 1300 people since 1937 is not a lot of people considering the population of the bay area. How many people have died in Bayview/Hunter's point, Western Addition, Potrero Hill, or the Missino District? Poverty kills more people than suicide. Lets put our money into programs to help people that need and want help; not to keep people alive who don't want our help!</p>

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Kathryn	Sauers	<p>Our neighbor jumped off the bridge in February of 2007. I wish to support his wife in her efforts to have a suicide barrier installed. His death has impacted many, many people and the esthetics of a barrier should not sway people from supporting what is the humanly decent thing to do--install a barrier, lives will be saved. Depression can be healed, there is no return from suicide. The surviving family members as well as friends and neighbors are deeply and forever affected. Since our neighbor's suicide, I no longer feel the thrill and joy that I used to driving across the Bridge since I was a child (I'm a native San Franciscan). Now, everytime I drive over the Bridge, my thoughts are of our neighbor and of how desperate he must have been. and I feel sad and a little anxious. I hope that I will never be a witness to a suicide off of the Golden Gate Bridge. Too many deaths have tarnished my love for this beautiful structure. With the installation of a suicide barrier, I might be able to recapture my love for the Bridge. Until then, I doubt I will ever again experience the innocence of a simple drive across a beautiful bridge.</p>
Naledi	Saul	<p>Thank you for doing this important work. I prefer any barrier option to none. I understand that currently the majority of commenters prefer no change. But aesthetics, cost and reluctance towards change cannot - can never - take precedence over saving human lives. Even one life is priceless when it's someone you love.</p> <p>Naledi aul (East bay resident, employed in San Francisco)</p>
Patricia	Saunders	<p>When a loved one jumps from the GG Bridge, it changes the asthetic forever for the survivors. The net would not detract from the beauty of the bridge or its views.</p>
Patricia	Saunders	<p>Please remember that the pain of suicide is felt far beyond the act itself. The ripple touches us all.</p>

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Virginia	Saunders	My partner, Ethel Davis committed suicide from the GG Bridge on September 9, 2007. She was determined to kill herself, had a copy of the article from the New Yorker on Jumpers in the car which she parked on the SF side. She wore ankle weights to make sure she would be killed. 2 men, each about 50 ft away yelled stop. Nothing short of a physical barrier, not just the net would have stopped her jump. She would only choose a method that was certain, as she said in her suicide note, and she felt the GG Bridge was the answer. Please erect a real barrier-she could not climb another foot above the current rail without assistance.
Aileen	Savage	Very Important...
Mark	Savery	All of these designs wreck the beauty of the bridge, and are a terrible waste of taxpayer dollars.
Mark	Savery	1A - makes the bridge look like a long jail cell. 1B - same. 3 - hideous, and doesn't even look like a sound suicide deterrent.
Mark	Savery	The Golden Gate bridge is San Francisco's icon. Changing its appearance is a massive mistake.
Phill	Sawyer	I would rather give up my right to walk across the bridge than sacrifice any more of the sublime beauty of its original form. We are different human beings than those who built such a treasure, and surely we must know the value that is right before our eyes.
Joan	Saxton	The Bridge is fine as it is. It is beautiful, historic, and esthetic. Don't mess with it!
Joan	Saxton	The alternatives are all unattractive compared to what we have now.
Joan	Saxton	Money should be spent on mental health facilities.
Joan	Saxton	It was a waste of money that we don't have.
Lawrence	Saxton	I occasionally enjoy walking across the bridge and I drive across often. It is not in the public interest to compromise the spectacular view with a vertical barrier. If a barrier must be added, a horizontal net system below deck level is the only reasonable alternative. It has minimum visual impact and would be equally or more effective than a suicide barrier.

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Lawrence	Saxton	A horizontal net to catch attempted suicides may actually save more lives than a barrier which would simply encourage some people to try another method. Anyone jumping into the net with the intention of climbing over it to complet the act is likely to be so frightened by the experience of falling 20 feet and hanging there over the water that any further thoughts of suicide are left behind. A failed suicide attempt as dramatic as that would serve to supress further thoughts of suicide. This has been the case with those who have survived the jump and gone on to lead productive lives. Let potential jumpers make a non-fatal leap into a net and give them a chance to re-think their act. But don't ruin the pleasure of the bridge for the rest of us.
Gary	Scales	Not sure of best alternative but support a physical suicide barrier.
Gary	Scales	Not sure of best alternative but support a physical suicide barrier.
Jeff	Scales	Before the GGB invests significant money in the suicide barrier I think they should solve the problem of headon collisions caused by drivers who drift across the median. Many have lost their lives or have been seriously injured and yet the Board has taken no action to rememdy this tragic problem.
Nick	Scales	The Bridge District doesn't have the money for this or any other "projects". I would far prefer that the money be spend towards dividing the roadway to prevent terrible head on accidents.
RICHARD	SCHAPER	the net inferes will no one and nothing and will defintely save lives. isn't this a no-brainer???
RICHARD	SCHAPER	Two people I know have ended their lives on the bridge in a slough of despair. Studies of attempted jumpers who were prevented show that 90% did not ever again attempt suicide. Please prevent the impetuous from killing themselves; give them a second chance.
Melissa	Schatz	The net alternative will make it more difficult for people to choose to jump on an impulse and it doesn't deter from the aesthetic of the bridge view. Suicide is most often an impulsive choice. The more difficult an act, the more time there is to prevent it.
Monique	Schaulis	I think 2b and 3 provide best view
Bonnie	Scheeler	It ruins the entire point of having such a wonderful view.

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J	schenone	unfortunately, people commit suicide everyday, and they're not all lining up at the bridge to do it ! considering how much money people are talking about spending on this project, iam thinking it could SURELY be better spent in other ways. it may be beyond the scope of the subject but, for example, what if the money was used to provide mental health services to people. bottom lining it , if people are intent on ending it all, it doesn't take alot of imagination to find a way, with or without a bridge ! ! speaking about money, and this precious life, aren't you all talking about spending a bunch of money for a" movable barrier " ? if so, the question arises as to when does all the spending of money (which you don't have, not really) end ?
Mike	Scherer	Impulsivity is a huge factor in many completed suicides. Research shows that virtually anything that impedes easy access to lethal means allows a person time to reconsider. Whether it is easy access to a loaded gun or a low barrier to a long fall, introducing impediments to impulsive action will save lives. Suicide is preventable. Time affords options and opportunities for help.
Remleh	Scherzinger	This issue does not pose a significant safety concern. Spend 40-50 million dollars on reducing traffic accidents or something that has a higher impact on society. If someone wants to kill themself then they will net or no net. This is the wrong approach to a small issue.
Harold	Schieve	Why bother? Why saddle taxpayers with this kind of feel-good project? If somebody wants to throw away their life, let them. At least they will have chosen a beautiful spot for their departure.
Bonnie	Schiffer	I think any of the alternatives would be fine except for the netting system.
Bonnie	Schiffer	Please put one of these systems into place ASAP. My son Jesse jumped from the bridge in November of 2005. He wrote in his journal about a year before he jumped, "I went to the bridge today. It looks pretty easy to get over". I truly believe he would still be alive today if there had been a barrier in place.
Bonnie	Schiffer	Build the barrier already. Too many lives have already been lost including my 25 year old son Jesse. Having that bridge nearby is like leaving a loaded gun on your kitchen table. Way too easy.
Howard	Schiffer	It is pretty simple - if this prevents one needless tragedy it will have been well worth it. Thank you.

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Bill	Schilz	As a Bay Area resident for 58 yrs, I'm greatly discouraged that we are considering going forward with any type of physical barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. The GGB is synonymous with San Francisco and represents one of the most well-known landmarks in the world. It is a beauty to see and will only be marred by ANY physical barrier. I'm a firm believer that people who are determined to commit suicide will find another way. I'm tired of pandering to extraordinarily small groups of people to the detriment of the many! Please...don't build a barrier.
allen	schlossman	It would be so unfortunate to spend so much money just so that Bridge officials don't have to stand up and say "we are not responsible for the life decisions people make in their own lives."
allen	schlossman	To reduce the enjoyment of something that is so aesthetically and experientially unique for no reason other than a lack of confidence to stand up and defend a sensible stand on personal responsibility is a pathetic shame. Five million people will have to experience the Bay from a cage just so a few people will be forced to choose another location to kill themselves. That is such cowardess.
allen	schlossman	Five million people will have to experience the Bay from a cage just so a few people will be forced to choose another location to kill themselves. That is such cowardess.
allen	schlossman	The District cries about their budget every year and raises the Bridge toll every chance it gets, but no one can stand up and say we don't have millions of dollars to address other people's personal problems. The fact that time and money are being spent on baby-proofing the Bridge "any bridge" is just absurd. What about people who buy potatoe chips at your snack bar? Are you responsible for their elevated cholesterol? Can somebody please stand up and defend a voice of reason instead of capitulating to every whim of every critic?
William C.	Schmidt	I have visited the bridge MANY times and I do not feel that ANY barrier should be erected to "prevent" suicides. Such a barrier would definitely ruin the visual and aesthetic value of the bridge, both from the bridge and looking at the bridge. The original designer found no need to erect such a barrier, there were no complaints at the time the bridge was designed or built that there was no such barrier and I see no need for such a barrier now.

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William C.	Schmidt	<p>A person that attempts to commit suicide by jumping off the bridge is making a decision to do so, right or wrong. Everyone else that wants to enjoy the bridge and has enjoyed the bridge in its current form will be denied that opportunity by the erection of any type of barrier. Certainly 50 million dollars can be better spent. It is WAY past time that people take responsibility for there own decisions and actions. Others should not be penalized by these decisions.</p>
Ann	Schneider	<p>We walk the bridge frequently. We take all our guests over the bridge. All proposed fixes will mar the view, plexiglas gets dirty and scratched. No good for taking photos or just enjoying the breathtaking view. The bars look like a prison and also destroy any photographs of people and the vistas.</p> <p>While the net is the least asthetically ugly, all someone who really wants to kill themselves has to do is then crawl on the net and drop over. Yes they have to think and act twice but if someone really wants to kill themselves, then they will.</p> <p>I am sorry for all who have lost friends and family. I've lost friends to suicide by train (2 people actually) and my parents lost a friend over the GG Bridge. So do all and more to prevent them from jumping. Add more cameras, add more rovers. Work to make mental health care available to everyone at anytime.</p> <p>The GG Bridge is our treasure please don't make the experience one of going to prison or looking out scratched windows like riding an AMTRAK train. Take if for the scenery but the windows are always dirty.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ann Schneider</p> <p>Native San Francisan</p>

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Lorri	Schoen	<p>I strongly agree with having some type of barrier. I have a teenage daughter who goes through mood swings like all teens & she has experienced a couple of her friends committing totally unexpected suicide. She was also friend with Casey Brooks and devastated by her death.</p> <p>I understand that momentary set-backs could result in permanent death from suicide. People are not rational when despondent. Bridge is too accessable.</p> <p>We should also get a movable middle lane barrier to prevent head-on collisions. Funding should come from Federal since GG Bridge is a national landmark.</p> <p>1. Net system seems less intrusive yet should work.</p> <p>2. Second choice is to add to the existing hand rail a vertical system. Horizontal system might still not deter suicide attempt if they can climb a horizontal barrier. I think having a winglet at the top is a good idea.</p>
Kim	Schreiber	<p>with any of the build alternatives, if someone is determined to take their life, they will find a way. we can not people proof all structures in this country.</p>
steven	schreibman	<p>I am a practicing psychotherapist of 30 years.</p> <p>I think a barrier is not a compassionate way of dealing with a suicidal person.</p> <p>I suggest the creation of a Compassionate squad of paid workers and volunteers to walk the span during access hours. Perhaps 2-4 people spread out across the span with access to cell phone and video cam with visible dress offering help and being trained to look out for depressed people. This could be a project of the suicide prevention program. It could be funded by the expected cost of the barrier or by volunteers, friends, family and concerned citizens who want to help. This would be a lot more healing method than dangling a suicidal person in a net. thank you for your consideration</p>

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steven	schreibman	<p>I am a practicing psychotherapist of 30 years.</p> <p>I think a barrier is not a compassionate way of dealing with a suicidal person.</p> <p>I suggest the creation of a Compassionate squad of paid workers and volunteers to walk the span during access hours. Perhaps 2-4 people spread out across the span with access to cell phone and video cam with visible dress offering help and being trained to look out for depressed people. This could be a project of the suicide prevention program. It could be funded by the expected cost of the barrier or by volunteers, friends, family and concerned citizens who want to help. This would be a lot more healing method than dangling a suicidal person in a net. thank you for your consideration</p>
Lee	Schruben	Please put in a prevention system as soon as possible. Thank you.
Ellen	Schuette	<p>I think the money to be spent on this project should go to other projects. It's too much money to help so few people. Spend more on schools or low-cost psychological counseling.</p> <p>IF someone wants to kill themselves and the Golden Gate Bridge has a barrier, won't they find another spot to jump from? The funds should be used to benefit more people.</p>
Joan	Schulenberg	People will find other ways to commit suicide so I don't understand how a barrier will help. Certainly we have other more important uses for the money. Plus a suicide barrier would destroy the aesthetic beauty of the bridge which I imagine does impact tourism.
Faye	Schulte	The bridge design should not be changed. It's a cultural icon and a historic landmark. The designs restrict the viewing pleasure of thousands of people who want to enjoy the beauty of the bridge and surrounding environment. Please don't ruin it for all
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Faye	Schulte	This should be put to a vote - I don't think a few people should be deciding what to do about this issue.
L.	Schultz	None of these areas is equal to a life.
L.	Schultz	Please do not opt for a net, which can easily be viewed as an invitation. Any barrier system is by far the best alternative.
Aaron	Schuman	For many people, suicide is an impulsive act. A physical deterrent will save lives.
		The Golden Gate Bridge is an icon; not only of Art Deco design but of a time when design and construction methods of public structures were important; before today's modern just-slap-up-a-box-made-of-particle-board-and-glass-as-quickly-and-cheaply-as-possible era. It should not be defaced in any way. If people want to kill themselves, and you make it impossible to jump by putting fences on the bridge, they'll do it someplace else. Better to spend the money on counseling programs or other non-architectural solutions that target the problem.
Mark	Schumann	
		My strong preference is the complete replacement of the rail with the horizontal bars with a winglet on the top. I think it improves the view, prevents suicide, and matches the interior bike rail.
Peter	Schwab	
		Use funds to construct a traffic barrier to save the lives of drivers who DO NOT want to die.
fred	schwartz	
		Make sure that someone can't jump off the bridge. Horizontal bars allow a jumper to climb. The net seems like you could get out of it and jump. The best would be the vertical bars and the net.
Helen	Schwartz	

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Helen sandra	Schwartz schwartz	<p>First, the people who usually vote on something are the ones who are negative. They are not representative of the majority.</p> <p>Second, the bridge district should decide, not the people submitting these responses. Where would we be with segregation, physical disability laws and other laws, if we let the "people" decide?</p> <p>Third, a life of a human being is infinitely more important than any bridge icon. If you save a life, you save a world. Having a bridge without a barrier doesn't save anyone.</p> <p>Fourth, for all the reasons that have been stated by the psychologists, coroners, surviving family members and friends of suicide jumper, not to mention survivors of a suicide jumper his or herself, those who police the bridge and so many others, there must be a suicide barrier.</p> <p>Fifth, once the barrier goes up, it will look nice.</p> <p>Sixth, barriers on other bridges or high structures in the world, have prevented jumpers.</p> <p>PLEASE DON'T LET THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO RESPOND ON THIS SITE OR ELSEWHERE, DECIDE ON THIS LIFE EFFECTING DECISION. IT SHOULD BE THOSE WHO HAVE THE PROPER AUTHORITY, KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION.</p> <p>I have no relatives or friends who have jumped off a bridge. I just care deeply about the loss of someone who had a future ahead, and who could have made a difference for the good in this difficult world of ours.</p> <p>Helen Schwartz Larkspur</p>
		The horizontal and vertical bars are terrible. I don't want to change to look of the bridge. Depressed people will find a way to end their lives, even if it is not the bridge.
Kat	Schwede	Why should we risk the integrity of such a beautiful monument because people can't accept accountability for their own actions. If people don't jump off of the GG then they will take a bottle of pills. Should we then have to get a script for tylenol???
Charlie	Sciortino	What an incredible waste of money this will be if people approve this. It's sad, but you just can't protect people from themselves. Leave the bridge alone. Any addition will ruin the look of the bridge. If somebody really wants to kill themselves, they can find another way, so building a barrier won't stop anything.
Harriet	Scott	visual/aesthetic--vertical system seems to continue the existing focus on the vertical bars of the bridge.
Kathy	Scott	My son attends the school where a young woman jumped last year. We need to stop these senseless deaths during the teen years.

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Sally	Scott	Suicides are a mental health issue. Though regretable, this is a social, cultural issue. In my view, installing a mobile center divider on the GG Bridge should be given priority in order to be saving lives.
Susan	Scott	People who really want to commit suicide will find a way no matter what is done to try to prevent. Given our current economic situation within the state, I think we have to make choices about where we can spend our limited resources. I think our resources could be better used to try to provide education and health care which might help people's mental health before they reach the point when they will want to jump off a bridge.
Jane	Scribner	One of my friends jumped from the bridge.
Julie	Sea	If there's a chance the romance of the bridge draws people to commit suicide there, its our moral obligation to prevent it.
Gregory	Seal	Suicide is a tragedy. However, we can't assuage our guilt for every evil that exists in the World. Let's put our \$\$\$ where they matter, early on prevention. All the \$50 million barrier will do is give us a reason not to focus on the real issues of suicide.
Mark	Sealander	An additional feature of the Net System should be one that makes it very hard to escape or even one that closes up to trap the jumper until the rescue team arrives.
Alec	Seastrand	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the great aesthetic landmarks of north america. setting up a barrier (let's call it a fence), only degrades it's visual attraction and makes a statement toward our callousness of the environment. very little is done in this country to improve our global appeal and our attitudes towards historical preservation. Why would we consider an act that only bolsters and exemplifies the negative aspects of our culture? the least we can do, is respect the bridges original design and think of better ways to solve more local dilemmas. we shouldn't make the bridge, and every one of millions of onlookers, suffer because there is a greater social issue at hand. the bridge is not a scapegoat, and should not be treated as such.</p> <p>the bridge was built in the haze of the great depression in 1937. there was not a single construction related death in the years of it's creation. is it so much to ask that we find better ways of deterring death than creating a 7 foot barrier that is reminiscent of a prison? is it our government's obligation to protect us from ourselves, or is it our responsibility to acknowledge one another and examine our own actions?</p> <p>thank you for your time,</p> <p>Alec Seastrand</p>
Jeffrey	Seastrom	Let me make it quite clear: I STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY BARRIER. THIS IS A HUGE WASTE OF MONEY!!!
Jeffrey	Seastrom	End this project and disband.

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First	Last	Comment
Howard	Segal	This is something that MUST BE DONE! I've seen the documentary on T.V. recounting suicides from the GGB, and I'm appalled that nothing along the lines of a suicide prevention barrier has been undertaken in the past. It's almost as if the GGB authority relishes the "romanticized" notion of continued suicides off the bridge! Whatever can be done to diminish (or completely negate) the possibility of future suicide attempts (and successes) should be done as soon as possible.
Marcia	Segura	People come from all over the world to walk on the bridge. The view of the bay is magnificent. I oppose any plan that will block the view of people walking on the bridge. Anything placed above the current 4 foot level would do that. No one wants to look through bars to see the bay. Please do anything else you can to prevent suicides, such as a net and more/better patrols, but don't ruin this magnificent view for the hundreds of thousands of happy people with no thought the jumping.
Courtney	Selfridge	I think that the net is the best alternative. Today the morning radio talk shows were saying that someone would jump off of the net once they get to that point. If this is true then the net option is flawed. Could the net be alarmed??
Courtney	Selfridge	My vote is in honor of Todd Brooke's passing last year.
paul	sengir	if the profile of the bridge is going to be changed at all, center barrier and overhead/underneath additional lanes should be considered. The suicide barrier itself is an attempt to control image, not actuality. At that cost actual bridge improvements should be made. Also, I have a moderate cost center divider I will donate to the bridge district as long as no one else gets paid for the design concept.
paul	sengir	shifting the method of suicide from the bridge to some other location for the purpose of the image and reputation of the bridge is at best a flawed idea with so many areas of insensitivity implied that this concept needs a restart at some later date. Everyone knows that people intent on suicide will find a way, and asking the public to pay 50 mil for them not to do it on the bridge is implying that they are stupid (for not perceiving this) and that they are prone to impulsive suicides (and are thus mindless nuts running amok) which is not possible to prove. Saying that spending 7k per day (plus interest) for saving, at best, a few lives is rubbing everyone's nose in San Francisco in the fact that the Bridge District is out of touch, willing to spend money desperately needed for other real needs on an unsupported speculation.

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paul	sengir	The very nature of the barrier is obstructive, the construction will close all access to the bridge for some people for the whole construction period. Tourists could probably walk out some ways on the non-construction end, but this will severely impact tourism in SF, cause traffic delays, that when considered with the center barrier construction that will follow, make the Boston tunnel seem problem free.
Bill	Senner	<p>I do not think any physical barrier should be built. I feel the money, if spent, could be spent on far better programs that address suicide preventions, not a fence at a single location. Efforts should be spent on why people are committing suicide and what can be done to eliminate the problems, not putting up a fence so they choose a different method.</p> <p>I read that 75% of the responses do not want the barrier built. Please do not spend everyone's money on such a foolish project just to appease a few.</p>
William	Seppi	Building a wall/net/rail or whatever you want to call it, is an absolute waste of money. Anyone considering this should jump off the bridge. I can not believe that \$40-50 million would be spent. One dollar spent is a waste. We have suffering schools that need music, art and athletic programs. Those programs would help develop young people and perhaps keep them focused on life and not turn to suicide. Whoever the people are focusing on this wall should use their time better.
ethan	serfling	The idea is nonsense. These are not people who accidently fall off the bridge! These are people that WANT TO KILL THEMSELVES and no net or fencing system is going to prevent them from doing so if that is truly the goal. 40-50 million \$! This is a horrible waste of time, money and material, not to mention impacting traffic flow during construction and the negative visual impact on the most beautiful and famous bridge in the world

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James & Gayle	Serventi	<p>We do not support the Net System alternative. In our opinion it alone, among the several alternatives, will be completely unsightly (as a swaying baggy appendage. It will not deter jumpers, will accumulate garbage, and be a maintenance nightmare.</p> <p>Horizontal barriers simply are ladders.</p> <p>None of the vertical barrier options (1A, 2A) will affect the aesthetic profile of the Bridge, nor impede the view by those who legitimately walk the Bridge. Vehicle drivers should not be looking anyway.</p> <p>Why do any of these options cost \$50 million?</p>
James & Gayle	Serventi	<p>We are major "fans" of and -- for 65 years -- drivers on the Bridge.</p> <p>While we do agree that preventing jumpers is an ideal goal, our concern is not with the potential jumper, but with the impact emotionally on Bridge, Bridge security, Coast Guard, and Medical personnel who have to deal with the aftermath of the jumper's folly. Moreover, there is an avoidable cost associated with recover of these jumpers.</p> <p>I have first hand knowledge of the the case in the early '90s when a Father threw his infant daughter over, and then jumped. The tragedy, of course, was the loss of the infant, and the significant impact on the those involved with the recovery effort.</p>

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Greg	Severn	40 million dollars would be better spent bolstering our sagging educational systems or getting muni to run more efficiently. A barrier on our historic art deco period bridge to prevent jumping is like the spiked metal railing that has been added to the downtown city scape to prevent skateboarders from skating there; they will find somewhere else to do it.
Randy	Shafer	Wind tunnel testing is one thing, the real life application of altering the bridge may turn out to be something quite different.
Randy	Shafer	This is an absurd idea. You say you are already in a budget deficit and raising the tolls again and you are ready to spend 50 million dollars to prevent a few people a year from Jumping. People are going to find other means. We cannot protect everyone all of the time. Think of the ways 50 million could help the homeless of the bay area.
Peter	Shanley	this is a waste of the public money and an even larger waste of time. suicide will happen whether there is a net/barricade or not, the best thing that has been done on this topic was the chronicle series depicting the horrific nature of a death by jumping
Rachel	Share	It's a crime to not have a suicide barrier.
Barbara	Sharfstein	A person wishing to commit suicide can do it from many other places which may cause loss of life to others. A barrier would be too costly and not save that many lives to make it worth it. Our bridge is too beautiful to glop it up with any kind of barrier - but the net would be better.
Barbara	Sharfstein	I am against any kind of barrier - but certainly not one that shows from the road. I would be very unhappy to see my tax money go for this stupid project.
dean	sharon	anything is better than nothing
John	Sharp	Document itself is very well executed; excellent graphics really helped. But the thinking behind this document (i.e., purpose and need) is deeply flawed and is an example of a very bad policy decision.
John	Sharp	The document is good, but the project itself is a ridiculous idea. As a taxpayer and former Caltrans planner, I recognize this immediately as an inappropriate use of tax money and other sources of transportation funding. There are huge maintenance and i
K	Shav	I thought the horizontal didn't interfere with the overall vista as you look out. My artistic "eye" was bothered by the vertical.
K	Shav	I wholeheartedly support a system to prevent suicides. Many people who have tried to commit suicide, but were stopped are grateful and didn't want to die afterall. Sometimes a desperate action is really just a "call for help", and given the right Rx and counseling these individuals are no longer suicidal.

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Emily	Shaver	It seems that any "solution" with horizontal railings would add a sense of sport to an attempt to jump instead of deterring a potential jumper. I understand there is a "shield" on top of horizontal options, but the horizontal bars seems like a jungle-gym approach. I prefer ANY suicide barrier solution over NO barrier solution.
Emily	Shaver	New bridges world-wide now are designed to include barriers or at least impediments to potential jumpers. It seems that in this day and age, and with the sad history of the gorgeous Golden Gate, we need to take action and put up a barrier. Unlike the Eiffel Tower and Empire State, leaving this great engineering landmark wide open to jumpers is reckless and irresponsible. As beautiful as the bridge is, it marks a watery grave. A barrier could only enhance the beauty and purpose of this structure.
Kathryn	Shearer	it will be so much more beautiful and inviting to visit that beautiful bridge without blood dripping from it.
Kathryn	Shearer	the ONLY bad thing about San Francisco is the dangerous bridge and your unwillingness to protect the public
zev	shearn-nance	2A is my first choice but it really needs an overhang like in 2B in order to prevent agile climbers from jumping.
Laura	Shelton	No barrier is needed. They are sick and will find a way to commit suicide one way or another. Those who have lost loved ones jumping from the bridge should have been there for them before it got to that point.
Rev. Andrew	Shelton	Prevention of suicide is more important than any visual/aesthetic consideration, and the installation of a barrier or a net does not appear to have an environmental impact. This is a moral issue; a barrier or net must be created to save life.
Russ	Shelton	It is important and appropriate to do something to mitigate the unnecessary loss of life. Doing something is better than doing nothing.
Yisroel	Shem	Don't ruin this masterpiece. People will just find other ways to end their own suffering.
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Yisroel	Shem	Don't ruin this masterpiece. People will just find other ways to end their own suffering.
Alice	Sherburne	It's perfect just the way it is.
Jody	Sherman	NO barrier

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Jody	Sherman	It is an individuals right to end their life. They should not be pulled back, arrested, or any such intervention. Who are the "authorities" to say what any individual can or cannot do with regard to ending their own life. That is MY decision, my choice.
Kelsey	Shideler	I sure think that the tax payers money could be better spent elsewhere. If someone wants to committ suicide... they will FIND AN ALTERNATE METHOD regardless of the COSTLY deterrant system!
tony	shiff	The existing siderails are an antiquated design that have no modern safety features - scary!!! Needs better protection.
Christina	Shih	Having a colleague who lost a teenage son to a bridge jumping I strongly support some sort of barrier to prevent impulsive suicides. We are both physicians.
Lillian	Shiiba	What's more important . . . an individual's life or visual aesthetics? Jeez, people, wake up and stop being so selfish! Of course, we need some kind of barrier!
Donald	Shipley	The most beautiful bridge in the world -- leave it alone!
Arleen	Shippey	The horizontal netting solves the problem without destroying the view for the rest of us. Twenty five million could go a long way in offering counseling. I am sorry but why should 38 people who jumped ruin the esthetics for the rest of the millions of tourists and those of us who live here. No for the new barriers.
Arleen	Shippey	The vertical barriers just ruin the beauty of the bridge. Take a poll or vote from those of us who use the bridge. I didn't know how to comment on the rest of your questions. Money is tight and should be used for the benefit of the majority of people by keeping the bridge in good repair. No barrier in the lanes either. Just get people to drive slower on the bridge.
Suzie	Shippey	One of the reasons many people come to SF is to see the Bridge. It is a landmark and to alter it's walkways would take away the ability to view the city
Suzie	Shippey	It is a sad thing when we are compelled to change a landmark because of 38 people who were unable to get the help they needed, maybe moneys should be channeled into better health care so that therapy is available for those whoneed it.
J Andrew	Shlosser	If forced to make a decision, windows are the only way to maintain at least some integrity. Otherwise, you might as well build a tunnel to Marin.
J Andrew	Shlosser	None
J Andrew	Shlosser	None

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J Andrew	Shlosser	1)Will this PREVENT suicides overall, or will it just move them somewhere else or by another method? If there are X number of suicides in the state every year, will enclosing the GG Bridge make it less? I don't think so. 2)That's an awful lot of money that could be used for other programs that would actually save lives. 3)Crossing the bridge is an open air experience. You feel suspended over the water on a piece of art. Enclosing it will destroy that. Tourists come to walk the bridge in its original state. Residents value it for the history, architecture, and national significance. 4) People will commit suicide, no matter how much you try to prevent it. Don't injure the bridge, or ruin the experience for millions of people for a statistical few. Leave the bridge alone please.
Vern	Shughart	Please don't spend my fares on trying to prevent people from hurting themself.
Vern	Shughart	Leave it alone.
Vern	Shughart	Spend the money on something tohelp people.
Elfrieda	Shukert	Anything that will work to keep people from being able to jump is fine with me. I chose the designs that look like they would be most effective. I think the bridge will still be aesthetically pleasing. I find it incredible that there are people who don't see the need for a barrier. The fact that we don't already have a safe railing is a terrible mistake that needs to be corrected ASAP.
Elfrieda	Shukert	The faster the barrier goes up, the happier I'll be. It breaks my heart that so many have jumped to their deaths because of the lure of the bridge. And how about all those veterans coming back who are going to be tempted by it? It's silly to think people can patrol that bridge all day and night--totally ignorant. Please do the right thing. It's so clearly the right thing to put a barrier up.
jay	shukert	report seems complete and objective a good range of alternatives
glenise	sibbern	Don't know re second preference and am not sure of my first preference, but please see comments below
glenise	sibbern	I'm for building a system to the handrail or a net, am not sure which, but definitely something has to be done. I know two people who jumped, one definitely impulse (left three children), the other after a fight with his wife (also left three children) plus my teenage daughter's acquaintance next to whom she sat in chemistry, a girl aged 18, jumped recently after a fight with her parents..again impulse. This is truly horrifying and shocking and I know a barrier will definitely help these impulse jumpers.
Pat	Sides	total waste of money they will just go somewhere else - let them

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Stephen	Siener	An alternative: if it's common for potential jumpers to climb over and wait a few moments before jumping then perhaps it's possible to detect the weight of someone standing on the structure opposite the rail and that could trigger an alarm in a monitoring booth. More cameras could be deployed, along with loudspeakers, which would allow a person in a monitoring station to delay the jumper long enough to be reached in person by a counselor.
Stephen	Siener	Suicide is a tragedy but it is not a singular one. We don't close down I-5 or reduce the speed limit to 55 due to the number of fatalities on that road. We do what we can, within reason, to keep people from harming themselves. It is not reasonable to deface a beautiful landmark, the icon of our lovely city, in a futile effort to prevent a small number of suicidal people from ending their lives. There are so many other ways in which humans cause unfortunate harm to themselves. The real tragedy would be to deface this beautiful landmark, to ruin it for the millions who appreciate it in its unadulterated state, in a misguided effort to prevent a small number of deaths that might very well occur anyway, in another location.
Margie	Sikes	If anything is to be done besides the annual paint it shd be the traffic divider on the bridge roadway. Anything else is just too stupid to consider. Margie Sikes San Rafael
Iani	silver	Hello. It's a 'no brainer'. People are dying and we can stop it. Even though it might be 1% less attractive, death and depression are very unattractive. We can do this. Also about the design, I am not sure that I am an expert on this (I am not)...I trust the bridge advocates and KevinHines. Whatever they say.
Barbara	Silverberg	All of the Alternatives are visual eyesores. Save the \$50 million and let people do as they please about the choice of their deaths.
Gerry	Silverfield	50mm to maybe save 10 lives a year (most will find other way), 100 in 10 years is a terrible way to spend money. A little more than 1 a year under 21. Train parents to recognize signs, give preventive shots to kids, so many many more effective ways to spend the money. Allow people to donate at bridge above toll - cash or fastpass designation.

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Katelyn	Silverman	This seems like such an extreme measure. Has anyone looked in to hiring full time social workers, one at each end of the span, to be there to talk with people considering suicide. Also concerned that despondent people will jump somewhere else, like a tall building or overpass and endanger others.
bob	silvestri	<p>We live in a country of marjority rule, which is fundamental to our continued success as a civil nation. To allow the tragic circumstances of a small minority of individuals and their families to mandate public policy on an international and historic landmark, and an important public amenity and experience, is a greater tragedy.</p> <p>This will not prevent a single suicide death, nor will anyone ever be able to prove that it did. To build a barrier is a travesty and a waste of public funds.</p>
bob	silvestri	<p>We live in a country of marjority rule, which is fundamental to our continued success as a civil nation. To allow the tragic circumstances of a small minority of individuals and their families to mandate public policy on an international and historic landmark, and an important public amenity and experience, is a greater tragedy.</p> <p>This will not prevent a single suicide death, nor will anyone ever be able to prove that it did. To build a barrier is a travesty and a waste of public funds.</p>
Paul	Simmons	Arguably, a vertical extension of the current rails, or replacing the current rails with higher ones (1A and 2A) are more in keeping with the bridge's current design (and in time, may not be remembered as 'suicide deterrents'). The net design (3) seems to call a great deal of attention to its purpose, and seems to only add a minor additional step to completing the attempt.
Paul	Simmons	I don't agree with the logic in arguments made by the PFNC; that adding a deterrent will actually change suicide rates in the area.
Clark	Simms	Vertical systems affect the view--but save lives.
Clark	Simms	The net system, if adequate to save lives, would not affect view.
Clark	Simms	No clear impact here.
Clark	Simms	Check with biological experts here.
Clark	Simms	Loss of life at this location must be addressed.

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Sally	Simpson	I am in favor of the barrier that is deemed most effective. I personally know of two Marin teenagers who have jumped and that two is too many. I believe some form of barrier will help get those in need to rethink their possible choice to jump.
Virginia	Simpson-Magruder	The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the The NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative all ready stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!
Virginia	Simpson-Magruder	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.
Matthew	Sims	I'm sure this has been said before, those who wish to commit suicide will find a way. Just because a barrier is added to the bridge does not mean people will no longer commit suicide. You're bending over backwards for a few rather than listening to the many who are against this.
nigel	sims	A netting for a couple of reasons: The individual will know there is no way they will succeed, and the visual aspect wont be an issue.
Alistair	Sinclair	Defacing a national landmark and cultural icon for what is at best a minor benefit to the overall picture of mental health in the Bay Area would be a disaster for which future generations would not forgive us.

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		One of the most common arguments in favor of a barrier, that "even if it saves just one life, we have a duty to do whatever it takes" is totally disingenuous. Throughout life we weigh the costs and benefits associated with such decisions, in the public health arena as well as everywhere else. (If not, then we would have to spend every available dollar on health care, since each dollar would certainly help to save a life.) Deciding NOT to build a barrier is a perfectly reasonable outcome, based on such arguments as that the dollars could be more effectively spent on other aspects of mental health, and that the damage done to the Golden Gate Bridge is not justified by the at best minor impact on overall suicide prevention in the Bay Area.
Alistair	Sinclair	
Amy Kiernan	Sinclair	I do think this expensive measure is going to prevent suicides. People who want to kill themselves will find another way. I think the money should go toward a center median that can be moved to help prevent head-on crashes that take place on the bridge.
Amy Kiernan	Sinclair	Nets below would not look bad and would probably deter people from jumping.
Amy Kiernan	Sinclair	I think the giant barriers ruin the historic look of the bridge and bring too much attention to suicides. People will still kill themselves...
Amy Kiernan	Sinclair	Net looks better and would not have a bad visual impact as high railings.
Diana	Sinclair	It's NOT the public's responsibility, financial OR moral, to try to stop suicides off the bridge. It is also not the bridge district's legal liability to attempt to stop someone from trying to kill themselves using the bridge as their weapon of choice. It is the individual, and his family and friends, who should be fully legally and morally responsible. There are 'way too many other more important things the bridge district should be spending its revenues on, like a second deck (to separate the inbound and outbound lanes of traffic) or a permanent barrier between the opposing traffic flows. The only arguments against suicide are religious, and the US Constitution mandates a clear separation between church and state. If the Catholics and the other Christians have a problem with bridge suicides, let THEM fund the entire project!
Diana	Sinclair	No build - no diminution of the visual aspects of the bridge.
Diana	Sinclair	No change to the bridge = no impact(s) to cultural resources.
Diana	Sinclair	No change to the bridge = no impact(s) to cultural resources.

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Diana	Sinclair	No change/no build = more funds available to maintain and/or improve the land-use and recreation aspects.
Diana	Sinclair	No change/no build = more funds available to maintain and/or improve the land-use and recreation aspects.
Diana	Sinclair	no change - no impact.
Diana	Sinclair	no change - no impact.
Diana	Sinclair	no comment.
Diana	Sinclair	no comment.
Shari	Sinwelski	I think that it is imperative that a responsible decision that saves lives is made regarding this issue.
ANDREW	SISOLAK	I am sorry that some people desire to commit suicide. No matter what measures are used, they will find a way to do so. If they cannot find a way to jump off this bridge, it will be another one, or a building or other structure. We cannot afford to safety proof every structure everywhere. Even if we did, those intent on ending their lives would find another means. Our financial resources are strained already and there are far more pressing matters than protecting those who wish to harm themselves. Spend those millions on health care (physical and mental), dealing with the mentally ill living on the streets, restoring blighted urban areas, feeding and clothing those in need, etc.
Michelle	Skeen	It scares me to walk on the Golden Gate Bridge. There really isn't much to separate us from the ocean.
Cindy	Skelton	Saving just one life would be important--saving the lives of many is even more so. A physical suicide barrier is needed. Thank you for your time and effort in this important matter.
Lucía	Skinner	A beautiful city like San Francisco should NOT be known for having the number one suicide magnet in the world. It is a shame... We need to stop this. The "beauty" of the bridge is not worth one single human life!
Lucía	Skinner	
diane	sklar	Bridge could still be beautiful with a well thought out barrier. funds could come from meters at both ends of the bridge.
diane	sklar	I commute by bicycle everyday over the golden gate bridge. I have seen two suicides and know of families that have lost loved ones.

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Sharon	Skolnick-Bagnoli	<p>I want to see a barrier there, and the horizontal system above the handrail is the most visually in keeping with the bridge and the least distracting, followed by the all-horizontal system. While a net below is functional, and, if kept in view by rescue workers, could provide a solution, preventing a jump in the first place is far preferable. At any rate, a human being is a "biological resource" that should trump any aesthetic consideration. It neither honors Charles Evans (the actual designer of the Golden Gate Bridge) nor speaks well about the residents and commuters who use it and admire it as an icon to allow death to be synonymous with the span, or to be cavalier about the suffering and isolated people drawn to end it all there who need our help, not a lift over the edge nor a cold, heartless and cynical goodbye wave of the hand.</p> <p>We need a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge, at the very least. Since emotionally distressed people are among those who converge there, a booth with mental health counselors might also be a very good thing. Do we or do we not care about human life and emotional healing here in the S.F. Bay Area?</p>
Sharon	Skolnick-Bagnoli	<p>The suicide barrier nay-sayers should be reminded that people only jump from the side facing the city (the east side), so no barrier is needed on the west side at all. As someone who has experienced depression and had thoughts, decades ago, of jumping from the bridge myself, I could tell you why I think that side is such a draw. Eight out of ten persons contemplating suicide are in a depressive episode, it has been shown. While some people are more prone than others to depression, a brain chemistry imbalance triggered by stress, no one is totally immune from it. Sufferers from depression need help, not a mean-spirited farewell. Many among those who have survived the jump say they wouldn't do it again. It's too easy an exit, on the east side of the Golden Gate bridge. Please block it!</p>
Jerry	Skomer	<p>The bridge is the perfect combination of art and technology. Though I feel badly for suicide victims, a barrier does not speak to the core issues of these people. Altering the bridge will not help them in the long run, and as harsh as it may seem, they should not dictate the destruction of one of the world's perfectly balanced, exhilarating spots. It is not the mission of the bridge to save suicide victims, nor is the bridge the cause of their death. The bridge brings far more joy than sorrow and deserves to remain as it is. Would you alter the Mona Lisa if people killed themselves after looking at it? Please don't do this.</p>
jim	slade	<p>ANY change to the bridge will have a negative effect on the aesthetics of the bridge. DO NOT add any physical suicide deterrent systems to the bridge.</p>
jim	slade	<p>ANY change to the bridge will have a negative effect on the aesthetics of the bridge. DO NOT add any physical suicide deterrent systems to the bridge.</p>
jim	slade	<p>good work on the analysis.</p>

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jim	slade	ANY change to the bridge will have a negative effect on the aesthetics of the bridge. DO NOT add any physical suicide deterrent systems to the bridge.
Scott	Slade	Before spending \$\$\$\$ to build a suicide barrier to protect those people who want to kill themselves, my alternative suggestion is to build a center lane moveable barrier to protect those of us who don't.
Richard	Slusher	I have been a volunteer on the Marin Suicide Prevention Hotline for over 12 years. A bridge barrier will definitely prevent suicides. As for aesthetics, the bridge is a beautiful man-made structure, but the Golden Gate was more beautiful before its construction.
Bill	Smallman	I don't think the horizontal net will work effectively because people will jump down to the net, then jump again. Or they will jump down to the net, get hurt and you will have the problem of retrieving them. I believe that alternative 2A is the most aesthetic and also the hardest to climb, (i.e. best deterrent). I would also include an electronic sensor on the upper part of the fence. Losing the existing railing improves wind resistance and adds view. People driving in cars will actually gain a sort of better view, as the the thick existing railing blocks, so I think it is the most aesthetic choice.
Jacqueline	Smay	I lovelove 2B, which not only wouldn't mar the aesthetics of the bridge but, by replacing the current short heavy railings with strong but thin wire railings would actually make the bridge appear more open, more floating, more magical. The only drawback, as a co-worker pointed out, is that it might make walking across the bridge more quease-inducing for people who are already afraid of heights. 1B is my alternative choice in a nod to those who want to see the current appearance of the bridge unaltered, as it maintains the original rails and simply adds a clear, unclimbable barrier above them.
Jacqueline	Smay	Many opponents of the barriers seem to be upset about the waste of their tax money -- are you or are any private organizations collecting private donations to help defray the cost? If so, could these efforts be better publicized so as to defuse these criticisms?

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Pete dave	Smietana smirnoff	<p>I find this project deplorable and a complete waste of money. It seems to me that the GGB board is out of control and it is a perfect example of abuse of collected money. The last cost figure that I saw was \$28 million dollars. Even today that is still a lot of money that could be better used by: 1. returning it to the drivers (people) who pay to use the bridge by reducing the bridge toll. After all, it is their hard earned money that has been taken from their pockets and not available to spend on their families. 2. Add a bicycle path structure. 3. Add a second level to support mass transit or two-way traffic. 4. build a second bridge. That is, monies collected from drivers using the bridge should be used to maintain and improve the bridge for use by drivers and NOT to placate families who have guilt feelings over not protecting those insignificant few people who have chosen to commit suicide by jumping from the bridge. This is not a safety issue but is just a feel good issue which is way too expensive. Maybe if you need to have a feel good issue, why not set up a college scholarship fund or donate that money to children such as those in Richmond.</p> <p>Increasing of the toll tax above what is needed for transit requirements just to create a surplus so that the board members can have monies for other social programs that they can attach their name to is an example of the type of misuse that led to proposition 13. Proposition 13 stopped nonessential projects and overspending on projects where elected officials broke the taxpayer's trust and felt that they had an unlimited revenue source by overtaxing property owners. In this case a captive audience of drivers that must use the bridge to support their families. If this is excess money then return it to the people and let them decide how they individually should spend their money.</p>
dave	smirnoff	<p>A suicide barrier on the GGB would do little to prevent suicides by people intent on taking their own lives. (You can't put barriers around everything -- those who want to die will find way to attempt to.) What it WOULD do, though, is it ruin what is possibly the best bridge experience in the world. Any of these proposed barriers would be a huge, creepy multi-million-dollar steel monument to Suicide. People will see it, and the word Suicide and associated images would fill the mind of everyone who sees it.</p>
dave	smirnoff	<p>Invest the tens of millions of dollars this project would cost into local suicide prevention programs and in employing roving, highly trained social workers who suicidal people out of jumping off the bridge.</p>
Elizabeth	Smith	<p>I don't believe that putting up barriers is going to prevent someone who is suicidal from committing suicide. They will find another location to do so.</p>
Gabriel	Smith	<p>If this project is allowed to proceed on something of such great historical and aesthetic value, people will see this landmark in a much more negative light and long-term this will be a mistake that we regret.</p>
Jennifer	Smith	<p>I wish that we had the \$50 million dollars to put towards mental health, suicide prevention practices. The issue is when one decides that this is the only way. We are only fixing the symptom not the problem.</p>

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Laura	Smith	I believe that there should be some sort of system in place that is a deterrent to jumping. If they can't get to the edge to jump -I think that's a pretty good deterrent. Phones & police patrol are not necessarily the best choice, when you are irrational & have made a decision that there is no going back; that there is nothing to live for - you don't want to talk to anyone. However, if you don't do anything at all, people are just going to keep jumping. Everyone has noticed & admitted that there is a problem; people go to the bridge to jump. Therefore, you cannot ignore it, you have a duty to put some sort of system in place to stop this from happening. If you don't, I believe it is negligent.
Laura	Smith	I believe the vertical additions will be the most succesful as no one is going to be able climb them. if you make a horizontal extension, they can figure out a way to get to the end if they are that determined.
Lynn	Smith	It will make the bridge look really ugly. If people want to commit suicide, we can not stop them. It is better to use the money for prevention.
Lynne	Smith	I do believe a suicide barrier would be a deterrent to a teen, in particular, who is looking for a dramatic way to end their temporary issues. As a parent of teens, they are very short sighted and impulsive. In the bay area, and Marin in particular, they are subjected to incredible pressure to succeed as well as huge negative media influences. They are a prime candidate for suicidal thoughts. Schools will continue their education on such issues, however, many teens will brush off the lecture and feel it doesn't apply to them.....at the moment! Good luck.
Roger	Smith	I am against anything that would change the essential look of the Bridge. Suicide is a personal choice and there are limits to how far we should collectively go to protect individuals from their own decisions.
Sara	Smith	I think they all look great. I never thought a suicide barrier could NOT impact the beauty of this great bridge, but they don't. maybe we should build the barrier. It seems like the right thing to do.
shelley	smith	Raise the rails now! By doing so we will prevent further suicides.
Stacey	Smith	I listened with great interest to a discussion on NPR this morning. I remain unconvinced that constructing a barrier is the right thing to address the problem of suicide. Let's all save ourselves 40-50MM and put it into preventative care instead. No bandaid solutions.

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Stuart	Smith	<p>I vehemently oppose any extension of the rails along the pedestrian walkway. It is bad enough that some chain link fencing has been added near the ends of the bridge. This bridge is an international landmark, and one of its key features is the views it presents to walkers along its sidewalks, as well as to people driving across it.</p> <p>I take great pleasure in walking or jogging across it regularly, and the height of the proposed vertical and horizontal rail systems would make it feel as if I were pursuing these activities in a prison. They would completely negate the reasons I choose the bridge to enjoy a walk or a jog.</p> <p>If there must be some sort of new suicide prevention system, which again I vehemently oppose, the only acceptable alternative in the DEIR would be the only one that does not restrict outward views from the bridge, the net system.</p> <p>By far the best alternative in the proposal is the "no build" alternative.</p>
Thomas	Smithberger	<p>It is a completely egregious and stupid waste of resources, especially financial resources, to attempt to protect a small handful of people against themselves. No changes or barriers should be considered or constructed.</p>
bob	smith-tringh	<p>It is a waste of money. In other areas where they have jumping suicides and erected barriers the overall suicide rate has not changed. People do your homework. The money would have a bigger impact if programs and outreach were enhanced or started.</p>

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bob	smith-tringh	It is to easy to blame the bridge or the GGBHTD. People including ERIKA BROOKS and her husband are misguided on the tragic death of their daughter. Where were the Brooks when their daughter was going thru hell. Was their son's suicide the fault of the Bridge? It is to too easy to point the finger at the bridge. I think it is a cop out. However I can feel their pain as my best friends sister jumped last year...is he blaming the BRidge? No she did not have a support system of mental health clinics...we need to deal with the root cause. Suicide is a impulse action whether you step in front of a train, jump off a building or blow your brains out. To say the bridge creates the impulse is totally misguided and is not based on a understanding of what triggers suicide.
Allan	Smorra	<p>1. If the bridge is such an attractive nuisance, have you considered closing the sidewalks and having NO pedestrian access? Quarter-hourly bike shuttles across the span would ensure that no suicidal bicyclists would access the sidewalks. A 6 month trial might yield interesting data.</p> <p>2. What liability issues will result if a barrier is built and someone still gets over/under/around/thru it?</p>
Allan	Smorra	Any of the proposed solutions appear to have a major negative impact on the ability of maintenance personnel to access their work areas.
Kelly	Snell	A girl in my daughter's class at Redwood jumped. She would be alive today if there had been a barrier. Teens all too often act impulsively, and it is up to us, the adults, to remember that and act to protect them where we can.
Michel	Snider	Building the GG barrier is like trying to stop an alcoholic. A person is going to kill themself or drink themself to death regardless of building a barrier. This just draws more attention to the action. People have choices. It's sad that they choose that route. We can't save everyone. If the barriers are built, it will take away the beauty and cost the city more money. Lets start with taking responsibility for ourselves and notice when someone is disturbed and needs help instead of ignoring the issues of life and building barriers.
Michel	Snider	Thank you.
Ross	Snow	I believe all the proposed solutions detract from the visual and aesthetic features of the G.G. Bridge.

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Ross	Snow	I can understand that the survivors of suicides from the bridge would want to do something to prevent more future suicides. I have lost a family member to suicide although not by jumping from the bridge. These solutions are at best a last line of defense and an expensive one. And I think some people will have the ingenuity to find a way around the barriers, although the total numbers of suicides from the bridge would probably fall. But I also think that if people really wanted to prevent more suicides they would do the harder personal work of learning about suicide prevention and communicating more effectively with loved ones so that intervention can happen before someone decides to jump. In brief, this is not the most effective way to spend precious public resources on suicide prevention.
Aram	Sohigian	I work at Family Service Agency, Geriatric West Division and if we helped build a net it would save lives and not influence the view from the bridge. These people deserve to be saved and most people that attempt suicide and survive realize that they didn't actually want to commit suicide and get help for their problem. Thanks for listening and good luck on your decision.
DEborah	Sohr	I'm not sure which bridge barrier I'm in favor of. I would however, like one to be built.
LAURIE	SOKOL	Of more importance than visual, cultural, land, etc. is the protection of life and individuals who are most fragile. I do believe that option A1 is the most visually appealing and safe.
Guillermo	Solano	While it's clear that new barriers will prevent bridge suicides, and that bridge suicides are tragic, it seems much less clear that because there are less bridge suicides that this will materially affect the total number of suicides. We are spending \$50M to shift suicides from one mode to another. There will be very few families helped by this.
Guillermo	Solano	Uh, your web site needs some help. It took me about 10 minutes to find the PDF with the pictures of the alternatives. If you were trying to hide them, you couldn't have done a better job.
Lisa	Solinger	Please consider moving forward with this proposal with approval. Worry about the funds once it is approved. This will continue to be a problem until something is done. There is no environmental impact but the impact of families is great!
Barbara	Solomon	Please construct some kind of physical barrier to help prevent suicides on the GG Bridge. I know two people who jumped off the bridge and did not survive. I believe that a safety net could have saved their lives and led to appropriate psychiatric treatment.
David	Solomon	Leave the bridge and its beautiful views alone. Find some other way to help disturbed people.

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Gabrielle bob	Solomon sommer	<p>My husband and I feel strongly that the GGB should be left alone. It is not the responsibility of it to prevent people from killing themselves. It is not possible to prevent people from doing all of the "unfortunate" things that they do.</p> <p>It is important that the wonderful experience of walking the bridge and seeing the incredible views remain pure and unobstructed for the millions of people who come from all over the world to do this.</p> <p>Please leave the bridge as it is!</p>
James	Sorrell	<p>Why spend \$\$money\$\$ on deterrents when you can END suicide/impulsive depression with the same solution that saved many refugee's lives from Hurricane's Katrina/Rita/Wilma?!?</p> <p>SUICIDE VACCINE</p>
James	Sorrell	<p>A program implementing SUICIDE VACCINE will END suicide/impulsive depression in your area~~~then, no need for any other measures!</p>
James	Sorrell	<p>This entire section {1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and --->10} is for ALL members & staff of the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District::</p> <p>A solution must go the root of the problem to succeed~~~</p>

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James	Sorrell	<p>Subject: PLEASE help save young, vulnerable lives with this volunteer effort {NO \$\$\$ asked}~</p> <p>SUICIDE VACCINE works for peace [so does "Race relations & prejudice", on the major web sites below]~~~</p> <p>*</p> <p>This is for ALL you know.....please help me spread this to save lives.....this is NOT "religion", this is Reality, objective reality!</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>***S.O.S.~~~MayDay***</p> <p>----->"Suicidal thoughts, up since Katrina, PTSD survey says....."</p> <p>----->>WASHINGTON (AP)----"Using anti-depressants Increases the risk of Suicidal thoughts and behavior among young people"----</p> <p>----->>>"Suicide rate among girls skyrockets 76%, says Centers for Disease Control & Prevention"<<<-----</p> <p>*AP: Half of 2005 gun deaths were suicides {CDC-gov-July 2008}</p> <p>****</p> <p>Please help me save young [& old] lives, now NEEDLESSLY lost!</p> <p>Help spread these volunteer sites [NO \$\$\$ asked] planet-wide and express real empathy!~~~Impulsive Depression/Suicide is Endable!</p> <p>*</p>

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		<p>~~~~~SUICIDE VACCINE~~~~~[It works, which is the only point, Eh?!]</p> <p>http://ChurchCapt.proboards42.com</p> <p>http://CaptChurch.proboards98.com</p> <p>http://s2.excoboard.com/exco/index.php?boardid=24582</p> <p>http://s2.excoboard.com/exco/index.php?boardid=15311</p> <p>http://b4.boards2go.com/boards/board.cgi?user=ChurchCaptain</p> <p>*Wisdom for Teens*</p> <p>http://groups.google.com/group/TeenAnswers</p> <p>http://communities.righthealth.com/group/sosmayday</p> <p>http://groups.google.com/group/answers-for-teens</p> <p>[~~~All groups:::5 permanent monographs & no chat~~~ like, "Who are YOU?!?" , "The useless War of the Sexes" and "LOVE is the Real Thing".]</p> <p>http://www.bev.net/users/homepages/JamesSorrell [My first web page-2003]</p> <p>Jim Sorrell [CaptainChurch]</p> <p>~~~~~Be a Good Neighbor~~~~~</p> <p>"Love your neighbour as yourself."---->>means, see to it that your neighbour has it just as good as you do, self-lessly!~~~</p>

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		<p>"Who is my neighbour?"....EveryOne on the planet!</p> <p>All humans born are @ least 33rd or 34th cousins [from Noah's 3 sons: we are All related family!]</p> <p>http://journals.aol.com/ChurchCapt/s.o.s.-for-the-human-race</p> <p>http://groups.google.com/group/TeenAnswers</p> <p>http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/SOS_MayDay</p> <p>http://groups.google.com/group/answers-for-teens</p> <p>http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ThisFatherKnowsBest</p> <p>http://blogs.albawaba.com/captainchurch</p> <p>James Sorrell [CaptainChurch]</p> <p>Salem, Oregon</p> <p>james.sorrell@yahoo.com or</p> <p>CaptainChurch@gmail.com</p> <p>~~~~~</p>

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LINDA	SOTTO	DO NOT BUILD A BARRIER.... DON'T RUIN THE BEAUTIFUL VIEW THAT SO MANY THOUSANDS ENJOY FOR THE SAKE OF A HANDFUL OF SUICIDAL UNFORTUNATES. THE COST IS TOO GREAT!! IF PEOPLE WANT TO JUMP THEY WILL JUST CRAWL OVER OR AROUND THE BARRIER... THEN WHAT, WE CLOSE THE BRIDGE.?
Linda	Spangler	It would be wrong to spend this kind of money to prevent a very low percentage of people from jumping off the GG Bridge. The beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge surpasses the need to stop jumpers. I do not believe that any other country in the world would even consider destroying one of their icons. To put a majority of the population in danger with this extremely expensive modification against the wishes of the bay area citizens is very very upsetting. I do not support anyone that is for this action.
Steve	Sparks	If someone is going to commit suicide, why does everyone else have to suffer?
michelle	spicher	The vast majority of bridge users have no intention other than to enjoy the views of the City, Bay and Marin. Unfortunately, to protect a very few, each of the alternatives will not only mar the views and prevent innocent enjoyment of the Golden Gate Bridge, but will cost huge sums of money.
michelle	spicher	As a frequent user of the bridge, either on foot or on a bicycle, I thoroughly enjoy the unadulterated views that I now have while travelling across the bridge. Especially as I am running or cycling, both the vertical and horizontal alternatives would significantly disrupt my ability to enjoy this fabulous resource.
David	Spiegel	As a psychiatrist I very much appreciate the willingness of the community to expend considerable resources to suicide prevention. There is a reasonable ongoing debate about the best expenditure of such resources. I do think that far less expensive alternatives on the bridge might be tried first, such as 'information stations' with online or even live counselors available, panic buttons for emergency response, You tube type short videos from families of those who have jumped saying what they would have wanted to say to their loved ones. This is a time of decision, and some might be willing to stop and reconsider theirs. Those who would not might be people more likely to find another means of committing suicide, while those who are more acutely depressed and/or stressed might avail themselves of electronic support. I worry that we are considering a very expensive 19th Century physical barrier response to a 21st Century problem, when the rapid and flexible provision of information and support on the Bridge might go a long way toward reducing the rate of completed suicides from the Bridge.

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Denise	Spisak	Even though only one lane would be closed while waiting possibly 2 hours for the rescue workers, the rubber neckers would take care of the remaining lanes; in reality, the entire bridge could be shut down for the better part of a day. It would certainly be less dramatic for the jumper with ANY type of system in place, so after "No Build" as my first preference, the net system is my second preference.
John	Spoa	Don't do a damn thing to the bridge.I can't believe you can even think of about changing the aesthetic view from the bridge.I visit my son in S.F.each year and we walk the bridge for the beauty of the view.Don't let 20 suicides change the bridge that millions love just the way it is.
L	Spoja	the visual beauty of the san francisco bay is NOT lost by these designs. they are practical and safe designs that the public should consider.
L	Spoja	The bridge rail is an effective choice for the bay area. too many people have lost their lives to the golden gate bridge. a change needs to be made and education needs to be spread. peeople need to stop being ignorant and jump to conclusions. honestly; they may never fully understand until they lose someone that they love to a rash decision. change needs to be made.
lucie	spoja	we deserve to have to bridge rail to keep us safe from ourselves
lucie	spoja	it would just add a different look to it. the bridge rail needs to happen
lucie	spoja	people need to stop being so ignorant and put up the bridge rail
Chris	Stafford	A barrier would be taking money away from other projects. The aesthetics of the brige would be destroyed, and there would still be no guarantee that all jumpers would be deterred. We should be be focusing on projects that are beneficial to the community, not detrimental to the history and appearance of our city.
Clayton	Stanger	What happened to the barrier separating traffic?
Clayton	Stanger	People who want to commit suicide will do it anyway. There is no good reason to spend this money to prevent the inevitable.

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Fatima	Stanger	Spending \$40-\$50 million to prevent people from taking their life only to find another way of doing it seems like a poor way of spending a great deal of money. And who exactly will be paying for this? Whatever happened to coming up with a solution for a barrier on the bridge to prevent head on collisions?! I think that is where our money will be better spent and lives saved.
Heather	Stangroom	Ultimately, and I know it is unfortunate, I believe that a persons life is far more important than the beautiful view. So whatever needs to happen should happen. But I think the net below the bridge would be the best option if there is one chosen. It is an equal agreement which protects people and keeps the beautiful view.
Abe	Star	Do not mess with this beautiful national landmark.
Abe	Star	Please let those who want to kill themselves just do so.
Lisa	Star	There is just no acceptable justification for any visual blockage to the Golden Gate Bridge.
Bill	Stark	The Golden Gate Bridge is an awe-inpiring site and aguably one of the most beautiful and timeless man-made structures on planet earth. Yes, people can jump from this bridge and take their lives, but there are thousands of other ways they'll find to do the same even if a barrier is put up. Please don't forego the joy and happiness this structure brings to people just to delay the inevitable fates of a few.
Bill	Stark	Thank you for having an open forum and survey.
Chris	Stasse	The build should not take place because it would be obstructing a world famous bridge and sight. Not only would it be a complete waste of the people's resources, but LETS FACE IT: if poeople have decided to commit suicide, a bridge "barrier" wil not do ANYTHING to stop them. Let's PLEASE not entirely sucummb to PC America. Thanks you.
Chad	Stacy	Please use this immense amount of money to improve mental health services, provide easier access to mental health medication, or soemthing more pro-active.
Chad	Stacy	No option is particularly pleasing.
PRESTON	STEDMAN	Larger "screens" could effect seabirds as they would fly into them.
PRESTON	STEDMAN	All aternatives would compromise the historic nature of " the Gate "
PRESTON	STEDMAN	what does this mean , anyway ? All " cultures " marvel at this wonder , so what DO YOU MEAN ?
PRESTON	STEDMAN	see above ...
PRESTON	STEDMAN	no comment
PRESTON	STEDMAN	no comment

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PRESTON	STEDMAN	see above
PRESTON	STEDMAN	over kill , but what else would you expect from a large agency
Reilly	Steel	The aesthetic concerns are unimportant compared to the lives that would be saved by such a barrier.
Reilly	Steel	Perhaps a vertical system with a winglet could be used for extra protection. Vertical rails can still be climbed, and winglets would make it a bit harder.
Helen	Steers	My comment for responding is just the importance of helping a very desperate person from taking their life - what ever the cost of a barrier just one life saved is worth it. A dear friend was saved from jumping by police patrol, otherwise a barrier would have been important.
Carl	Stein	GGB is an international architectural and artistic landmark. Please don't mess with it. The bridge operators do NOT have the responsibility of suicide prevention.
Jackie	Stein	<p>Leave the bridge alone! Let those of us who savor each moment of living enjoy the view. Folks who want to commit suicide will find a way and a place, no matter what the deterrent.</p> <p>How about installing "24/hr suicide hot-line" call boxes at the bridge entrances. Or, suicide counselor pedestrian patrols.</p> <p>More suicides per year take place in places unrelated to the Golden Gate bridge, than on the bridge itself. You can't protect people from hurting themselves everywhere. Why concentrate your effort on just this one place and ruin the aesthetics for everyone, including all the tourists who visit our great city.</p> <p>Building the barriers will raise taxes, raise the bridge toll, and siphon resources from other cost-effective city programs.</p>

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Edward	Steinforth	<p>This is such a classic beautiful design and I would truly be sad if you decide to change it. Please please find another way to stop people from jumping off the bridge. Could we not patrol the bridge with more guards? The cost is another matter.</p> <p>Thanks for listening.</p> <p>Edward E. Steinforth</p>
Michael	Steinman	Of course, the current bridge is the most beautiful - but it is hard to justify not making a relatively minor change at the expense of dozens of lives lost. In general, I find the horizontal options much more appealing, as the vertical options make it feel like one is "caged in" or in jail. Nets are suboptimal because of their lesser ability to deter suicides.
Michael	Steinman	As noted above, the project does detract from the bridge, but the price is well worth it given the expected impact on lives lost. In this vein, I would argue for a maximally effective barrier, i.e. an extended rail, not a net.
Jessie	Sterling	Why has this never been done? Do it now.
John	Stevens	I am concerned about the aesthetics as well as any proposed changes will affect how wind blows through the bridge. I cross it often on my bike and wonder if changes would make the bridge more susceptible to high winds. I also believe that those contemplate taking their life will do it one way or the other.
Laurel	Stevenson	I think that a barrier is needed. The net system will not obstruct the view of people driving across the bridge.
Martin	Stevenson	Visual/aesthetic
Martin	Stevenson	I don't really believe that a barrier should be necessary. But if it is, I believe that the net would have the least visual impact to the vast majority of viewers. It has been shown to be completely effective in Switzerland.

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Cameron	Stewart	There are better ways to improve the bridge and bridge district for those who make the choice to live. \$40-50 million is an exorbitant amount to spend on a barrier. This money should go to adding a barrier between north & south car traffic, to avoid tragedies to those who want to live. Or spend the money on the ever growing cost of a new Doyle Drive. Or add more high speed ferries or a new ferry terminal in Novato. It is sad that people jump from the bridge yes, but if the bridge isn't an option who's to say that the individual won't pick another sad way to end their life? Given the GGB districts budget deficient, we cannot afford for it to be fiscally irresponsible.
David	Stewart	For both visual aesthetic reasons, as well as financial considerations, I don't think a barrier should be built. People who are intent on suicide will find some other way to end their lives. The money could be better spent preventing suicide through counseling and support groups. Unfortunately, it will never be possible to convince everyone not to end their lives. Compromising the visual integrity of the GG Bridge is no solution.
Joe	Stewart	I favor any of the barrier options over doing nothing!
Joe	Stewart	I find the current, short, barrier the least attractive because it is a constant reminder of the continuing suicides on the bridge.
Natalie	Stewart	The beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge has already been compromised by other "safety" additions which are still very noticable. Please be sensible and use increased manpower to help dissuade suicides. Please do not let this monument be tarnished further beause it has been reasoned that the jump to take one's life is an impulse. There are hundreds of ways to commit suicide, where is the responsibility for one's own actions? Were they forced to jump from the bridge? No. Is it convenient? Maybe. Is it dramatic? Yes. Please place the accountability where it belongs, on the individual, not the society. Where is the funding coming from?
william	stewart	If you put a barrier at the Golden Gate, you might as well put them at every other bridge in the world. This wont prevent people from jumping.
Mike	Stills	Making changes to the majestic beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge to protect people from killing themselves is asinine. Don't screw up the bridge just so you can feel like you had a hand in protecting society from itself. Let people kill themselves if they want, whats the problem.

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Mike	Stills	This is STUPID.
Jonathan	Stock	As a 2nd generation San Franciscan, I feel very strongly about preserving historic parts of the city, particularly the Golden Gate Bridge. All of the built options above will significantly degrade the aesthetics of the Bridge. It is not clear to me that will actually lower the suicide rate. I would rather not trade the historical and aesthetic appeal of the bridge for an uncertain benefit to a few disturbed folks.
lynne	stocker	I object to any modification at all. The beauty of our historic bridge cannot be compromised. We should not be forced to peer through bars to be able to enjoy the views from this national treasure.
Alexandra	Stokes	Anybody who has been touched by the suicide of someone jumping off the GG Bridge will say, build a barrier. Anybody who has not, ie the majority, will say it's too ugly, expensive, etc. Please prevent these people from having to experience the suicide of a loved one and changing their minds.
Deb	Stone	Alternatives 1A through 2B are acceptable. A net is not sufficient. Do we want to save people's lives or do we want to worry about aesthetics. It's a pretty embarrassing discussion frankly.
tasha	storm	Maybe close the walk way as they do parks. No access before sunrise or after sunset?
tasha	storm	I do not think that it is the bridge's fault people choose to end their life. I think that everyone is drawn to its beauty in the current state it is in. I do not think we should change it at all. If someone is going to end their life and doing it from the bridge brings them some glint of joy or peace....
Thomas	Stout	Adding the vertical deterrent would solve the problem of the current handrail being easily climbed/jumped over without adding the on-going need maintenance and expense for a "retrieval crew" to collect those who choose to jump from the proposed netting system. The goal here is to deter, not 100 percent prevent, and I think it's prudent not to incur a further on-going expense beyond the initial installation.
David	Stovel	like the 75% majority say,, let em jump. Wasting 50 million is sheer insanity. The clown directors at work again..spend money uselessly and raise tolls
Tom	Strand	Daily commuter. Physical barrier will simply push the problem downstream to another location. At the exorbitant penalty of creating a continual visual reminder of the ignoble platform that a tiny minority choose to use the bridge for.

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First	Last	Comment
Alexandra	Stratfold-Young	<p>I am a 2005 graduate of Redwood High School and attended this meeting in remembrance of Casey Brooks, a Redwood High School senior who jumped from the bridge on January 29 of this year. She was supposed to have graduated from Redwood this past June.</p> <p>I never knew Casey personally, but news of her suicide reached me in San Diego, where I attend school, and I was greatly saddened by this tragic event. Her life ended far too soon.</p> <p>I am in support of the start that has been made on a suicide barrier and I feel that it is vital to continue work on this very important effort. Had this project been put into effect sooner, Casey Brooks would still be with us today.</p>
Ann	Stratton	I think any of the proposals are necessary to save lives. I strongly feel something should be done to deter the suicides.
Anne	Strauss	Use the money to build a center divider--that would save even more lives!
Peter	Streitz	Just leave it alone . . .
Donald	Stroh	Question: Did installing suicide barriers on other buildings (Empire State Building) lower the overall suicide rate in the city?
Donald	Stroh	I am not in favor of making any changes to the current bridge design to prevent suicides. It is not the bridge's responsibility! (Nor the toll payers!?!?!)
Donald	Stroh	Please do not install anything. These designs will make it look like you are driving across a prison cell! The open design is what makes it beautiful.
Donald	Stroh	Do not spend toll money on social programs? It the shared responsibility of SF and Marin to fund proper social outreach programs.
Donald	Stroh	Worry about the wind impact on the designs and if a clear material is used, it will get marked up by vandals or become dirty and scarred from the harsh weather.
Donald	Stroh	Do not use toll money on social issues or programs, period.
Donald	Stroh	I am begging you to not spend the money on changes to the bridge.
Donald	Stroh	Please do not spend \$50M on a suicide barrier. How many new buses and ferries would that buy? Social issues and programs are not the bridge's responsibility!

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Ken	Strong	I believe any barrier system will negatively impact the visual/aesthetic enjoyment of the bridge for the millions that cross the bridge in cars, on bikes and on foot. I ride across the bridge several times a week and bike across once a month. Further with resources extremely tight and a fare increase required to spend money on this barrier is irresponsible.
Ken	Strong	Any horizontal system could be climbed and thus is self defeating.
Summer	Strouse	This is such an important issue. People do not want to spend money on this because it deals with individuals who are clearly experiencing mental health issues. But we cannot just let their lives fall through the cracks.
Kim	Strub	It is the right to try to save lives.
Kim	Strub	Perhaps charging people a fee to walk across the bridge would deter some suicides. And a moveable barrier will save more lives!
Peg	Strub	Very important! thanks!
Michael	Sudol	The net system, the best alternative presented, will only encourage thrill-seekers, no matter what the penalty. Only by making it an immediate, imprisonable offense, with no possibility of bail without serving some significant amount of jail time, plus paying ALL associated costs of the retrieval, will this plan stand a chance of working in the long run.
Diane	Suffridge	I am in favor of building a bridge barrier and believe that the saving of lives takes precedence over any aesthetic considerations. I am not in favor of a net system but would favor alternatives 2A and 2B in addition to 1A and 1B.
Josh	Sugarman	Spending extra money on mental health programs will not do anything if these kids are too afraid to even ask for help, or if they feel like talking to a stranger will not help them.
Maureen	Sullivan	saving the lives of people in distress is more important than visual aesthetics!!

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Steven	Sullivan	<p>There is no doubt that, of the built options, the net is the best aesthetic solution. The unimpeded view of the bay and ocean over the classic balustrade, and the direct, unimpeded, connection with the wind, the sun, and the ocean, combine with a sizzling awareness of mortality and human frailty to create an overwhelming experience that simply would not exist any longer with a 12' high barrier. Leaning on that balustrade with even one's head slightly across the plane of the barrier imparts a sense of calm and wonder that would be tragic to lose. Leaning on that balustrade one understands completely that one is CHOOSING to live, which is distinctly different from being PREVENTED from dying. Compare that with the experience of standing there, looking at the bay with hands grasping the bars of a cage-like enclosure. No freedom. No connection. No exhilaration. The loss would be huge.</p>
Steven	Sullivan	<p>Please DO NOT consider removing the existing balustrade, even if rods must be installed. It is at a height that feels comfortable. It is normal to have a railing at something like that height along a walkway. To remove it in either of the 'New Barrier' options would be to change the experience and aesthetics entirely. It would be like hanging in a cage above the ocean, not walking along a civilized walkway. Please do not consider the 'new barrier' options if either of the 'additional barrier' options is feasible. The latter retain at least some vestige of the current promenade's classic beauty, whereas the former would constitute some sort of post-modern minimalism, based not on feeling but on calculation.</p> <p>The horizontal and vertical rods each have their own shortcomings. The vertical rods create more of a cage-like atmosphere, whereas the horizontal rods create the opportunity for climbing and roughhousing that could be dangerous along the roadway. AS I've said, I prefer the net but, if there must be rods, I think that the potential for mischief presented by the horizontal rods (no horizontal elements are normally allowed today in stair railings) is more to be avoided than the cage-like effect of the vertical bars.</p>
Carol	Sum	<p>Please do NOT ruin the beauty of the bridge by putting up a suicide barrier. It will be a total waste of money that is not available and could be put to better use if it were available. People who want to commit suicide, will just find another way to do it. Those who have lost a family member in this manner are just trying to ease their guilt. The number of suicides over a 70 year span does not justify this exhorbitant expenditure.</p>

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Jack	Sum	While I am sympathetic to efforts to prevent suicides and understanding of the grief suffered by families, there is no reasonable manner of stopping suicide attempts. Further, we all must make choices of how we spend public funds. This is especially mandated in the tough economic times that we are going through in California. The proposed project must be rejected.
alicia	suski	Any of teh above alternatives are OK with me - I find the current railing onthe bridge to be nothign mor ethan a coninual reminder of the opportunity to jump.
Sally	Sutkowski	None of the proposed systems would impact on the aesthetics of the bridge...you are only building a deterrent...
Marilyn Paul	Sutton Svedersky	I don't necessarily care WHICH barrier is chosen, as long as A BARRIER IS CONSTRUCTED. Enough people have lost their lives. Let's prevent any more from losing theirs.
		I believe we need beef up the non-physical suicide deterrent program, and leave the bridge as it was meant to be. This is not to say that aesthetics are more important than suicide prevention, but the measures proposed will severely impact this cultural landmark and render it nothing more than a traffic connector. The Golden Gate Bridge is of such cultural and visual importance to millions of people, that to focus narrowly on making it "safer" (not even suicide-proof) is to degrade the structure entirely. This is over-protection at everyone's loss. Spend morey on deterrence, not physical desecration.
Laura	Swaminathan	All the pictures show views OF the bridge, but not FROM the bridge. I have a tough time envisioning what the view would be like as a pedestrian or cyclist crossing the bridge. Is there any way to include those diagrams to scale? For example, show the skyline of SF through the bars of each of the new barriers, to get a better idea how much each would obstruct the view?
Laura	Swaminathan	Alternative 2B seems to obstruct the view the least, but I would need a diagram of pedestrian-eye view to be sure.
Jette	Swan	The bridge should not be defaced or altered - especially when we have not exhausted the non-physical deterrent options.
Jette	Swan	I feel like that net would possibly tempt people to test it out. Why not just attach a few beat cops to the bridge 24/7 - that would definitely deter people and even at the high rates we pay for our public employees, it would cost less than any of these

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Tracy	Swartz	<p>The pleasure of many should not be diminished to momentarily protect a very few. Thousands enjoy the grandeur and beauty of the bridge every day--as it was designed and built while relatively few people choose to commit suicide by jumping off the bridge. Are you going to mandate a suicide barrier on the end of all guns? How about mandating mechanical speed limits on cars so they can't exceed 10mph so no one can kill themselves behind the wheel. How about no cars at all or just no garages so no CO poisoning. I'm fat and essentially killing myself slowly. Let's ban individual food choices and mandate exactly what fat people can eat. People will do as they wish no matter the barrier. Stop protecting us into oblivion.</p>
Kate	Sweeney	<p>Vertical addition of Alternative 1A most compatible with beautiful architecture of the GG Bridge. Wider slats of bottom area preferred for breaking the view to water. This lessens potential of distraction for drivers going over the bridge.</p>
Candace	Swirkal	<p>I think people should be allowed to kill themselves. It will cost a ton of money that could be used to make living people's lives better. People who want to die have that right and it's so nanny-government to build a horrendous prevention schemata to prevent it. They will do what they want to do and the money should be used otherwise. Please LEAVE THE BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE ALONE and stop spending government money telling other suffering people what to do. Maybe they would be happier dead. You really don't know - no one does. It is the height of hubris to assume one knows what is "best" for others.</p> <p>PS I live in Santa Monica but grew up on 14th and Lake and I love the bridge as it is.</p>

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Nathan	Szajnberg	<p>Alternative: Ekman FACS interviewers being used in international Airports and funded by DARPA. (FACS was developed at UCSF with NIMH funding and is described in Ekamn's recent book, Emotions Revealed.) These greeters/assessors could be trained to assess facial expressions and gestures showing risk for both suicide AND terrorist threat to the Bridge (such as bombing). One person per shift could watch each pedestrian entrance to the Bridge and screen for those at-risk, pulling aside these people for further interviews.</p> <p>This has been shown to be very effective in preliminary studies in Airports (including SFO). Not only might this be more cost-effective, but it is also more personal and could save lives without building any physical barrier.</p> <p>For full-disclosure, I am a colleague of Dr. Ekman and currently am the Freud Professor of Psychoanalysis at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Nathan Szajnberg, MD Sigmund Freud Chair of Psychoanalysis, Hebrew University Wallerstein Research Fellow in Psychoanalysis Member, Institute for Personality and Social Research, UC Berkeley</p>

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		<p>With the controversy about building a multimillion dollar suicide barrier, we seem to be overlooking a more humane and possibly more effective approach. Paul Ekman developed a rapid, effective method for assessing facial expressions, gestures, posture and gait funded over many years by NIH and DOD, and now used in international Airports. While not foolproof, this method could be revised to identify and try to prevent suicide attempts.</p> <p>> Greeters/assessors at the Bridge entrances could be trained to assess not only people determined to harm themselves, but those who intend to harm others through a terrorist act. One person per shift could watch each pedestrian entrance to the Bridge and screen for those at-risk, pulling aside these people for further interviews. (In fact, I have noticed police posted at the pedestrian entrances during my visit: they could be readily trained-up to assess for suicide attempters. One could study whether there have been any attempts since the police have been in place.)</p> <p>></p> <p>> This has been shown to be very effective in identifying people breaking the law in preliminary studies in Airports. Not only might this be more cost-effective, but it is also more personal and could save lives without building any physical barrier.</p> <p>></p> <p>> Nathan Szajnberg, MD</p> <p>> Sigmund Freud Chair of Psychoanalysis, Hebrew University</p> <p>> Wallerstein Research Fellow in Psychoanalysis</p> <p>> Member, Institute for Personality and Social Research, UC</p> <p>> Berkeley</p>
Nathan	SZajnberg	
Nathan	Szajnberg	Please see above.
Nathan	SZajnberg	See below for proposal on more effective suicide prevention.
L	T	this barrier is a waste of money. it's also going to affect the aesthetic of the bridge. besides, nobody can really control what people decide to do with their lives.

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W	T	Why should the taxpayer be burdened with building any barrier. The cost of the build and the upkeep will go on forever. I am not responsible for the people with problems who think this is an answer for them. I feel for the families left behind but in no way should the taxer payer have to prevent this from happening. We are all responsible for our own actions.
Janice	Tagart	All design alternatives are very acceptable. Please build a barrier.
Janice	Tagart	All five designs are acceptable.
Jessica	Tai	Regardless of aesthetic disadvantages, a suicide barrier is necessary. The statistics are there and it is nonsensical to state that a barrier would not help or is not needed. There are suicide prevention resources already available. Suicidal people often will not use these sources unless forced. The rails could do just this. I think option 1A is the best because it keeps with the bridge's design, is aesthetically cohesive with the view (transparent panels allow for photo ops for tourists, etc.) It also keeps the historical existing handrails.
Jessica	Tai	I was a close friend of Casey Brooks. It is so important to have these rails. It will help in preventing such tradgeies. The public should have a say in this.

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fred	tam	<p>the bridge and the location is beautiful. it is why it is chosen, i guess one should make it ugly and horrific to get rid of the romance to prevent suicides no?</p> <p>anyways, the claimed science supporting such barriers is rather dodgy and selective. most jumps are off buildings, and this is simply going to move people to other options, and this is an incredibly misguided waste of money.</p>
Carolyn	Tambwekar	Any of 1 or 2. 3 allows an individual to get over the railing.
Carolyn	Tambwekar	<p>In 1975, we were recent migrants to California. My mother and I took a bus bound for Sausalito. Crossing the bridge, we passed an empty car surrounded by police, etc. I realized it was a suicide jumper and my first reaction to my mother was how low the railings were and they should be higher. The man sitting in front on us said that would spoil "the most beautiful view in the world".</p> <p>The bridge is a manmade structure. Human life precious. I would not like to have the knowledge that I had knowingly not done all that could done to make it next to impossible for a depressed person to act on a self-destructive impulse. Follow your hearts and conscience.</p>
Z	Tang	I think that these people (who jumped) have depression or subclinical depression. Jump off GGB is just one of the many methods to kill themselves. If the barrier is in place, they will find other ways to commit suicide. It is more important to treat their depression than to put a barrier on GGB which will not stop them from suicide. It will only deprive the enjoyment for millions of people worldwide. Not to mention the cost of buiding such barrier.
Bren	Taylor	The visual impacts of all of the five Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are absolutely no mitigations available for the BUILD ALTERNATIVES completely ruining the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the Bridge.

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Bren	Taylor	The entire study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in that the NO BUILD alternative was not evaluated equally, or at all actually. The NO BUILD should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Director's 11 criteria established for a means to impede suicides at the Bridge. The NO BUILD alternative already stops 70% to 80% of people, it makes sense that it must be furthered studied to develop an equal assessment to compare with the BUILD ALTERNATIVES. With the BUILD ALTERNATIVE costing up to \$50 million, a full study of possible improvements to the NO BUILD must be undertaken ...What is the cost to improve the NO BUILD methods, for example? What about adding full-time staff at the entrance to the sidewalks that can have eye contact with people which would further aid in reducing suicides. The NO BUILD deserves to be studied to see what more can be done, for far less money, that will further impede people from committing suicide. Study the NO BUILD for improvements to it!
Esther	Taylor	Why was the barrier not put in during the construction of the bridge? What keeps the jumper from falling off the net? Could there be a way to make the barriers slippery and literally non climbable?
Bren	Taylor	I believe a no action alternative has not been fully studied.
Bren	Taylor	Please do not let a small percentage of individuals ruin the experience of the GG Bridge for millions of others.
Brendan	Taylor	All of the options are ugly, without being challenging enough to prevent suicides. The barriers only make it more difficult, and their installation will take away from engineering a center barrier to keep people who DON'T want to die on the bridge from being killed.
Brendan	Taylor	GGB does not induce suicide. Non-suicidal people don't get there and decide to kill themselves. The aesthetic destruction of the bridge will not result in fewer suicides, it will only move them to other bridges or to other methods. This is an attempt to appease a small group of people who have blamed the suicide of their loved ones on the bridge, not on the suicidal individual.
james	taylor	A moveable median barrier is more important and will save more lives. People who intend to harm themselves will always find a way--don't waste money on trying to stop them, and don't change the look of this historic structure.
Janet	Taylor	2A is most visually appealing. A barrier needs to be built to save lives
Keith	Taylor	Visually this will ruin the most beautiful of bridges in the world. No plan, will preserve the beauty of this bridge.

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Keith	Taylor	Why should we spend 40-50 million which we know it will end up 70-80 million to save nobody. Just because someone does not jump from the bridge does not mean they do not commit suicide. I have 8 count them 8 suicides in my personal life and not one of them has jumped from anywhere.....thus proving if someone wants to die, they will find a way.This money could be spent in SO MANY better ways. Suicide is a SAD reality of life. Do not waste this money trying to eradicate that which you cannot. NOT TO MENTION the havoc the construction would impose upon users of this bridge daily. Get over it, people die everyday. I lived at the Presidio for 2 and a half years. I ran across that bridge for PT many many mornings. I even read of the club of survivors of the jump.....one woman survived the first jump and upon her release from the hospital returned and got it right the second time. Life is not always fun. People will do this regardless. Why ruin such a work of beauty at SUCH costs and to save NOBODY. P.S. My very own mother killed herself, so I know more of what I speak than most who offer up there meritless opinions.
MARJORIE	TAYLOR	WE CANNOT SAVE EVERYONE FROM EVERYTHING...UNLESS WE CLOSE THE WALKWAY DOWN COMPLETELY...I DON'T BELIEVE IN DOING THAT. I'VE BEEN CROSSING THIS BRIDGE SINCE IT OPENED...I BELIEVE DAD PAID 25C A PERSON AND THAT WAS ONLY UNTIL THE BRIDGE WOULD BE PAID FOR...WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SUCIDE WOULD BE A FUTURE TOPIC IN '39...WE WERE JUST TRYING TO STAY ALIVE AND HAVE A JOB.
Valerie	Taylor	<p>The net system is the obvious choice. The visual impact is non-existent, as opposed to any of the other solutions.</p> <p>Any fence solutions would ruin the view from this national landmark - a view that people come from thousands of miles away to see.</p> <p>I believe it is important to prevent suicides, and this net system, where it has been used, has been proven to be 100% effective in preventing suicide attempts.</p>
Nadia	Tchao	I think this is a long haul for a short slide. We should put the millions of dollars into mental health and suicide prevention programs and non physical suicide deterrents.
Dede	Teeler	No build! While we commiserate with all the families and friend of those who have sought to take their own lives, our Bridge is not at fault. The joy this architectural jewel brings, not just to our city, but to the entire Bay Area and the world, would be destroyed by all of the options you have outlined above. I, and none of my friend or family, are willing to allow any of our tax dollars to be used on this outrageous proposal. \$50M would be much better spent in our schools, caring for the young people before they become suicidal, and in law enforcement on the bridge for the next 20 years!

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Alan	Teitelbaum	Safety for use of the bridge by pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists should be the first priority always.
Grace	Telcs	We need something taller as well as a net. That status quo is not acceptable. I believe we can do this in a way that is aesthetically pleasing.
Simon	Templar	Stop this idiotic idea of defacing the bridge with any barriers. This is a waste of money. There are not enough suicides to warrant this much money being spent. The aesthetics of the bridge will be ruined and the masses of people who do not commit suicide (tourists, commuters, etc.) are stuck with the obstruction this project will create. Stop pandering to these weak-minded rejects of society. We have no responsibility to prevent them from jumping. Why make so many suffer because of the actions of so very few? This idea truly echoes just how ridiculous the people of the Bay are can be. You idiots don't deserve that bridge!!! FUCK YOU for even thinking about this project!!!
Simon	Templar	STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT STOP IT!!!!!!
wylie	tene	thank you for this thorough report. i support building a barrier to prevent suicide from the GG Bridge
Stan	Teng	The horizontal system seems to have the least aesthetic impact. How will trash removal from the netting be accomplished with the horizontal system ?
Stan	Teng	The renderings are provided showing the viewpoint of on the bridge. Additional renderings showing the alternatives from a distance (postcard type view) and for the entire length of the bridge will help to better understand the aesthetic impacts as most view the bridge as a part of the San Francisco Bay panorama.
Robert	Tenney	All of the options ruin the view from the bridge. Frankly if someone wants to do themselves in, they are going to do it. Leave the bridge alone and stop wasting money on this.
eric	tepper	Visual from bridge cannot be changed. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B distort all views.

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Patricia	Ter Heun	I am completely opposed to a barrier or anything that alters the appearance of the bridge. I suggest that the bridge be staffed by experts to deal with suicidal people.
Jerry	Terstiege	The Bridge is a cultural and architectural wonder that has existed for over 70 years in its splendor. The huge proposed cost to deface the bridge could surely be used more productively elsewhere.
Jerry	Terstiege	You should not let the understandable emotionalism of those whose loved ones committed suicide to drive this very important decision
Ben	Tetzner	This is completely idiotic. If people want to jump, for christ's sake let them!!! You will never stop the nut cases! Any modification to the bridge would not only be an insane tax burden, but would detract from the beauty of the already over-priced bridge! Get a clue, you morons !
Chris	Thacker	do nothing. it is a waste of money.
Peter	Thoen	There are much better ways to prevent suicide through counseling and help programs. A barrier will not prevent suicide and the cost does not way up against the result.
Peter	Thoen	leave the bridge as is
James	Thomas	NO
Linda	Thomas	<p>Suicide is an important issue in our society. Using the band aid approach really achieves nothing. The Bridge is a special place for everyone from all over the world. It's always a question of how far do we go to protect people who intend to harm themselves, I believe what we have in place at GGB is enough, it offers some deterrent while not invoking sadness from what we know some people use the bridge for. It's a difficult complex issue suicide prevention needs to start way before some one reaches the bridge.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Linda</p>
Bob	Thompson	The fact that people place a priority on aesthetics over human life sickens me.
Deborah	Thompson	I do not want anything built, but if it must be so, please use the option (3) that keeps the view unobstructed!
Deborah	Thompson	Please support the "no-built" option!
grant	thompson	build a net!!!
John	Thompson	I think a horizontal system would make it a much more pleasant experience to walk and drive by. I've seen net systems and I think they are ugly - it would truly change the way the bridge looked from shore and ruin every picture.
Marvin	Thompson	My wife and I both feel that all alternatives to the Net System mar the beauty of the bridge and should not be considered.

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Marvin	Thompson	None
Tori	Thompson	I strongly oppose any suicide barrier. More people die in car accidents just crossing the Bridge than by jumping. Yet nobody is clamoring to install car barriers to prevent head-on collisions or other methods to make it safer for motorists who have to drive across daily. If someone is really intent on committing suicide and they cannot jump, what's to stop them from running across the traffic lanes? Or worse case scenario, who will stop them from driving into oncoming traffic?
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Donald	Thompson Jr	To whom it may concern, I was recently informed that you will be voting on the issue of adding a suicide barrier to the Golden Gate Bridge. I have also been informed that this issue has come up for voting in the past and the concept was rejected in favor of keeping the bridge beautiful looking. I am appalled that anyone will vote in favor of structure over life. So here is what I will do for you if the issue of saving life is voted against. I will find out each of your names and home addresses and publicize them throughout the internet informing everyone about the issue and pointing the finger at who is responsible in voting in favor of looks over life. Enjoy your new-found attention.
kenneth	thomson	Visually acceptable. Would probably deter some suicide attempts by making successful suicide more difficult.

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Sean	Thorniley	While everyone feels for folks who loses someone to suicide from the GG Bride, it is not the GGBA's responsibility to "control" the potential that folks could jump from the bridge. This bridge is not only a landmark for the Bay Area, but the world. It is a symbol much like the Statue of Liberty. Changing its "look" will not stop people from using the bridge for their "choice" any better than volunteers doing what they do to try and prevent this decision. This will continue to be the best way to help folks in need so some council and attention.
Todd	Thornton	Spending 40-50 million dollars is a waste of tax payers monies.
Jason	Thorpe	My overwhelming preference is to leave the bridge as-is. If building a barrier is unavoidable, then I would hope that something that minimizes the impact to the visual experience from the deck of the bridge is selected (Alternative 3 -- still visible from the sidewalks, but certainly much less intrusive than vertical barriers).
Jason	Thorpe	Alternatives 1A and 2A seem like non-starters; perspective makes the vertical bars look like a wall when viewed from the deck. Alternatives 1B and 2B are much less disruptive to the view, but the requirement of a "cap" to prevent climbing over the barrier also creates an enclosed feeling that is antithetical to the current Golden Gate Bridge experience. Alternatives 2A and 2B create the feeling of an unfinished bridge that had a barrier slapped on. The handrail is very important to the overall visual quality of the Golden Gate Bridge.
Dieter	Thurrow	Any money spent on this is a ridiculous waste of our money.
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Dieter	Thurrow	Any money spent on this is a ridiculous waste of our money.
Dieter	Thurrow	I believe it makes no sense to spend any money, collected from people who really have a need to use the bridge, for the few people a year that choose to commit suicide on the bridge. Any money spend on this in this day and age of very expensive fuel is really outlandish.

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ernie	thurston	Visually the most appealing alternative.
ernie	thurston	We can't prevent all suicides, nor protect all public suicide sites. But the GGB seems to be our premier suicide site, and therefore taking extra protective action there will have a huge impact on the nation's consciousness about suicide and suicide prevention.
Gina	Thurston	There are soooo many other positive improvements the money can be spent on. I think it is a complete waste of money for as few suicides that take place there.
Gina	Thurston	There are soooo many other positive improvements the money can be spent on. I think it is a complete waste of money for as few suicides that take place there.
Kathleen Carolyn	Tiller Tillie	If someone is so intent on committing suicide, he/she will just find another location. Please leave the bridge as lovely as it is for the rest of us.
AC	Tillman	My heart goes out the families of people who have chosen to jump from the GGB but I fail to see how it is the public's responsibility to physically restrain (building a barrier) someone from jumping. I find it disturbing that there is money and the required approvals for a removable barrier that will save the lives of people who actually want to live, yet it has not been built. How strange. I also don't understand why the money isn't being put towards rebuilding the Doyle Drive overpass when that will undoubtedly cost an unknown number of casualties and injuries should it fall during an earthquake. It's only a matter of time.
Kathi	Timmons	Do not spend any money on barriers. keep it as is.
Ernie	Tiu	The bridge should not be defaced. To prevent suicides, a barrier will also be necessary between the roadway and walkway, as suicide-minded people could just as easily throw themselves in front of the road traffic as off into the waters.
Ernie	Tiu	The bridge was designed to be light and airy, and the above-ground barriers would make it resemble a prison wall.
Ernie	Tiu	Even if it is a given that some percentage of would be suicides would not kill themselves by some other means, that should be weighed against the enjoyment by millions of people of the beauty of the bridge. Why should the mental problems of a few destroy the pleasures of so many?

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Ernie	Tiu	The number one method to commit suicide is by gunshot. The proponents of suicide prevention will be well advised to focus their efforts on gun control. Thousands commit suicide that way; why waste so much time and money on a method that is barely 1% of total suicides?
		Use the money to have onsite consolors patrol the bridge. As a daily commuter to the city from Marin I fear that this addition to the bridge will add even more cost to my commute. Spend money on a movable barrier, an addition that will modernize and protect daily users of the bridge.
Dean	Tizzard	
Dean	Tizzard	A waste of time, money and resources. It is sad that folks have chosen to use the bridge to end their lives but in the big picture perhaps they found some relief it what would otherwise be a life of torment. Let's move on...
Joan	Tobin	I would like to see more resources put into researching the No Build alternative with money funding Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Programs so that everyone can win. Visitors and residents can view and enjoy the bridge in its original design and we can humanely handle anyone considering suicide onsite with intervention and perhaps even hook-up to counseling services. The GG Bridge could create a program of non-physical suicide deterrent that could be an inspiration to other monuments around the world that have this issue.
Mark	Tomey	I am a Psychotherapist and I can tell you that this will not keep an individual from committing suicide. If they are determined, they will find another way which would be more drastic, ie: Bart Train Tracks, etc. This will not, and I repeat WILL NOT deter them. Also leave the sanctity of this historical monument alone!

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paul	tominac	<p>any suicide barrier is an act of vandalization on an icon so nearly perfect in its design it compliments the natural setting in which it was built. Society needs to do more to remove the stigma of seeking mental health treatment. The majority should not be continuously burdened with sacrifices on their part, to help the weaker elements who aren't doing enough to help themselves. You wouldn't jump off the bridge for a broken leg, you'd go to a doctor. Depression and other mental ailments should be no different. Seek help, and more should be done to compel people to make the effort to seek such help as they would for physical ailments. Don't vandalize the bridge. The freedom of walking across without a barrier, similar to hanging on to a moving cable car, is a freedom all too seldom allowed in our ever more restricted society, restrictions all too often well meaning, but ill considered and unnecessary. Don't vandalize the bridge.</p>
Tanya Diane	Tompkins Toomey	<p>The 1,250 lives lost to suicide on this bridge deserve to be honored by FINALLY constructing a physical barrier that will provide enough of a deterrent in that crisis moment for other barriers to work more effectively (including the suicidal person's ambivalence about the act being thwarted by the physical barrier). Research strongly suggests that putting a road block to a highly accessible means like the GG Bridge does not simply lead the person to find the next nearest bridge (nor even another different method). Thus, making this change can save many lives. I strongly urge you to consider any of the proposed alternatives that heighten the railing and prevent a barrier for a person in such a desperate place that they seek to end their own lives.</p> <p>There should be no comments on any of the above issues. There should be no barrier. People jumb off of cliffs in national parts. Should we put up barriers? The money could be better sent on mental health care programs. A barrier on the bridge will not impact the overall suicide rate. The arguments use to support it are emotional and unscientific.</p>

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George	Topor	<p>One of the items I didn't notice in the Draft EIR was the method that would be employed to rescue those who wind up in the Net System.</p> <p>I understand it would involve shutting down a lane of traffic (Did that get considered in EIR?) and using special equipment to retrieve the people.</p> <p>Has any thought also been given to the potential for trash being thrown in the net, and its removal?</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
George	Topor	<p>If something must be built, why not limit the total height to 6 feet. That has been proven to be sufficient as a deterrent.</p>
George	Topor	<p>Why is it the GGBD responsibility to protect people 100%? You don't do it for those of us in cars, or on bikes, so why must we provided 100% safety for so few?</p> <p>There are plenty of places where if one chooses to end their life their are few if any barriers. I can walk in front of a bus or train, or purchase a legal weapon.</p> <p>People will always choose something that some of us don't agree with.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
joel	tornatore	<p>Please leave the bridge as it is.</p>
Jacquelyn	Torrens	<p>My husband was born in SF, children and grandchildren live there so we appreciate the beauty of the bridge as is, but having lost a close friend who jumped a year ago, we must advocate for saving other families from this horror. There has to be a suicide deterrent system.</p>

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tom	torriglia	<p>My comment is not on the draft. I see no reason for a draft as I see no reason for a barrier. I think it's a huge waste of time and money to contemplate building a barrier. Why does the bridge need a barrier? Why does anyone care if someone jumps from the bridge? It's not like they are going to land on someone and injure someone else.</p> <p>If people are going to kill themselves, they are going to regardless of a barrier on the bridge.</p>
RONALD	TOSCHI	the bridge should remain in its original configuration
Decline	ToState	I do not have an opinion on what design to select, if any; but, if you choose to build a suicide deterrent, I strongly suggest starting at the middle and working to the ends. On the New London-Groton bridge over the Thames river they started a suicide barrier fence from the ends and you can guess what happened as desperate people saw their opportunity gradually disappearing.
Aleksandar	Totic	The net is teh best. I love having the view when I bike over.
donald	toy	it would block the beauty of the bridge
Kevin	Tracy	There should not be *any* changes made the physical structure of the bridge. If you want to do something increase patrols on the walkways themselves (much cheaper alternative as well). Unfortunately, I think this debate is basically silly, people will always find a way around any barrier and in the process this will ruin one of our great landmarks. You ultimately cannot protect people from themselves.

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Connie	Trageser	<p>Loss of Life is the key here - the bridge loses it's beauty if humnan lives are being lost due to vanity! Yes we know the Bridge is a symbol around the world of how beautiful San Francisco is - However - if it's tainted with blood - then who cares - it's how we are now trying to prevent future suicides that really counts! WE need to face reality and help the thousands dealing with depression and mental illness - that will be a greater landmark than any bridge could ever be! It's a statement that will send a message around the world!</p> <p>I PRAY FOR LOGIC ON THIS CAUSE - NOT VANITY OR EMOTION OR FUNDING ISSUES -</p> <p>Connie Trageser</p> <p>Concerned Citizen -</p>
Kelley	Trahan	<p>If adding the fence deters the depressed from choosing the bridge as a final destination, it might not do much to change their minds about ending their lives. The money could be spent more wisely, rather than catching suicide jumpers when they are at the end. For example, this money could make more resources available to people before they get to that point (i.e. better social, economic, health & education systems, improved public libraries, community centers, & clean healthy environments). I see this proposal as a good intention but there are more effective ways to prevent suicide in a more meaningful and longer lasting way. If there is money lolling around to be able to afford this, it could be used on mental health care that actually might prevent suicide. It is impossible to "suicide proof" our environment, this proposal seems like a waste of money, not to mention an expensive obstruction of view that is potentially harmful to birds and other creatures who share this space.</p>

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Jennifer	Trapp	I feel that the \$40M would be better spent on treating depression and suicide prevention. Also, I would like to see a study that compares the number of suicides from jumping v. the number of suicides that use guns. I think people need to know all the facts, not just the GG Bridge numbers.
Karl	Trass	A waste of time and money. There is no need to modify THE icon of SF to save (on average) 16 people a year.
Karl	Trass	Please use the time and money for other projects.
Elizabeth	Travers	Vertical System would not impinge on the esthetics of the bridge, but it would prevent the tragic suicides that have been present since the bridge was built.
michael	treat	please take that \$40 or \$50 million to rebuild our streets in san francisco which is vitally needed or put that money to people who really want to live and need food housing etc. Do not spend this money for people who do not want to live. You would be doing a huge disfavor to all the San franciscans that direly need help and do want to live.
Michael	Treat	Please take the money you would spend on a bridge net and improve our streets. There are huge holes and deep ruts throughout the city. People who drive would prefer that money going to improve their life since that do not want to die, or even think of committing suicide. Plus how much money would the city spend rescuing someone who wanted to die? That money could go to a better cause.
Hugh	Trenkamp	Leave the bridge alone

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Ben	Trombley	All of the proposed alternatives will severely alter the view of and from the bridge, and I sincerely doubt the effectiveness of any of the barriers to prevent suicides. Several of the proposed walls appear easily scalable, and no bridge deterrent will prevent someone from finding an alternative means of suicide. The \$50 million would be better spent on suicide prevention.
Ben	Trombley	I think the effort and resources could be devoted to far more common problems on the bridge, like the lack of public transportation across the bridge, and the related traffic problems.
Jo	Trotter	Do not alter the Golden Gate Bridge in any way, shape, or form.
Kilgore	Trout	From a visual, aesthetic, cultural pov: Do Not Alter this Landmark! From an economic pov: Do Not spend another cent on this project. From a saving human lives pov: Build a movable barrier in the middle of the road
Jennifer	Trudeau	Please build a barrier---- save lives!
Jennifer	Trudeau	PLEASE BUILD A BARRIER !! From Kaitlin Harris Foundation for suicide prevention St. Louis Mo
Sam	Truslow	I believe the net system provides the best balance between the need for prevention and the aesthetics of the bridge for residents and tourists. My mother's friend committed suicide from the bridge about 4 years ago and so addressing the need is important but the balance of all points of view is important as well. I love the bridge and bike over it every weekend and so I can attest to the passions on both sides of the issue. I believe the net can be a promising compromise between all factors. Thank you, Sam

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		<p>I am involved with seeking solutions to #2 suicide bridge in the country in Seattle. Given research we have done on our issue, I beg you to speed the work on your project ASAP. I do not wish us to take the #1 position, but I feel your leadership will help not only your city but the nation as we all individually work towards solutions in our communities. Your acting will be a beacon to others and I believe help save lives across our nation as political leaders see the results of you leading the way.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Marko Tubic</p> <p>President Fremont Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Seattle, WA</p>
Marko	Tubic	
Richard	Tubis	It is important to have some kind of vertical barrier.
Ron	Tulimieri	It would be better to spend the \$40 to \$50 million on health insurance and mental health programs. San Francisco General Hospital is starved for money while we spend millions throwing nets under bridges. When people start throwing themselves off other bridges I guess we will have to put nets there too. Doesn't it make more sense to treat the cause rather than the result of a mental health problem?
Jonathan	Tupy	Any of the options presented by the Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project would adversely affect the aesthetic experience of bridge users.
Jonathan	Tupy	Any of the options presented by the Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project would adversely affect the aesthetic experience of bridge users. Modifications to or replacements of the handrail would be most detrimental options. Addition of the net system would be less intrusive than Handrail modifications or replacements, but is still undesirable.
Jonathan	Tupy	The Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project is not an appropriate use of Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District funds. Pedestrians and cyclists can currently access the bridge in a safe manner. This project would attempt to deter those few individuals who intend to harm themselves. While this is an admirable goal, it does not serve the interests of transportation, or the vast majority of the bridge's users.

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Matt	Turner	I noticed that all the alternatives except for number 3 have a clear panel as part of the barrier. These areas with clear glass or plexi-glass panels would be tagged by vandals who scratch their tags (I'm sure you have seen this type of vandalism on mirrors in public facilities) almost immediately and would be costly to replace and or repair. The graffiti would damage the aesthetic experience of the bridge as well as give a negative impression of our area to visitors from other states and countries.
Jill	Turner	Although I don't think that the visual or aesthetic impact should be so heavily considered when deciding on alternatives, I liked 2B because I feel that it will effect the view the least.
Jill	Turner	We need a barrier.
Jill	Turner	I don't think raising rails will have any negative affect on the view or the visual aesthetic of the bridge, neither do I hold the "view" in any way as a higher priority than a human life.
Matt	Turner	People come from around the world to see the GGB. Being able to look over the edge and see an unobstructed view of the water directly below is a thrill and an essential part of the experience.
Paula	Turner	I think the net should appeal to people on both sides of this issue, acting to prevent suicides while not significantly altering the aesthetics of the bridge. As a second alternative, I prefer the all vertical option. The horizontal solutions are too reminiscent of barbed wire in my opinion.
Paula	Turner	After reading the article about Casey Shannon, I don't see how anyone could disagree that we need to remove the possibility of a bridge jump as an impulsive, tragic, long-term solution to an individual's short term problems.
Rebecca	Turner	All the alternatives will detract from the bridge and are far too costly. Though it is sad, jumping from the bridge is a personal choice, and its prevention should not be burdened on the taxpayers.
steve	turpie	Leave the bridge alone
steve	turpie	Leave the bridge alone
steve	turpie	Leave the bride alone
steve	turpie	Leave the bride alone
steve	turpie	Leave the bride alone
steve	turpie	Leave the bride alone
steve	turpie	Leave the bride alone
steve	turpie	Leave the bride alone
steve	turpie	So what it is a stupid idea and waste of money
steve	turpie	Superflous

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Michael	Turrigiano	With the exception of the net system, the barrier alternatives make the on bridge perspective cage/prison-like. Further, they seriously impact the beauty of the original and brilliant design of the bridge. I am fearful of the so-called transparent barriers which would offer the only unobstructed views: they will likely be dirty, and will be a prime spot for the ubiquitous scourge of vandalism as seen on glass bus stops etc. The unobstructed visual experience of space is very important to the emotional impact of the bridge experience.
Michael	Turrigiano	The only desirable alternative to a no build option would be the net system, which would help the few who feel compelled to jump while preserving the magnificence of the bridge. Remember that the specific elements that make a structure transcendental are elusive and sensitive: these barriers will drastically impact the emotional experience of the bridge, diminishing its impact and significance to the people who come from around the world, or those like myself who are local and feel moved at every crossing.
D	Twombly	Both are ghastly and will destroy the long standing aesthetics and views of the Golden Gate.
D	Twombly	Both Option 1 and 2 make the bridge seem like a mile long prison cell. They will ruin trips to the bridge for any tourist and will make commuting it that much more depressing. Option 3 makes the bridge look like it's under perpetual construction by Barnum and Bailey.
D	Twombly	Why are we wasting between 25 and 50 million dollars to save less than a dozen people a year who WANT to die. When the same money seemingly can't be found to install a movable center divider to save the lives of people who WANT to live?
Steve	Tyler	I am for leaving the bridge as is. Use, as your city normally does, the money for other, better, purposes.
Jim	Uber	What a ridiculous waste of money.
Jim	Uber	People have a right to commit suicide.
Robin	Unruh	Go To #11

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Robin	Unruh	<p>DON'T SPEND THE MONEY!!!!</p> <p>LET THEM JUMP!!!!</p> <p>REDUCE THE TOLLS BY THE \$50 MILLION AMOUNT!!!!</p> <p>REDUCE THE TOLLS BY THE \$50 MILLION AMOUNT!!!!</p> <p>REDUCE THE TOLLS BY THE \$50 MILLION AMOUNT!!!!</p>
Julia	Uota	The visual aesthetic of the bridge would be damaged by any system involving the handrail.
Christian	Utzman	They're oppressive. It's like being in a jail or a zoo. One of the great things about the GG Bridge is how open it still is in a world where everything is fenced off and off limits. The idea of glass panels is nice, but they're going to become a magnet for graffiti like they do everywhere in the city, and, without constant replacing, add to the "jail" feeling to the barrier. Enclosing the bridge with a safety cage will destroy the attraction of the bridge for people from all over the world, as well as for those of us who enjoy using the bridge on a daily bases.
Christian	Utzman	My brother committed suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge 11 years ago. The Bridge did not kill my brother, my brother killed himself. If there was a barrier, he would have climbed over it, turned around and jumped into traffic, or found some other location to commit suicide (like leaping in front of Amtrak). The Golden Gate Bridge is an invaluable asset to the tourist commerce of San Francisco and Marin, and I would hate to see the actions of the few destroy such a wonderful historic land mark. There are thousands of commuters, bicyclists, and tourists who use the bridge every day without incident, and thousands of businesses who depend on the attraction of bridge to earn a living. Please don't let my brother's actions punish the rest of us who are still alive.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	The net system (3) seems like it also may have a negative impact on birds. I'm curious to know if 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B have more maintenance & cleaning needs than the current system. Based on the observation that it seems that 1A, 1B & 2B have more surface area than the current railing I would think they would require more work, paint & chemicals. Of any of the systems 2A seems to have the least amount of surface area and therefore would require the least amount of work, paint & chemicals to maintain.

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Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	The beauty of the bridge and the views from it an of it should be preserved. The barrier that has been installed between the sidewalk and roadway already detract from the views and design. My preference is leave the bridge as it is and not build any system.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	If the consensus of the board and public is to build a system, 2A which replaces the handrail with a vertical system is has the least impact on the view and aesthetics of the bridge. Options 1B & 2B make the bridge feel like a prison, option 1A has too much visual clutter, option 3 looks like a maintenance operation.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	The cost associated with building any of the options is undesirable in my estimation and is another reason why I feel that we should not build any system.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	If the decision is made to move forward and money is to be expended on any system then we need to take the significance of the bridge into consideration and chose the options which is least distracting and most aesthetically appealing and maintains the cultural significance of the bridge. This option would be 2A.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	While I can appreciated the desire for increased public safety, I think that this is erring too far in protectionism given the litigious nature of our society today. Any of the build option detract from the views from the bridge and impact the land use & recreation on and around the bridge.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	No build is my chose due to the fact that it wouldn't change the land use and recreation on and around the bridge. If the decision is made to build a system than option 2A has the least impact on land use and recreation on and around the bridge.
Ann Leslie	Uzdavinis	I'm concerned about any cleaning & maintenance needed for any of the alternatives that would have a greater impact than the current railing. The net system (3) seems like it also may have a negative impact on birds.
T	Valentine	Cultural resource comment - Spend 1/50th the money on a suicide prevention kiosk on either side of the bridge if you must. If someone's daughter doesn't want the help she doesn't want the help. The entire society doesn't have to ruin all the beautiful inspirational places because these people are interpreting that inspirational impulse for suicide. Someone else needed the view to get though school or take a chance on love. You just aren't talking about them. It isn't about the bridge and suicide. It is about inspiration of the human spirit given by a high godlike place. You'd have to destroy all the beautiful high places in the country and fence in every cliff and viewpoint. What about the rest of us? What about the rest of humanity?

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First	Last	Comment
Ron	Valentino	I understand the need to protect lives but the bridge is an icon and I think its best to retain as much as the original design as possible. Part of the beauty of walking across the bridge is seeing the amazing vistas. Blocking views with a barrier would really impact that experience.
Ron	Valentino	I think the net is the best option. It would not destroy the views.
julie	Valenzuela	its better to add vertical system to outside handrail.
Diane	Vallon	Please do this so that the temptation is gone
gervaise	valpey	I believe a barrier would be a hindrance.
Christine	Van Dyke	Public resources should not be spent on this if anything a median should be added to the bridge to provide safety to people who are often involuntary victims - suicide will continue regardless of the bridge.
Randall	Van Nostrand	The visual impacts of all 5 Build Alternatives are not acceptable. There are no mitigations available for the Building Alternatives. It will completely run the aesthetics and historic characteristics of the bridge
Randall	Van Nostrand	the study is flawed and the DEIR is flawed in the the No Build alternative was not evaluated equally. The No Build should be fully studied as a viable alternative that can meet the Board of Directors 11 criteria. The No Build already stops 70%-80% of the people. The No Build deserves to be strudied to see what can be done for lass money.
Frank	Van Orden	As a psychiatrist, I feel a suicide barrier is mandatory.
Melani	Van Petten	It's about time we grew up and did something about his horrendous problem. Tourists will always find a way to take pictures; the views will always be great. But it only takes a minute of irrational thinking to end a life--any sort of barrier will give people time to think.
Tim	Van Raam	Stop Death by Suicide on the Bridge! Seattle did it at the Space Needle and it works. New York did it at the Empire State Building and it works. The folks who do not want it need to get educated on this issue. I do not want to ruin the wonderful view either but ir WILL Stop Suicide from the bridge. It is the most famous attractive nuisance for Suicide in the world.
May	van Scherrenburg	A missing piece of information is cost. I like alternative 3 the best as it doesn't impinge on the aesthitics of the current handrail height, yet provides a physical barrier to suicide. But is it (substantially) more expensive than option 1A? That would impact my vote.

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May	van Scherrenburg	A suicide barrier of SOME sort is critical; other historical/tourist sites in the United States (such as the empire state building) have had such barriers in place for quite some time, the GGB is overdue.
Erik	Vance	There is no option that does not affect the aesthetic of the bridge. This is one of the most beautiful monuments in our nation and it is shameful that it might be impeded because of a few people.
Erik	Vance	The most breathtaking part of the bridge experience is the ability to look out and then look down off the bridge. Certainly a fence either beyond the handrail or at the handrail ruin that feeling of freedom.
Erik	Vance	A historical monument is not above modification for safety's sake. But you had better have a VERY good reason to it. And the more important the monument, the better the reason. This one is not even close.
Erik	Vance	This entire process seems driven by the families of the dead. And while my heart goes out to those people, do we really want them deciding policy? It's only natural to reach out and try to make the senseless death of a loved one mean something. But this i
Lisa	Vandenberg	All of the alternatives change the appearance of the bridge for the worse and lessen its attractiveness to the millions of walkers, hikers, bikers, and drivers who use the bridge.
Lisa	Vandenberg	Each is completely hideous.
Lisa	Vandenberg	If people are going to kill themselves they will find a way. There is no need to ruin a beautiful bridge in a vain attempt to stop them. The bridge is used without incident by millions of people each year. Decisions should be made based on the best interests of all and not on the purported needs of a few. The barriers are unnecessary and will interfere with public enjoyment of the bridge. (please move this to the correct category if it is not a "cultural" comment.)
Lisa	Vandenberg	The barriers will all negatively impact the public use and enjoyment of the walkways on the bridge
Alex	Vanderburgh	As a backpacker in the Marin Headlands for the last 20 years, I feel that the great beauty of the area will be in no way diminished by any of the options and they will help prevent needless tragedy.
Bernard	Vandermolen	A suicide barrier will cost millions and not prevent a single suicide. Proponents of this plan fail to realize that humans are extremely clever and can find a way around anything. Building this barrier is simply a way to make us feel better about ourselves.

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dahn	vanlaarz	<p>Spend the \$\$\$ on the movable median to prevent head-on vehicle collisions instead.</p> <p>Any barrier won;t prevent suicidees, but merely move them to another location.</p>
William	Vasey	<p>Let's focus on the bigger picture. My interest as a citizen, and as a tax payer, is to reduce the number of suicides, not just those that occur at a particular location. Spending just the interest on \$40-50 million on mental health interventions would likely prevent many more suicides than any barrier at one location might prevent.</p>
Thomas	Vass	<p>poor use of millions of taxpayers (my) dollars. use or divert these funds for new or existing suicide prevention programs.</p>
Jorge	Vega	<p>Building any additional deterrant is a waste of precious resources. The aesthetic of the bridge would be negatively impacted. Bay area roads and infrastructure are in the worst condition I have seen of any California Metro-area. We need to devote resources to upgrading and maintaining existing resources.</p>
Jorge	Vega	<p>Devoting limited funds to a group that wants to end life in a time when most people are doing everything they can to survive seems wrong. When there are millions on the brink of starvation and homelessness in this country I do not want to see one cent spent on this proposal.</p>
Charles	Vella	<p>I believe a suicide barrier is long overdue. As</p> <p>a thirty year psychotherapist at Kaiser Hospital, I believe it has been shameful to allow the bridge to become the number one international suicide location, when we know from much previous research that we can put an end to such impulsive suicide attempts.</p> <p>Dr. Charles J. Vella</p>

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Victory	Vendetta	Instead of plundering away millions of dollars to try and save a doomed and tormented soul why don't we send those funds to the school system so we can better educate and raise 5 year old johnny so that hes not trying to jump over the suicide barrier in 17 years that you installed anyways! Its to late to change Jake the suicide jumpers thoughts anyways....where-as Johnny is salvageable!
Victory	Vendetta	Just a rational thought for the irrational decision makers!
Carole	Vesely	Our most precious resource is the human life. We need to deter individuals from taking their lives by jumping from the bridge. I facilitate two Survivors of Suicide groups whose lives have been changed forever by their loved ones' suicides.
Sheree	Veysey	As someone who has struggled with suicidal behaviours in the past am so glad to see this project taking place. An additional barrier was added to a bridge in my hm city of Auckland - so much of suicide is about ambivalence - wanting to live/wanting to die and physical changes like this DO make a difference to someone who is teetering. Sure if they are determined they will use another way - but many other ways are less fatal - and an additional barrier can provide just more time when the danger moment can pass. Well done. Good luck.
Karen	Vickers	In the 50 years that I've lived in San Francisco, I've never walked across the bridge because of fear of heights/falling. I believe the barrier will make the bridge safer for everyone, and will definitely lessen or stop suicides.
STEVEN	VIDAURRI	Estimated cost to add any system is at least \$25million, why not just patrol the bridge? Two people patrolling, 24 hours a day at a yearly salary of \$40,000 would barely \$25million in 78 years. I just visited the Grand Canyon, where anyone could leap to their death, yet very few rails, and no suicide barrier. I agree, if someone is intent on suicide, they will find a way, jumping from the GGBridge is just a more dramatic way to do it. If a railing/barrier must be put into place is not \$25million an excessive amount to spend? Is there no cheaper alternative?
STEVEN	VIDAURRI	The vertical barrier seems most attractive.
Steven	Viegas	Golden Gate Bridge Officials need to take responsibility for allowing so many people to die, who might have had a chance otherwise. Make it right!!

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Leonard	Vinci	<p>Alternative 3 will service the purpose well. One very important matter the net design team must consider. This net must not be a firm net. And the spacing of the net mesh should be no closer than 6" to 8" across. This will cause the person jumping into the net to get tangled up in the net mesh and not allow he/she to simply land on the net and crawl over the edge. When jumping into the net their legs will most likely go through the open net holes, thus making it very difficult or even impossible to climb back on top of the net. The lack of net being firm will also make it very difficult to navigate the surface of the net. In addition, the design team may want to make the surface of the mesh material uncomfortable when landing on it...</p> <p>This overall netting design would be the best alternative with respect to the current looks of the Golden Gate Bridge.</p>
Leonard	Vinci	With respect to an additional alternative...I would suggest...NO BUILD...If a person wants to end life and the GGB is not available...the Bay Bridge will be the next choice along with BART, Freeway Overpasses, any high rise building with roof access.
Natasha	Vinik	The Alternative 2B is the most visually/aesthetically appealing alternative of all the possible alternatives (No Build is not an option at all.) These realistically shouldn't be an issue at all - the lives lost significantly outweigh the need for a "perfect view".
Dale	Vinnedge	please get this done
Jeannine	Vinson	I would just like to comment that I support this effort. This should be looked at more of a preventative measure to decrease suicide rates.
John	Vlahides	No, no, no change! People who are trying to kill themselves will always find a way to do so. All the alternatives are climbable or otherwise surmountable. If one is determined to die, he won't care if he scrapes his knees or bloodies his knuckles in the process. The enjoyment of the bridge is for the living!
Tom	Vogt	Someone should publicize the percentage of Bay Area suicides committed on the bridge (very small) and the cost of current anti-suicide programs vis-a-vis the cost of retrofitting the bridge. It's irrational to spend so much on one high-profile means of suicide.
Julie	VonBergen	As someone who used to walk the bridge regularly, I think the net is the least disturbing aesthetic solution.
Julie	VonBergen	I think it is important to send the message of valuing life and safety above scenic beauty. The level of safety that was appropriate in the 1930s is not an acceptable level of safety seventy years later.
Julie angry	VonBergen voter	you wish to spend how much to protect .000001% of the population from themselves, just so they can find another means of suicide? and ruin the visual/aesthetics of a beautiful landmark in the process?

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David	W	Don't waste tax payers money on this. If someone wants to jump, let them! They're only doing the rest of the public a favor. Think of the money saved. We can't control peoples actions and we are not GOD!!
R	W	Human life is more important than aesthetics.
Thomas	W	If somone wants to kill themselves, they will - with or without the bridge. It's a waste of money to make changes to the bridge which is a historic landmark and should remain as it is.
Geoffrey	W.Smith	To spend \$50 million to possible save 19 lives is ludicrous. We don't have the \$50 million and these people will simply find another way to leave us behind. I believe that there are approx. 200 suicides per year in SF and Marin counties. Why are we only protecting the GG bridge suicides?I say give it up. Even if we had the money, there are far better ways to spend it. Geoffrey Smith, San Rafael, corvettegeof@aol.com
Dave	Wachter	I have lived in Bay Area for 30 years and enjoy the views driving over the bridge. I have never gotten around to walking across the bridge but will rush to do so if any of the unsightly verticals barriers are selected.
Dave	Wachter	The bridge is a world wide icon. Keep the Nanny state out of the picture Leave the bridge alone. Second choice is nets below the level of the roadway which may stop or slow jumpers.
Dave	Wachter	Barriers will must likely slow down but not stop suicide attempts so non physical programs are the best choice.
Dave	Wachter	If the bridge had not been build in the 1930's an EIR now would possibly block the construction.
susan	wade	Perspective on the "problem" is needed: an alternative that ought to be considered here (or at least a pre-condition to permanent alteration of the bridge aesthetic) is to employ a cadre of suicide outreach and deterrence professionals (including interns,
anne	wadhams	having seen the pain of the family of a suicide victim.I strongly urge that the most effective barrier possible be put in place asap.
Amanda	Wagstaff	After reading this NY Times article, you realize how imperative a new barrier is. http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/06/magazine/06suicide-t.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1&sq=suicide%20July%206,%202008&st=nyt&scp=1

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First	Last	Comment
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Yvette	Wakefield	The view is never beautiful when a loved one has died from jumping off the bridge. One time a man threw his daughter off the bridge - that was witnessed by many people during the day.
Yvette	Wakefield	"A single day of life is worth more than all the treasures of the universe". - Buddhist quote
Nadine	Walas	Leave the most beautiful bridge in America alone!
Nadine	Walas	Every option is ugly!
Nadine	Walas	Constructing any of the barriers would be a huge waste of money! If you people are bored, concentrate on getting Doyle Drive improved.
Nadine	Walas	Every option will ruin the views both from, and of, the bridge.
stephanie	wald	People contemplating suicide should get treatment. This beautiful bridge should not be RUINED for the rest of us.
Jerry	Waldvogel	This is something that is very much needed! Whichever option you choose, please do it as soon as possible.
Diane	Walker	I feel it is a waste of taxpayers money.
Diane	Walker	If a person is going to commit suicide they will find some way to do it. In choosing to jump from the bridge does not involve another human in the process. What would the difference be if they went in a boat and jumped over the side and drowned themselves. I love walking over the bridge and enjoying the scenery and how is it that because people choose to jump jeopardizes my right to enjoy the bridge as it is? I am sorry for the families of those who choose to do this, but it a choice they make not someone else. My husband was involved on the other end of a suicide. He works for BART and on two cases people chose to involve him in their suicide. The lady made it and the man did not. I feel this is wrong to include someone else in their attempt to die. So with jumpers they do it on their own without other human involvement other than very hurt family. I am sorry they involve the bridge, but please do not bow to the demands of those individuals who demand a barrier, because if people want to commit suicide on the bridge they will find a way and then we have spent precious dollars for nothing.
Glen	Walker	The net system appears to be effective while still preserving the beauty of the Bridge.
Glen	Walker	I understand that Marin is now the suicide capital of California because of the 30 suicides a year at the Bridge that are handled by the Marin Coroner. I don't want Marin to have that title, and I especially want to prevent the "impulse suicides" by youngsters that I believe a net would prevent. I would gladly donate to a fund to help finance a deterrent.
Hubert	Walker	The bridge is beautiful and unique as it is. I think the net is the best option if something has to be done, but I think the money would be better spent on more patrols and mental health funding.

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Hubert	Walker	Alternative 3 sounds the best since it wouldn't impact the views from the bridge as much.
Hubert	Walker	\$50,000,000 could save hundreds of lives and improve the quality of thousands of lives if applied to mental health services in the Bay Area.
Hubert	Walker	Degrading the tourist experience in San Francisco is not a good use of \$50,000,000. Please use this money to rehabilitate drug addicts and homeless people in the city, or train ex-convicts for productive jobs.
Sarah	Walker	Please do something. I lost my brilliant and wonderful brother on this bridge. It is not fair for people with mental illness. We owe it to the world to protect people who cannot protect themselves for brief unfortunate periods in their otherwise capable, productive, and beneficial lives.
Kira	Wallace	I believe that the bridge will never be beautiful as long as people are killing themselves on it. If we can do our best to change their minds, the better. I lost a boyfriend to this bridge. At the very least we should put a net. Almost everyone that jumps regrets it right away (note: Niagara Falls jumpers).
Meg	Wallace	Let's get this passed so we don't have to lose any more valuable members of our society to suicide at the Bridge - once the method is approved, THEN we can find the money to add the barriers.
Paul	Wallace	A close childhood friend of mine, Emil Friedlander, killed himself by jumping from the bridge then within a year my best friend from medical school, Phil Holsten, also lost his life after jumping. Human life has taken a back seat to economics and aesthetics for too long. PLEASE build a suicide barrier rather than doing nothing.
Evan	Wallick	I believe that we need a suicide barrier put on the Golden Gate Bridge. It is a great investment. It will save many lives.
E	Walters	Don't destroy the bridge with any barriers.
E	Walters	The cost/benefit is mind boggling - The multi-million dollar costs are not worthwhile.

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Garet	Walters	<p>This is the worst idea I've ever heard of. I don't even live in CA and I would be pissed if money was wasted on this.</p> <p>And anyone that refers to someone that commits suicide as a "victim" is fucking retarded.</p> <p>That is all.</p>
Garet	Walters	Please delete this website and quit wasting money.
Greg	Walters	I have traveled the Golden Gate Bridge every day for 25 years and seen the smiles on literally millions of people's faces as they look out over one of the best views in teh world. It would be a travesty to turn that view into the view from a prison cell with either vertical or horizontal bars.
Chris	Wambach	It is a waste of time and money spent discussing any change to the bridge for the few people who commit suicide. If the bridge was not available, these people would find another place/way to commit suicide.
Dan	Wambach	Do not waste money for any change to the bridge for the few people who commit suicide. If the bridge was not available, these people would find another place/way to commit suicide.
Paul	Wanders	This must be one of the dumbest proposals I have ever encountered. Probably the only reason Kevin Hines is still alive, is that he was able to jump from the bridge instead of having to resort to a high rise building or a train. There is no way we can prevent people from killing themselves if they are determined to do so. The Golden Gate barrier is therefore a complete waste of money and a defiling of one of the Bay Area's most beautiful landmarks.
Karin	Wandrei, PhD	The one that is most likely to save lives is my choice!
Karin	Wandrei, PhD	I am absolutely horrified that there is so much opposition still to a barrier - that people would put aesthetics and cost above human lives. We know that suicide is mostly an impulsive act and that while there are certainly people who will kill themselves no matter what, that most people who attempt suicide are glad they survived. The Bridge is just too highly lethal a method and any barrier that slows a person down is worthwhile. Other suicide magnets in other cities have seen dramatic reductions in suicides after barriers were erected.

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Ann	Wang	<p>A barrier is a band-aid fix to the real problem of suicide. It's ridiculous to think that someone who wants to commit suicide will change his/her mind because of a barrier.</p> <p>This seems like another way for society to remove accountability from individuals and placing blame elsewhere.</p> <p>Although I'm very sorry for the family who's teenage daughter recently jumped, I do not agree with them placing blame on the bridge's lack of a barrier for her suicide.</p>
Janet	Ward	Don't wait any longer!
Jim	Ward	I think it would be nice to try to keep the aesthetic impact low, however, the issue is so important that any aesthetic adjustment is worth making.
Karen	Ward	How many people have to die before we realize how much pain this beautiful landmark has caused? I can no longer drive across the bridge without thinking of the parents from my church who lost their daughter and my high school friend who lost her mother to this landmark. It is no longer beautiful, it is tragic.
michelle	ward	One life lost is one too many, these changes need to take place. People can still enjoy the views without anyone else having to lose their loved one. Please put these barriers up!

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Margaret	Ware	<p>I found it difficult to interpret the data in the document about exposure and view.</p> <p>I do think that as a society or even local community we may be heading too far in the direction of trying to regulate what people may or may not do. I should make it clear that I do not speak from the point of view of someone interested in the right of persons to commit suicide by jumping off the GG Bridge (as represented by the Hemlock Society). Also, if I were a relative of someone who had committed suicide, or tried to, by jumping off the bridge I might think differently - because my emotions would very much affect my judgment. As it is, I think a beautiful landmark should not be tampered with, and the average person's view crossing the bridge whether walking or driving should not be obstructed by netting or vertical barriers of any kind.</p>
DAVID	WARHOLAK	<p>Don't make me any safer. Don,t ruin the worlds most beautiful bridge in a wrong headed attempt to protect people from themselves. Somehow personal responsibility has been turned over to the government and to lawyers instead of the individual where it belongs. IT'S NOT THE GOVERNMENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM JUMPING OFF THE BRIDGE.</p>
Kevin	Warren	<p>The money should not be spent. There are many other projects that would save more lives. Do not ruin the bridge with this "feel good" sham.</p>
Kristina	Warren	<p>Suicide is not a rational event. Those who do not see a need for the barrier may not understand that it isn't so much the barrier to catch someone as it is to have that person see it and say - someone gives a damn about me and people who are like me at this moment. Unless you have been affected by a suicide in your own life, it may be impossible to understand this. A barrier would be our society's way of saying - yes we care, so walk of this bridge and get some help.</p>

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First	Last	Comment
Alicia	Watkins	<p>The Golden Gate Bridge is an International landmark. It is true that people come from around the world to see San Francisco and walk along the beautiful expanse of the Golden Gate.</p> <p>Given the suicide rate off the bridge, ranging between 1,300 and 2,000 souls since it's opening in 1937, I can understand the obvious call for suicide prevention. The aforementioned plans simply don't seem like the right approach.</p> <p>The first options 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B would have an impact on the aerodynamics of the bridge, despite wind-tunnel testing. We have seen storm seasons become more severe and unpredictable every year. To add barriers to an area that is already exposed to extreme winds seems risky at best. In addition, from the diagrams of the alternatives, I can only assume that the transparent panels are Plexiglass or shatter-proof / bullet-proof glass. If Plexiglass, they would be prone to scratching / carving and saltwater erosion. If shatter / bullet proof, the weight and cost would be substantial. In either case, both types are vulnerable to graffiti. All these alternatives would greatly inhibit visitor's views from the bridge.</p> <p>Regarding the third alternative, this only seems like a speed-bump for a jumper. They would leap from the rail, hit the net, then crawl to the edge of the net and jump again. I don't consider this to be a preventative measure at all.</p>
WALT	WATKINS	<p>Charge pedestrians & bikers with toll booths @ each sides & ends. This would help by having someone who may see the sadness in someones eyes & could get them some help. The sad person may not bring or have money to get on the bridge.</p> <p>And would generate income for the bridge so you dont have to keep rasing the motor tolls. After all no mater how you do it, you still cross the bridge weather you are walking, biking or driving.</p> <p>The toll booths would (with properly traned personel) possible get the sad person the help that they need. Walt Watkins, Pealuma, CA</p>

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		<p>Suicide is rarely preventable. If someone wishes to end their life, a Plexi-glass wall or a net won't stop them. This is the sad, but honest truth.</p> <p>While the 3 alternatives are very humanitarian, they simply are not realistic. The cost in building and maintenance is astronomical. In today's economy, it seems unfair to put this additional strain on working men and women.</p> <p>I'm not sure what the security camera coverage is, but perhaps it would be more realistic to increase the amount of cameras and security personnel on the bridge. I'm sure that wouldn't cost anywhere close to \$40-\$50 mil. In my opinion, having additional staff patrol the bridge, perhaps undercover, would be more effective in preventing jumpers.</p> <p>I also find the fact that all three alternatives costing the same amount is more than a little suspicious.</p> <p>If this plan is put into effect, it will set a very expensive precedent for all bridges in the U.S. What's next, the Bay Bridge? Are we going to spend billions of dollars to jump-proof every bridge in the U.S.?</p> <p>I live less than a mile from the Foresthill Bridge, spanning the American River. It's the highest bridge in California and among the top 3 in the U.S. Since it's opening in the early 70's, 30+ people have leapt 730 ft. to their deaths. There is no survival from this jump. The people of Placer County spent \$30,000 to install 2 emergency suicide-prevention phones, one on each side of the bridge. In addition, police and sheriffs patrol the bridge regularly. Suicide has gone down on the bridge since the the installation of the phones.</p> <p>It is more important for us to find a way to prevent suicides than to make those who are at risk seek alternate locations. Let's put the millions of dollars we would spend on this project to better use.</p>
Alicia	Watkins	This project isn't the answer.
WALT	WATKINS	More camera, patrol, phones signs.
Ginger	Watson	Any Alternative will work because it will be saving lives.
Ginger	Watson	Isn't it about time we put lives before the esthetics of the bridge. There are no second chances once a person's feet leave the edge of the bridge- for the person or their family. How can the beauty of the bridge not be tainted by those lost lives. Please consider doing one of the barriers to save futher lives. Thank you for your consideration.

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Megan	Watson	<p>If you know that someone is going to commit suicide shouldn't you do everything within your power to stop them? We know that people are going to jump from the bridge. Is it not our responsibility to create some sort of suicide barrier to stop these individuals from committing such an act?</p> <p>I knew someone who jumped from the bridge last year. It has affected my life in ways I can't even begin to describe. Had a barrier been in place at the time he may still have been alive today.</p> <p>I understand that most individuals can not grasp the pain of the people who have lost loved ones to suicide. If they could feel empathy they would do whatever it took to keep even one more person from ending their life on the bridge.</p> <p>For many people the Golden Gate has become a sad reminder of a tragic loss. We can do our part to make sure that nobody ever has to look at the bridge in such a way again. That instead we may look at the bridge with pride and a sense that we have done the right thing.</p>

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Kelley	Watts	<p>MY MOTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE JUMPING FROM A BRIDGE.</p> <p>A GOOD FRIEND DIED FALLING (JUMPING?)FROM A FIRE ESCAPE.</p> <p>MY MOTHER PROTECTED OTHERS IN HER FALL</p> <p>MY FRIEND'S FALL RISKED OTHERS LIVES.</p> <p>A BARRIER ON THE BRIDGE WON'T PREVENT SUICIDES.</p>
John	Wayne	<p>Unfortunately, I have seen such barriers created in Europe, and it does not prevent suicides. If someone wants to commit suicide, they will. Because of such barriers I have seen rescues that have happened by helicopter and cost even more money for the taxpayer. Why don't we spend \$40 on social services and mental health to help those that feel that life is not worth living? A barrier is not the solution.</p>
Lesa	Weathers	<p>I'm not sure which of the above choices would be the best solution. I just feel that one of them should be done not only to protect the depressed and suicidal, but also for the ones that must retrieve their bodies after they have jumped. People need to realize what it does to the psyche of the young men and women of the Coast Guard and other agencies that have to deal with the retrieval of the remains over and over again. I'm very proud of the young men and women, who when they joined the Coast Guard to hopefully save lives are able to give the families of the jumpers closure. It weights very heavy on these young men and women. Most of them are still very young between 19 and 25. So think about them and the other agencies that must deal with this problem over and over again. It's not an easy or pleasant job.</p>
Clare	Weaver	<p>Leave bridge as it is! No changes necessary.</p> <p>If someone wants to die they will figure out a way to do it - with or without any barriers.</p>
Karyn	Webb	<p>Like moths to a flame those who are hopeless are drawn to the bridge to end their pain. How many deaths is the limit before action is deemed necessary?</p>

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eric	webster	<p>We do not need to spend 50 million dollars to attempt to stop people from jumping. If people want to kill themselves they gonna do it on the bridge or somewhere else. Please don't waste our money. Invest it in something that will help more than 20 people a year.</p>
Keith	Wedmore	<p>no comment except as to the uselessness, undesirability of any barrier. See 4 below.</p>
Keith	Wedmore	<p>Why the barrier? Who will it benefit? What will its effects be on total deaths?</p> <p>Can a barrier on the GGB affect the number of suicides, let alone reduce them, just by removing one of the methods? Are there no suicides elsewhere? If we put up a GGBridge in London (say), will the suicide rate increase by 20 or so a year, and then go down by that number if we take it away again?</p> <p>I recall that one reason the Empire State building and the Eiffel tower have suicide barriers is that they have, if I might put it delicately, matters of street hygiene and ground level safety to consider, as you do not. Many people jumped from the burning 9/11 buildings, one of them actually killing a fire officer.</p> <p>The truth is that there are methods of suicide other than the bridge. We all know this. Presently, suicides by jumping under Bart trains or Muni busses are few, as far as I know. But such choices, far more dangerous to others, will foreseeably pick up the slack from the Bridge. Further, people who did not wish to die, will find themselves thwarted by a bus swerving to avoid a body or by being in one of the vehicles it may hit. Recall the law of unintended consequences?</p> <p>The board may wish to commission a professional group such as sociologists, nurses, and therapists, to issue a competent and informed report on what the effect would actually be on deaths by suicide.</p> <p>I am amazed that some proponents seem to assert a one-on-one relationship between deaths from the bridge, and lives saveable by its not being there. On what possible evidence?</p> <p>The Board has identified potentially significant impacts, including (1) impacts related to land use and recreation, (2) visual and aesthetics, and (3) cultural and biological resources.</p> <p>They strangely did not include: could the barrier make any difference to the outcome?</p>

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		<p>The board may wish to to commission an informed report on what the effect of the barrier would be would be on the totality of deaths by suicide and those related to the suicide.</p> <p>London gets some 300 suicides a year. A common way is throwing yourself in front of a tube train as it enters the station; or under a bus, or a truck. The last two are not so reliable, as the driver normally will try to swerve and so risk his and other lives, especially those of those that the truck or bus runs into.</p> <p>The favourite, then, is the train. There are some 2000 drivers of London Underground trains. People jump under them on average twice a week. If drivers serve (as on average they do) for 20 years, then they are required, by their job, to run over 8 people. There is no way they can stop the train in a 2 or 3 seconds. This is very upsetting for the driver, and for the passengers. The distress of drivers forced to kill is unforgettable, and the Unions do complain.</p> <p>There is a long service stoppage while the bits are cleared up and the police finish their inspections. The body is not in the sort of state passengers wish to see, let alone relatives who have to identify and bury. It is a fearful way of committing suicide. The GGBridge has an advantage there. You get a one-piece corpse, and no actual viewers. Nor is there a dispute about did they fall or were they pushed?</p> <p>The GGB is a decent and (it must be said) dignified way of killing yourself. It doesn't involve others save the one or two needed to drag you out of the water. The suicide has last moments of dignity. And nobody goes down with him.</p> <p>I am not a proponent of suicide. It is generally thought, and it is true from my experience as a Barrister and as a human being, that many or most of these deaths happen during (mostly undiagnosed) clinical depression, and might well have been saved. But I myself know of no way of being tipped off and intervening in advance, nor know of any who does. Would-be suicides become withdrawn towards the end, and, well, unlikely to write to dear Abbey for advice. I greatly regret this -- I have lost two friends and two cousins to suicide by now that I am 76 -- but there is absolutely nothing I can do about it. Nor am I against rebuilding the Twin Towers on the grounds they might again be the occasion of rational suicide.</p> <p>There is another problem. One immediate effect will be a less serious one (in a sense). All those now in charge of roads, bridges, beaches and the Grand Canyon itself, will realise they are going to have to cease to be mere way-builders and keepers of recreation resorts. They must become part of life care. They will be sued if they fail. This will cause hundreds of thousands of miles of new fencing, cut off the great sights of America in large part, never mind most highways and railroads. You will have set an example to follow which will be horribly expensive. Indeed, it is not too much to say, it will cause chaos. (After all, cars can kill. A no-four-wheels policy? Where is it all to stop?)</p>

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		<p>I trust the Supervisors will now see fit to ask : for whose good? Cui Bono? And what damage might we do?</p> <p>Keith Wedmore</p>
Kelly	Weichler	Please consider this! It will save lives!
Virginia	Weil	It is essential to protect life.
Terry	Weinberg	<p>I can't believe anyone would seriously consider spending millions of dollars on a project such as this. Spending millions on a handrail, or whatever barrier you choose, is answering a question that isn't being asked. It is a solution in search of a problem. I have experience with suicide in the family, and a suicide jumping from a bridge (not this particular bridge). No amount of handrails would have prevented the suicide. Had there been a physical barrier on the bridge, she would have simply chosen another spot, or another method. Putting up a barrier on the bridge is simply "feel good" thinking. It solves nothing. Nobody lives because of the barrier, and nobody is better off except the contractors who build it. If I can characterize the idea simply at the risk of offending someone's sensibility : it's a stupid idea.</p>

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Mark	Weinberger	I believe that the "No Build" option is the most practical, intelligent and worthy of this magnificent structure. We need not tamper with perfection.
Mark	Weinberger	I think that the Draft EIR/EA is a fundamental waste of monies and serves no purpose but to offer false hope and misguided expectations to those already in a state of despair. To quote Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: "The fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars, but in ourselves."
Toni	Weingarten	I think the net prevents suicides while also preserving the beauty of the view from the bridge. I think a barrier is the ethical choice - it says we care about saving lives. And it has been proven in other countries that barriers/impediments to impulse actions do save lives.
Rona	Weintraub	I don't have the time to review all the papers on this website. I just want to say that I am very much against spending all this money for a physical suicide barrier on the bridge. Why not ban guns? I bet MANY more people commit suicide with guns. I'm sorry anyone feels desperate enough to commit suicide, but it doesn't make sense to me to spend millions of dollars to prevent 20 people a year from jumping, since the statistics I've heard from mental health professionals suggests many of these people will just find another way to commit suicide if stopped from jumping off this bridge. Much better to spend all these millions on better mental health services!
Eric	Weisberg	Anything is better than nothing!
Michael	Weiss	Please don't do this. You can't stop a person from committing suicide this way. They will just find another way. What a colossal waste of time and money.
Michael	Weiss	Don't mess with the bridge. It is beautiful as it is. It needs nothing. The suicidal people need help but not from the Golden Gate Bridge Authority.
Michael	Weiss	Please don't touch the bridge. This issue is being pressed by some well meaning but misguided people. After the bridge, what else will they want to "people proof?" They have been given far too much traction, and some voices of sanity need to be heard.
Michael	Weiss	If there is \$25-50 million to be raised, please find something productive to do with it, like improve seismic strength or lower the tolls.

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		A barrier needs to be built as soon as possible. Other monuments have them in place: Eiffel Tower, Empire State Bldg., and they are very effective. It's an easy out and far too tempting for a vulnerable person, particularly hormonal and emotional teens. The choices for barrier design are all good. just pick one.
melissa	welles	
Lynn	Wellman	I am actually scared of the net alternative. People could still get hurt, and it doesn't really deter crazy people who want to jump. So what if the net catches them? What if they jumped head first and broke their neck? That's not only unsafe, but kind of gross.
Jane	Wellman	Don't change original rails - part of the historical bridge.

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Lynn	Wellman	First, let me say how shocked I was at how little visual impact any of these alternatives had. When I saw how little the bridge would change, it made me ashamed of myself for ever having been against a suicide barrier. And I will be ashamed of our entire community if we do not proceed as quickly as possible to institute a physical deterrent. Alternative 1A is my favorite because the horizontal bars are much easier to look through. The reason I want the outside handrail to remain is that, not only is it a piece of history remaining, but I think it would also "feel safer" to tourists walking on the bridge. The Horizontal or Vertical system without the handrail would be more "scary" to me. As for visual impact when I am driving in a car, there would be no difference in the way I felt. When I drive now, the handrail is what I see when I look over, and because the car is going at a fast speed (35-45 miles per hour), I can see the ocean just fine. That wouldn't change with any of these alternatives.
tim	wells	There should be no barrier that affects the original character of the railing. Views should always be unimpeded. Proposed barriers are ugly and cage-like. All proposed barriers could still be climbed by a determined person, with some effort, so nothing is being gained by marring this beautiful structure.
tim	wells	Horizontal Rods: An ugly step-ladder to suicide. Vertical Rods: One foot on the horizontal rail, then hoist oneself up 1'6" to the top. A waste.
Dolores	Wendland	The importance of aesthetics cannot compare with the importance of saving human lives.
Corin	Wenger	Seems that the first option I chose is technically the same as the second, it just uses less resources. Aesthetically it also looks better. Only one difference--you would make it even more effective to put curving spikes on the top at 90' or 45' angles (continuing the vertical columns). Chain links would just make it easy to get a handhold and climb up that way. I think the vast majority of people with suicidal intent are opportunistic... that is, they would not jump or go there to jump if this kind of effort would be required.
Penelope	Wentland	No barrier will be 100% suicide proof and all barriers will change the aesthetics the Bridge for very little gain.
Aaron	Werbel	2A looks the best from an aesthetic point of view. The no build option should not even be considered as it can only be a choice in support of continued access to suicide of the most popular place to die in the U.S.

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Brian	West	Yuck. All are visual impairments. The point of walking across the bridge is to feel out in nature, on the water, not walking through a cage. Don't see how a net would help, just crawl to the edge of the net...
Brian	West	Not worth the expense... people who want to can easily find any number of other ways to kill themselves. Spend the money on mental health programs instead.
Gabriella	West	Vertical bars seem aesthetically more pleasing than the rest--the Net is an awful idea, hope you don't go with that. Can you imagine dead birds and things flopping around in it? Thank you for these choices--and I urge you to implement alternative 1/2A speedily to prevent further deaths.
Mike	Westermann	I think you should do nothing. But if you're going to waste money on this project, at lease do something that will not spoil the aesthetics of this icon.
Janet	Westling	The existing railing seems a deterrent to large things (cars etc.)going through the railing, so adding to it for small things(people, etc.) would add to the value of the bridge at a reasonable cost. It is more valuable to us when it can't be used for suicides.
CJ	Westrick	I have lived in the Bay Area since 1973. It has always distressed me that people would decide to commit suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge. Unfortunately the Bridge is an attractive nuisance to the mentally unstable. I am for a barrier that would end these suicides off of this majestic structure. I am sure that
dffgfdgh	wfetfgrehg	build center divid to save lives.
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Joe	Whelan	I know this is a tough subject and I feel for the families that lost love ones but this is not the answer. They want to blame someone and believe that they are doing something in honor of their loved one but who really knows that they would have just found another way. What is nextbanning razor blades? How about banning cars? All sounds silly but so is spending so much money when there are so many other things that we can do to save more lives during a time that our whole planet is dying
Dennis	Whipp	The first priority should be for a center barrier between northbound and southbound traffic. This would protect a greater number of citizens than would a suicide barrier.
Bret	Whipple	My friend was a teenager on the Oregon Coast when they were building tall HWY. 1 bridges over scenic gorges, etc. There was a safety net to catch construction workers who might slip. Teenage boys would jump into the net for sport when workers were not around. Can see this happening in San Francisco too. New fad? Still a good idea to build barrier and net.
Brian	White	This is a HUGE waste of money. I cannot believe we have wasted resources up to this point on this issue. People will find ways to commit suicide if they're really intent on doing it. The bridge's aesthetics and beauty would be sacrificed for a small percentage of people and that alone should end this line of thought.
Cory	White	The Golden Gate Bridge is an important Bay Area landmark and should not be altered. Any of the proposed designs would substantially undermine the architectural integrity of the bridge!
Cory	White	None are acceptable.
Cory	White	If any of these options are implemented it would be an egregious use of public funds. It is stunning to me that we would even consider such a proposal when the financial cost is so high at an estimate \$30-50 million. All involved should realize that this figure is greater than the entire 2008 budget for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, a budget which has just been reduced. Or, as another comparison, the budget for San Francisco AIDS/HIV services is \$15M for 2008; this was also slashed this year. Why would we spend \$50M on a railing that will be an eyesore, is not supported by any hard research that shows that it will reduce the OVERALL suicide rate in SF, when so many other people are in need.
Cory	White	Any alteration is unacceptable and will seriously disrupt enjoyment for both bikers and pedestrians. Now every tourist's photos from the bridge will have no view in the background.

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Cory	White	This proposal is flawed and should be terminated. It is unethical and unconscionable to consider spending \$50M of public funds on this effort when so many other citizens are in life-threatening situations and could benefit from these funds. I have great empathy for suicidal people and was a volunteer for two years at SF Suicide Prevention, but I do not believe this proposal is the highest and best use of these funds to help our city.
Kate	White	Not one of them is going to look good.
Kate	White	People have to be responsible for themselves. Destroying one of our landmarks to prevent people from jumping is wrong. They can just stop over at the Bay Bridge and jump -- or are we then going to put barriers there and anywhere else someone could conceivably commit suicide?
Madge	White	A suicide barrier says, "I don't care if you're suicidal as long as it's <u>N_I_M_B_Y</u> ." NO SUICIDE BARRIER. Make a real difference in people's lives with psychological counseling instead.
Madge	White	There is no scientific evidence to support the notion that the GGB suicides are in any way "spontaneous." Suicide prevention and counseling are very effective tools and in recently released studies have been proven, once again, to make a real difference in people's lives. Put the money to use by making live one-on-one counseling available 24/7.
mathilde	white	people should be able to enjoy the beauty of the golden gate bridge just as it is now. no build! during these economic hardship times, spending money for a suicide deterrent does not make any sence; further....
mathilde	white	if an individual is determined to commit suicide, no barrier or deterrent will stop them....please only spend money on needed bridge repairs and try not to increase the bridge vehicle fee. i write these comments on behalf of many of my friends and relatives who live in novato. thank you,
Peggy	White	Waste of money. Invest in comprehensive suicide prevention healthcare based programs. Stop glamorizing the bridge as being a 'must jump' destination.
Steve	White	Stop wasting money on this useless attempt at "social consciousness", lower the bridge toll and let Darwin's Law rule.

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Tim	White	The money could be spent much better on suicide prevention programs that could reach a greater number of people afflicted with depression and suicidal ideation. The small number of people these these proposals would help does not warrant such a large investment.
Gregory	Whitehouse	Spend the millions on social services. Help people improve their lives and they will be less likely to think that suicide is a viable option.
		<p>First Preference: Less wind resistance and the Winglet prevents one from grabbing on and pulling them selves over.</p> <p>Second Preference: Less wind resistance and the extra hieght (2 more feet) makes it impossible for one self to jump up to the 12 foot mark and then pull them selves over.</p> <p>Both choice still makes the view very transparent for visitors to enjoy the view.</p>
Mark	Whitmer	
		Doing nothing is NOT an option. Many countries around the world are proactively putting up suicide rails why can't we. If we had concrete in stead of water below the Golden Gate Bridge the rails would already be up. Nobody likes to look at a dead body (look at the Eiffel Tower). Thank you for getting the design and EIR this far. Now lets focus on completing the job and start saving lives.
Mark	Whitmer	
		I have been very deeply effected by a suicide of someone very dear to me. As a result I have done a tremendous amount of research on the subject. I truly believe that a person who wants to kill themselves will kill themselves no matter what. Tax payer dollars are much better spent in the mental health arena of suicide prevention - rather than preventing the bridge from being a means of committing suicide. There is nowhere to draw the line if we try to create physical barriers from suicide - there would be no more guns, no more knives, ropes, etc. Millions of dollars spent on any of the methods discussed in your report is money that could better serve those people who are trying desperately to live.
Carrie	Whittier	

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Lee	Wicket	<p>If we use logic and reason to reach a conclusion to the proposal of suicide prevention, it will be clear that No Build is the answer.</p> <p>It is not by accident that a tortured soul choses to end their life. Take away the lure of the Golden Gate Bridge as a jumping point and it will just be a matter of time before different location will become a favored jumping destination.</p>
NANCY	WICKETT	<p>SAVING A LIFE IS SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY IT WILL COST TO DETER JUMPERS OR IF THIS ADJUSTMENT TO THE BRIDGE ALTERS THE VIEW...SO WHAT?? WOULD PEOPLE RATHER VIEW A PERSON JUMP OVER THE BRIDGE AND SEE THAT PERSON DIE? MY HUSBAND AND I HAD TO WALK INTO OUR 23 YR OLD SON'S APARTMENT AND FIND HIS DEAD BODY IN HIS OWN POOL OF BLOOD AFTER HE SHOT HIMSELF. THE GUN LAW NEEDS TO BE CHANGED TOO!</p>
NANCY	WICKETT	<p>JUST DO IT!! AS NIKE SAYS...SAVE A HUMAN BEING AT ALL COSTS. SUICIDE IS BECOMING AN EPIDEMIC. DEFER AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE. DO NOT PUT THE PARENTS THROUGH THE HELL THAT MY HUSBAND AND I ARE GOING THROUGH. WE WALKED INTO OUR 23 YR OLD SON'S APT. AND THERE HE LAYED...LIFELESS..IN HIS OWN BLOOD WITH HALF HIS BRAIN BESIDE HIM. HE SHOT HIMSELF IN THE MOUTH. AND WE ARE THE ONES LEFT BEHIND WITH ALL THE PAIN AND AGONY AND MISSING PHILIP EVERY MOMENT! SO WHAT IF THESE CHANGES DISTACT THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE...YOU DO NOT WANT TO SEE WHAT WE HAD TO SEE AT PHILIP'S APARTMENT!!</p>
Linnea	Wickstrom	<p>As a 50-year resident of the Bay Area, I strenuously object to any physical suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>It's just stupid to spend 50 Million (not to mention future maintenance) to ruin the aesthetics of one of the world's greatest and most beautiful landmarks to attempt to prevent a small number of people from committing suicide there (those people will find another way anyway).</p>

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		<p>Each suicide is, of course, a terrible tragedy. My sincerest sympathies go out to those who lose a loved one that way.</p> <p>Having said that: Considering that hundreds of thousands of people enjoy the beauty the Bridge provides on a daily basis, it does not seem reasonable to destroy the bridge's amazing aesthetics in the hope that it will save the 15-20 lives lost on an annual basis on the Bridge. This is especially true when one considers that, while some of those 15-20 suicides are not impulse suicides, but are people who are sadly committed to their own deaths, and will find alternative ways to effectuate it. It therefore seems unfair and unreasonably expensive to make a permanent, unattractive change to the unique beauty that is San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.</p> <p>The sad fact is that we can't save everybody. Sometimes we can't even save anybody. With the usage numbers the way they are -- hundreds of thousands of safe, happy users versus a scant few tragic souls -- it seems disproportionate to go forward with this plan.</p>
Andrea	Widburg	
Donna	Wigand	10-12 foot high barrier is acceptable.
Ryan	Wilber	The Bridge is NOT dangerous. People only fly off of it under their own devices and control. As such, it should not be up to you, the GGB, or the tax payers, to ruin the aesthetics of the Bridge in order to protect those with a desire to attempt to, or actually kill themselves.
Bruce	Wilbur	<p>the cost of the barrier is hideously huge and will get bigger. net research I have indicates that SOME who attempt suicide may make a second attempt I knew two people who committed suicide from the bridge the question is a horrible one. is it worth over 50 million dollars to save a life? I don't know. in a B ruce Democratic society one usually considers the opinions of the majority, but that gave us george bush TWICE so i am doubt ful of public wisdom I think increasing the monitoring process and hiring patrollers[many of whom would be willing to work for LESS than \$50,000,000! should be adequate.</p> <p>Bruce wilbur, retired ggt bus driver# 1868</p>
Julie	Wilcox	A barrier will obstruct views from the bridge.

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Julie	Wilcox	Building a barrier on the bridge will not prevent people from committing suicide, it will just lead them to a different bridge or a different method. Instead of putting this large amount of money into a bridge, put it to something more useful - who tends to jump from the bridge and why - work with those people for education and life skills. This is a much more productive use of funds.
Andrea	Will	I believe that the no build alternative is the only viable alternative that has been presented. This project is estimated to cost between 30-50 million dollars, to simply deter people from jumping off the bridge. In my opinion this is a big waste of money, money that could be better spent in programs for the root causes for suicide,(depression, drug abuse, etc.).
Carol	Willette	The net is the obvious choice as far as visual impact is concerned.
Carol	Willette	First of all, this was advertised as a meeting, which implies discussion of pros and cons -- not an "open house." Secondly, I only came here to show my support for the installation of a net as a suicide barrier. I did not find what I was looking for here.
Danelle	Willey	I am against a barrier of any kind. If someone wants to commit suicide they will figure out a way to do. My grandfather committed suicide, not on the bridge, but he still did it. and yes I miss him and am sad, but he is happier. My sisters college roomates brother actually did commit suicide on the golden gate bridge and she misses him, but said that if he had lived he would be miserable today. Also the bridge is a staple the San Franisco. We would be ruining it if we changed the way it looked in any way.
sibbern	william	Something has to be done, it seems to me that nets would be enough of a deterrant and not detract from the view and even if we save one life this way, in my estimation, this will be sufficient to make it worth while.
Linda	Williams	In Augusta, ME we have a suicide barrier on the Memorial Bridge. We did not have the option of a net system but did install a black fence (vertical bars). It does not impair the view greatly and we know that it saves lives.

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Rob	Williams	This is absurd. I cannot believe our government continues to progress down a path where we are trying to protect ourselves, from ourselves. Does this mean that if someone slashes their wrists with a kitchen knife and dies that we shouldn't sell knives anymore. If someone is going to commit suicide, they will most likely find some other way. My tax dollars, in these vast amounts, should not be going towards helping 20 people a year. Suicide is extremely sad and I have had a friend end his own life as well as a family member but spending \$50mm and ruining the aesthetics of a beautiful landmark is beyond comprehension. Please come to your senses.
Sandy	Williams	I think the net system would be aesthetic for all concerned and not disturb the viewing from the walkway.
Sandy	Williams	We have spent billions of our tax dollars killing people in this foolish war. Why cannot we spend dollars to protect our youth from impulsive decisions.
Sketer	Williams	Bars and nets? Do any of you people really want to be responsible for turning one of the most beautiful landmarks in the world into something that looks like some monstrosity from a prison/circus?
Sketer	Williams	No bars! No nets! The number of unfortunate instances of individuals taking their lives from the Golden Gate Bridge is a tiny fraction compared to the number of people being murdered in the streets all over the Bay Area. Use time, money, and resources where they are needed the most--not so a handful of individuals connected with oversight of the Bridge can pat themselves on the back and feel good about themselves for achieving little gain at enormous cost.
Sketer	Williams	This whole proposal is a waste of time and money. Those who persist in pressing this forward should be held responsible.
arlene	wilshusen	I believe they have done a remarkable job of finally accessing the environmental aspects of the "enhancements" to the walking part of the span.
arlene	wilshusen	Most recently built bridges already have vertical deterrent systems built-in which look both pleasing and aesthetically appealing when viewed from a close-up look from the ground. I fail to see why this would be such a problem when compared to the cost of the loss of human life; both in pain for the lost loved one and the emotional toll taken on the extended families.
arlene	wilshusen	Either solution I've selected will not be overtly visible when viewed from the shoreline which is where most people do see the bridge. Driving, most people will not notice the vertical "enhancement" if they are focusing on the road. No one walking or driving the span will see the nets, so that in itself is a bonus.
arlene	wilshusen	No comment
arlene	wilshusen	No comment
arlene	wilshusen	There should be no land use problems since the deterrents would be built in the suspension of the already existing supports of the span.

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arlene	wilshusen	There should be no land use problems since the deterrents would be built in the suspension of the already existing supports of the span.
arlene	wilshusen	None known at this time.
arlene	wilshusen	None known at this time.
arlene	wilshusen	Personally, I think that anything we can do to stop suicides from the bridge is an "enhancement" for both California and the nation as a whole. This bridge is a national landmark and one that is both equally recognizable and is "placable" on the national map. Letting people know GLOBALLY that the bridge is "off-limits" for suicide attempts is only a bonus point for the US. It would show how much we actually, truly value human life.
Teresa	Wilson	<p>Considering all of the primary concerns and opinions involved in this very emotionally-loaded issue, Alternative 1A; Add a Vertical System to the Outside Handrail, is the best alternative. The July 2008 Citizensâ€™ Guide to the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment on the Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project describes what would be required to implement this alternative:</p> <p>Alternative 1A would construct a new vertically oriented barrier system on the top of the existing 4-foot-tall outside handrail. Total Height: 12 feet as it extends 8 feet up from the top of the existing 4-foot-tall handrail. Vertical System: A system of 8-foot-tall steel rods (1/2 inch diameter) added to the top of the existing 4-foot-tall outside handrail are spaced at 6 1/2 inches on center, leaving a 6-inch open space between each rod. Handrail: Existing outside handrail posts are replaced with new 12-foot-tall outside handrail posts at the same locations; transparent panels installed at the belvederes and where the sidewalks go around the mail towers. Security and Maintenance Access: Access gates would be located every 150 feet on center. Cost Range: Approximately \$40-50 million (The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District).</p> <p>Adding a vertical system to the outside handrail will addresses the three major cumulative concerns of suicide barrier advocates and opponents alike; safety, esthetics and cost. Advocates for the suicide barrier state public safety as the primary reason for a barrier. Alternative 1A; adding a vertical system to the outside handrail, provides a total of 12 feet as a barrier from the ground. Transparent panels would extend from the top of the existing handrail to the top of the 12-foot steel beams, preventing anyone from being able to scale the barrier and jump from the Bridge. Opponents to the suicide barrier on the Bridge have long argued that suicide is not preventable, and that people who are feeling suicidal will find another way to kill them selves if the Bridge is not an option. Professor Richard H. Seidan, Ph.D., M.P.H., of University of California at Berkeley, disproved this contention in his 1978 study entitled, "A Follow-up Study of Suicide Attempters from the Golden Gate Bridge." His study answered the question, "Will a person who is prevented from suicide in one location inexorably tend to attempt and commit suicide elsewhere?" (Seidan). His study group consisted of 515 persons who had attempted suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge but were retrained, from the opening day through the year 1971, plus a comparison group of 1-84 person who make no bridge suicide attempts during 1956-57, and were treated at the emergency room of a large metropolitan hospital and were also followed through the close of 1971 (Seidan). At the end of his study, he concluded that, "Compared to the general population, a great portion is likely to die from violent modes of death, but also found that about 90% do not die of suicide or by other violent means" (Seidan). A suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge will save lives.</p> <p>Another of the primary issues for suicide barrier opponents is Esthetics. The opinion of some opponents is that a suicide barrier will esthetically mar the original design of the Golden Gate Bridge. Alternative 1A, one of the proposed alternatives in the 2008 Environmental Impact Study, best addresses this issue by leaving the original handrails in place (The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District). Suicide barrier</p>

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		Alternative 1A will allow for the safety of bridge-walkers, while simultaneously keeping the design as nearly original as possible. All beams and other steel construction, including earthquake retrofitting already approved, would be painted in the same color as the bridge. Transparent panels would allow pedestrians and car and bike commuters to enjoy the beauty of the existing view. Addressing the final primary issue of cost, Alternative 1A; adding a vertical system to the outside handrail, is no more costly than four of the five alternatives that require structural change. With the exception of the no-build alternative, the choice to leave the bridge as status quo, all of the other alternatives are estimated to cost between \$40-50 million (The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District). No funds have been identified as of yet, but fund raising will begin once an Alternative is approved. With Alternative 1A, the beauty and history of the original design will keep its integrity, while providing a safe environment for the public at the same cost as the other less-efficient alternatives.
Ann Marie	Wilson	Replacing the outside handrail with a horizontal system shows the least impact on the view.
Ann Marie	Wilson	The horizontal configuration works better with the vista.
Ann Marie	Wilson	I think the bridge needs some kind of suicide barrier, but it should have the least impact on the beauty of the view. As someone who witnessed a suicide last year, I know that if this barrier were in place many lives would be saved. Suicides are about opportunity; if you remove the opportunity the person considering suicide will probably consider life instead.
Don	Wilson	I feel "no build" is the best route. It is very sad to have suicides but a barrier will not stop them. They will take some other method.
Heather	Wilson	My sister's fiance' committed suicide in 2007. Anything that can be done to help save a life is worth it. Seat belts don't always save lives, but those lives they save mean something. Do what's right, build barriers.
Janet	Wilson	There is nothing beautiful about a dead body floating in the water, or taking a walk on the bridge and seeing someone hurtle over the side.

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Janet	Wilson	I was on the Golden Gate Bridge looking for the best spot to jump off in 1979, when the Bridge Patrol saved my life. It should not be so easy to jump off the bridge. My life alone is worth more money than the cost of a barrier, and a barrier [done correctly] would not interfere with the view. Janet Marshall Wilson, JD
juanita	wilson	Road resources should be spent elsewhere.
Lois	Wilson	I am deeply sorry for those who have lost a loved one...Many years ago I had a friend who jumped and died. I also had a friend who was found dead under the 101 overpass in San Rafael. I also knew a young man who ran in front of a truck in the East Bay. I knew a doctor in Inverness who used a shotgun...Where is NOT the issue. Monies would be better spent on mental health, alcohol & drug addiction and suicide prevention. Also, helping newly released jailed offenders find employment...many are left on the street hopeless. I have been on many less famous bridges which are easier to jump from...it is not about the bridge.
Mark	Wilson	I do not believe the bridge should be altered.
Mark	Wilson	You should not be altering the design of such an important landmark for such a miniscule amount of people over the past 70+ years.
Michael	Wilson	Are you kidding me? Is this a nanny society or what??? If someone wants to kill themselves, they're going to do it. If they want to use the Golden Gate Bridge as some sort of symbolic last event in their lives, then so be it. Spending money to stop someone who most likely will attempt some sort of self inflicted life ending event again anyway, is pointless. If you want to stop unnecessary deaths, STOP THE CURRENT WARS!!!
Teresa	Wilson	I definitely want to see a suicide barrier for the Golden Gate Bridge. My comments listed above are a research paper I did on the subject and my recommendation for Alternative 1A. I would also support Alternatives 2 A & B. Thank you for addressing this long standing issue.
Tim	Wilson	I do not believe that the Golden Gate Bridge should be required to build a suicide barrier of any design.
Bobbi	Wiltsek	The alternative which sounds the best (after Nothing) is the net but that will probably be the next thing to attract jumpers. If there is a way to protect the people who need protection, there will be a new competition among them to be the 1st or 2nd person to be able to overcome the program put in place to protect them.

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Laura	Winfrey	Alt 1B seems most effective relative to purpose of retrofit. With curled top it becomes virtually impossible to scale. Net alternative seems porrest option- why not jump off/out of net? The frequent numbers of suicides from the bridge detracts from the beauty and inspiration relative to the bridge. The fix will not change the look of the bridge relative to the whole structure!
Amber	Wipfler	They look terrible. They destroy the beauty of the bridge.
CB	Wiser MD	<p>All that matters to me is the prevention of even one impulsive suicide.</p> <p>-Celeste Wiser, M.D.</p> <p>Child and Adult Psychiatry</p> <p>UC Davis Medical Center</p> <p>Sacramento, CA</p> <p>(but resident of Napa)</p>
Joseph	Wisniewski	Let other organizations than the transit authority work to reduce suicides. The bridge is not the source of suicidal thoughts and mental illness.
Joseph	Wisniewski	<p>Less than 3% of the suicides in the Bay Area are off the Golden Gate Bridge. We need to stop teaching hopelessness in our homes and schools to our young. Teachers are teaching kids that manmade Global warming is going to kill everybody which 35,000 of the top scientist in the world say is not true. Our teachers encourage our teens to focus on history, arts and basket weaving which they will never make a living doing. We need to teach kids math, science, business, finance and skilled trades. Kids are being programmed with negative stories or global warming and taught that they will never achieve what their parents have. Instead of giving them the tools to achieve more than this generation and their grandparent's generation ever dreamed of.</p> <p>Bridges don't put the hopelessness in the minds of people who are mentally ill enough to kill themselves, our schools and liberal media causes kids to feel the only solution is killing themselves.</p>
Ray	Wisniewski	They are all ugly.
Ray	Wisniewski	Option 3 (Net) is least visible, but still not needed.
Ray	Wisniewski	All options destroy the historic integrity of the bridge.
Ray	Wisniewski	Don't do anything.

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Jennifer	Witherington	Terrible idea and a complete waste of time and resources. We need to maintain the bridge, keep fares down and repair Doyle Drive to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
Jennifer	Witherington	Suicide is a sad and terrible occurrence and I can empathize with those affected. And not to minimize their pain, but honestly, the number of suicides versus the number years this bridge has been open do not equate to a pandemic problem. If we don't continue to "advertise" the jumping option with studies, media coverage and movies, we would be out of the public eye and less people would consider it.
Kaaren	Wogen	money better spent on movable center divider
Rebecca	Woiwode	Please don't change the bridge!
Rebecca	Woiwode	Suicides are extremely tragic, but the bridge doesn't cause them. Erecting a barrier won't stop suicides from occurring, it will just change the location/means used.
Janette	Wolf	<p>It is critical that a suicide barrier be added to the Golden Gate Bridge. Studies have found that taking away the opportunity for suicide often prevent that suicide altogether. See attached resources:</p> <p>Soulforce: http://www.soulforce.org/article/653</p> <p>Psychiatric Foundation of Northern California: http://www.pfnc.org/index.aspx</p> <p>The Bridge Rail Foundation: http://www.bridgerail.org/</p> <p>See also the recent NY Times article: "The Urge to End it All" in the NY Times press room links.</p>

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Max	Wolfe	It would be a shame to destroy such a globally recognizable structure for a few individuals. The needs of the few do not outweigh the needs of the many.
Alan	Wolfes	The ods of a suicide victim just going to another site are still there and spending all that money on a barrier just doesn't make sense. Spending the money on a middle divider and saving lives of people who don't want to die makes far more sense. Alan Wolfes Corte Madera
frances	wolff	Absolutely opposed to spending millions on a suicide barrier. And what happened to the Golden Gate Bridge Boards' promise to eliminate the tolls circa 19--? !!
Greg	Wolford	Any railing will simply seriously diminish the bridge walking experience and the aesthetics of the Bridge itself- one of the points of being there is for the expansive views-why encase it and have it feel like you're looking out of a jail cell? Personally, I feel if someone wants to jump...
Dennis	Wong	I do not support the building of a barrier. Why are we mired into the solving of suicides from this bridge. I object to the cost and that we as drivers will then be asked to pay for. The board should focus its energies on the operation and budget for its current programs.
Catherine	Wood	I would hope most people recognize that human lives are more important than an unobstructed view.
pamela	woodard	Although suicide is tragic, building a barrier will not stop a person intent on committing the act.
Dellie	Woodring	To mess up the bridge at the visual (and monetary) expense of millions of tourists AND Bay Area residents because of a few suicides is absolute unreasonableness. Those who are so depressed will find a way from somewhere. Much more cost effective to have good suicide prevention program. PLEASE, LET'S GET A GRIP ON REALITY. My heart breaks for families who have lost because of a bridge jump. My heart also breaks for families who have lost because of other self-inflicted fatal wounds. We can't monitor EVERYONE.
Dellie	Woodring	The net is the least offensive to the structural beauty of our bridge, one of the Wonders of the World. LET'S NOT fence us all in because of a few. To even think of spending \$25,000,000 for a net is madness.
Dellie	Woodring	Don't ruin the bridge.

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Dellie	Woodring	Don't ruin the bridge.
Dellie	Woodring	Don't ruin the bridge. It is such a special treasure for those who live in and visit.
Dellie	Woodring	Don't ruin the bridge. What a wonderful spot to walk to get an UNFILTERED, UNOBSTRUCTED view of our beautiful bay and city. The millions of dollars can be so much better spent. Having any kind of barrier only advertises that there could be a potent
Dellie	Woodring	Anyone suffering severe depression should have access to a good suicide prevention program. This definitely relates to BIOLOGY.
Dellie	Woodring	PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, don't ruin the bridge. Please DO NOT send me any mailings or emails. Thank you.
		I sympathize with suicidal individuals and their families but feel that spending \$50 to \$100 million on such a project is a waste of funds that could be used more efficiently in our broke society. Even with barriers people will find a way to circumvent them. People who are bent on suicide will find a way regardless. I hope that the hearings will not be blinded by the emotional minority.
Doug	Woodring	
		I think this is an important step to show that suicide is a problem that is being talked about and is an issue that people care about. For too long people have ignored the issue. This is a wonderful sign to everyone that suicide is a serious issue that must be addressed.
Joellen	Woodring	
		For those on the brink...the temptation is too great. It's too easy. Let's not forget, a baby was thrown over the handrail. There should have been a barrier placed there decades ago.
Charles	Woodrow	

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Charles	Woodrow	95% plus of those whining about the aesthetics probably don't walk the bridge more than one every ten years. They can look through a vertical barrier. A HORIZONTAL barrier would still provide those with the will, a way to climb past the barrier. And one could still jump off a safety net. BUILD THE VERTICAL BARRIER NOW~!! 20 TO 30 LIVES A YEAR IS WORTH IT. YOU COLLECT ENOUGH IN A MONTH TO PAY FOR IT!
ken	woodruff	Yeh right, we should install nets under the GG Bridge to catch jumpers!!! This will be an open invitation to all the waco, wierdo, thrill seekers in the country to say, "Hey, lets go to San Francisco and jump off the GG Bridge, the net will catch us." We can make it an E ticket event! Charge a fee to jump and another fee to retrieve. Throw bottles of water down while they are waiting for rescue-\$5. Photographs-\$10, 3 for \$25. A real circus! What a dumb-ass idea!!! Would be better served to put all that time, money and effort into a moveable barrier on the roadway of the bridge to help solve a more serious problem then to focus on a few lost souls that are looking for their 15 minutes of fame.
anne	woods	less is better. Don't change the existing structure... the horizontal bars are hardly noticeable. This is the best.
David	Woods	Let's eliminate the GGB as a suicide magnet.
Michael	Worley	As a lifelong Bay Area resident, I am completely opposed to any modification to the GGB to this end. It is an asthetic error, and a practical waste of time. People dedicated to a course of action will find a way. It is unfortunate but true.
Michael	Worley	We have many more pressing needs in the Bay Area for \$40 million dollars, that will better benefit the population in general.
William P.	Wreden, Jr.	My preference tends towards non-barrier suicide deterrent programs. The cost and aesthetics of the barrier alternatives concerns me. I would rather see the estimated costs of \$40 to \$50 million spent to reduce violent crime deaths in certain neighborhoods of Oakland, Richmond and San Francisco. Of the barrier alternatives the two vertical ones, 1A and 2A, appear the least visually and aesthetically objectionable.
Jonas	Wright	Don't waste the money on a barrier. Spend the money on a Public Health program
M	Wright	Seems like the money would be better and more effectively spent on social programs.

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Roberta	Wright	<p>40-50MM to build a suicide barrier with no funding. Have you people lost your minds????? YOu can't balance the budget on the bridge now, and the visual would diminish the view.</p> <p>I have grown up in SF and lived here all my life. I had a child hood friend jump off the bridge (as an adult), i wasn't happy about it, but if someone wants to jump, they will find a way to do it.</p> <p>I say leave it alone and find a better way to improve the traffic safety on the bridge and Doyle Drive, those are far more pressing issues for the general public.</p>
Sondra	Wuthnow	A barrier makes very little difference visually, but it will definitely save lives--especially teenagers and young adults whose hormones are at a raging peak during this time.
Michael	Wykoff	NO barrier should be built at all. ANYTHING added to the bridge will only detract from it. This is an asinine idea that must be stopped immediately.
Michael	Wykoff	I choose NO alternative. This is a terrible idea. Absolutely terrible.
x	x	let the person take there life ONLY and nobody else with them !!!!!!!!!!!!!
Ryan	Xxxx	I believe that the decision to end one's life is a personal choice that should be respected by society. We have no right to prevent other autonomous individuals from ending their life, just as we have no right to prevent them from eating meat or viewing pornography. Jumping off the bridge is a quick and clean end, and we should respect the rights of others to live and die as they choose.
Dorothy	Yaggy	very necessary
Curtis	Yamauchi	This is a no brainer. Aesthetics vs. lives cannot even be debated.
Natasha	Yankoffski	I don't believe any of these options are deterrents for suicide. If somebody is intend on killing themselves, they'll find a way around barriers. Where do you draw the line on protecting citizens from themselves? Will we now start putting barriers up on all bridges, walkways, train stations, etc.? I have deep compassion for troubled individuals but the money could be better spent on mental health programs and community/family involvement with one another. Do not build any additional barriers on the bridge sides. The best thing the bridge can do is put in the medians to prevent auto accidents.

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Paul	Yasinitsky	A suicidal individual will, either, find a different way, or circumvent the barrier, jump to the netting and crawl over to their death, jump near land, that would be much more messy, or just go to a different bridge or high place. Leave the aesthetics of the bridge alone.
Yehiel	Yisrael	My friends, family and I feel strongly that we must add adequate physical restraints to help prevent suicides from our beloved Golden Gate Bridge. We should have made these safety improvements many years ago, in light of the obvious need. We must retain the classic Art Deco style, naturally. More cameras should also help to warn police of the indication to intervene to save lives. Thanks for acting on this project ASAP.
Setsuko	Yoshimura	The bridge should be left as it is.
Randall	Young	May want to include some historical information about the bridge and restore some of the military sites around on bridge property.
Derek	Young	I think the addition of a barrier that is taller than all people would ruin the beautiful views for the thousands of tourists that visit that wonderful site every year to save approximately 20 people who actually want to kill themselves there each year. This is a bad tradeoff.
Marguerite Ann	Young	I believe if you truly have a interest in suicide prevention, the moneys used for research on GG Bridge, etc, should not be spent on a barrier but spent toward research on Mental Health Issues and toward MENTAL HEALTH CARE!
Meredith	Young	As tragic as the GG suicides are , preventing here at great cost , financial & aesthetic - would just drive the despondent suicide to other structures or bridges over traffic vs water. It is impossible to 'suicide-proof' a city .

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First	Last	Comment
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Suzi	Young	<p>Adding a suicide prevention barrier is not a sound idea. The expense outweighs the benefits. Losing access to the bridge as a means to commit suicide will not prevent the suicide itself. I wonder how many people commit suicide (bridge or no bridge) in the bay area each year?</p> <p>The focus should be redirected from only those poor people who use the bridge as the means to their end and focus on suicide prevention as a whole. This isn't a bridge problem - it's a human problem. Focus on counseling, prevention programs, education, etc.</p> <p>The suicide victims who use the bridge certainly get more attention than the overdose victim, gunshot victim, etc. Those people aren't even a blip on the radar. If we are going to focus on suicide as a societal problem can we please use the funds for something that will help everyone - not just the small segment of the population who use the bridge to accomplish the task?</p>
Caroline	Yu	<p>Visually, I prefer Alternative 2B, however I'm concerned that the horizontal cables would allow people to "climb" the barrier as if it were a ladder. The angled portion at the top may not be enough to prevent someone from climbing over.</p> <p>I also like Alternative 3, however, what is to prevent a person from jumping from the bridge to the net, and then from the net to the ocean? If this were attempted, the person would get injured by the fall down to the steel netting which could possibly make it more likely that he would not survive the second jump from the netting to the water below.</p>
Andersen	Yun	<p>Alternative 2A is probably the most aesthetic, since it would not look like an add-on, but 1A is probably less expensive. Vertical bars are harder to climb than horizontal ones, but may give some visitors a "jail cell" feeling</p>

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)		
First	Last	Comment
Andersen E	Yun Z	If the Golden Gate bridge is truly a suicide magnet, something has to be done about it. I don't believe in protecting people from themselves. I used to regularly participate in high risk sports, and do not believe in regulations to improve the safety of these. However, these are risks that the participant assumes with eyes wide open and from an informed position. Suicide is irrational and somewhat spontaneous, even though a person may be planning it for a long time. Foiling an attempt may stop further attempts, or at least convince a person to get help. At least this was my personal experience.
Kristine	Zaback	Someone who really wants to kill themselves will just go to another bridge or another overpass. What are you going to do but barriers on everything. Try putting the money necessary to build this thing in to mental health care so the troubled person can get real help.
Kristine	Zaback	What a waste of money!!!
michael	zabelle	Any change in guard rail height would be a taking of freedoms past generations have enjoyed. You would replace the existing rail with a cage like enclosure which would dramatically reduce the excitement of being on the bridge. The artistic structure that is, The Golden Gate Bridge, would be forever tainted and not at all what it's creator intended. These are truly sad times for native San Franciscans.
Hank	Zablotny	It is unbelievable that that a barrier has not yet been built! Once it is built, the difference in view will barely be noticed. The expense of this project will be more than offset, by the saving of precious lives, and the needless heartbreak of the ones who love them!
Raymond	Zablotny	I think these alternatives are well thought out and preserve the views while preventing suicide. The research on suicide prevention with the change in gas content in England, the Duke Ellington Bridge in Washington DC, the Bloor street Viaduct in Toronto, the Sydney Harbor Bridge, and others all show that limiting means reduces suicide. Suicidal urges are moment of intense psychological pain that pass with time and treatment. I refer you to an excellent article in the Sunday NY Times: "The Urge to End it All" that describes this research in detail.
Raymond	Zablotny	As a psychiatrist I hear of people thinking about going to the Golden Gate Bridge every week. Unfortunately some died from jumping over my 30 years of practice. Unfortunately one of those people who died was my 18 yo son Jonathan Zablotny in February of 2005. Please build one of these alternatives.
Amy	Zahler	Wouldn't birds be likely to become entangled in the nets if those were used? Also, birds would likely crash into the acrylic view panels proposed.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)		
First	Last	Comment
Amy	Zahler	I do not think the proposed acrylic panels to provide occasional view areas have been adequately examined.
Amy	Zahler	Any change to the bridge is going to have some visual impact on the bridge. The bridge should be designed to be enjoyed by the maximum number of people and the changes to visual appeal for the sake of a few should be considered.
Amy	Zahler	Higher fences give the appearance of a jail, and while the view areas are nice ideas, I believe the wind will "sandblast" the acrylic into hazy uselessness in short order. Nets make the bridge look like a giant circus. The nets would be the least impact
Amy	Zahler	The government cannot take care of everyone at every time. The government should focus on the good of the many when faced with a costly, ugly change for the benefit of the few.
Amy	Zahler	I especially dislike the cultural change that would be associated with crossing a bridge flanked by high bars.
Amy	Zahler	The bridge should be accessible by the highest number of people possible and views maximized for those who wish to enjoy them. If people cannot get the views of the bridge that they want from the areas they are currently able to use, they will go onto other areas, possibly those that have been replanted recently and are delicate, to catch a coveted photo without bars or nets obstructing the way.
Amy	Zahler	Bars on the roadway would make biking or walking across the bridge far less appealing.
Amy	Zahler	If people cannot get the views of the bridge that they want from the areas they are currently able to use, they will go onto other areas, possibly those that have been replanted recently and are delicate, to catch a coveted photo without bars or nets obstructing the way.
Amy	Zahler	Suicide is terrible for those who cannot see past the gloomy patches in their lives and for those who are left behind. Counseling should be readily available to try to help those who believe there is no choice. In the end, those who want to live should not have to sacrifice their quality of life to help those who want to die. No additional barrier should be put in place.
Carolyn	Zahnow	Either alternative appears natural looking for the bridge.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)		
First	Last	Comment
Carolyn	Zahnw	We go out of our way to save sea turtles and various birds from manmade objects. I feel it's time San Francisco does it's part to save humans from taking their lives! Survivor of suicide, only child,son, Cameron 8/11/05
Jeanne	Zarka	-The transparent panels preserve unobstructed views for pedestrians or cyclists. -I would appreciate seeing renderings of the visual/aesthetic impacts of the alternatives from SF from various angles before commenting on that. -The deterrent systems maydiscourage vehicle drivers from trying to look at the stunning views while driving
Jeanne	Zarka	-Alternatives 1B and 2B, horizontal systems may make it easier for a person to climb, even with the winglets. -Alternative 3 the net system would mean that bridge/security personnel would have to retrieve the person after she/he jumped. -The net could actually attract thrill-seeking jumpers not intending to commit suicide.
Jessica	Zavala	It would ruin the visual aesthetic of a monumental landmark. I am a native San Franciscan and believe is a terrible idea.
Jessica	Zavala	I think that money could be spent on suicide prevention counseling. It is not the citizens and residents of San Francisco and Bay Area that should be paying the price for this. It is a beautiful landmark that will be ruined permanently for no good reason.
Lisa	Zayas	I support a deterrant on the golden gate bridge and any of the options is good. This is absolutely critical to have. Thank you.
Marta	Zelaya	A suicide barrier on the bridge would be a ridiculous waste of money.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
Tracy	Zeltser	It will impact the breeze and air quality on the walkway - which actually really sucks. Think of the sound quality too, it's already very difficult to talk to the person right next to you - but with the sound bouncing off these barriers, you won't be able to hear a thing!!
Tracy	Zeltser	I think there are better things to do with the considerable amount of energy and time put into this project. People who want to jump off the bridge, will only find a picturesque cliff or another bridge somewhere to jump from. This is not going to deter this kind of behaviour in general, only (and only maybe) from the GGB.
Tracy	Zeltser	The specific barriers in question (clear glass or plexiglass I assume) will have to be rigorously maintained in order to keep them clear enough to see through every day. Because of the sea, these big clear panels will be an impossible maintenance task... what kind of price point is going to go onto that?
Tracy	Zeltser	Interesting that SF will go to such lengths to avoid the bad PR that suicide off the GGB brings. Is the PR really that bad? How often does it really happen? Does it cost the city money when someone does make a jump? Who is at risk here, legally?
Tracy	Zeltser	see general comments.
Tracy	Zeltser	I think the world will laugh at a city that goes to such lengths for a few people that they can't help, and ruin a national landmark because of it.
Tracy	Zeltser	Biological Resources??? Are the birds going to be affected?
Tracy	Zeltser	Mightn't the birds bang into these barriers - do a study!!
Tracy	Zeltser	I'm so sorry - I jumped in and made my comments without reading the environmental analysis - this is an unbiased opinion, I hope it is helpful in some way.
David	Zemke	Don't ruin the visual appeal of this major international landmark to "help protect people from themselves". No barriers, please!
David	Zemke	Don't let a few people's pain and misdirected desire to prevent suicides from the bridge to aesthetically ruin this landmark for thousands of people. If you spent \$50 million on suicide prevention programs think of all the other people that you *could* save that *don't* jump off the bridge. This is a huge misappropriation of our time and money. Isn't California in the middle of a budgetary crisis right now?
Jane	Zhang	Adding vertical or horizontal systems to the bridge is damaging to the historical landmark and the great view of the city.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
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Jane	Zhang	People who want to commit suicide will find many alternative ways to do so, such as "Alternative 4A", "Alternative 4B", "Alternative 5A", "Alternative 5B", etc.
Mark	Ziebarth	Would much rather see the money be used for a barrier to protect against head on auto collisions on the bridge.
Marcie	Ziesing	The engineering alternatives for a barrier are very impressive.
Karen	Zimmerman	I truly believe that the allocated funds for this project should go towards better use (ie local counseling programs, our education system) in order to help people before they reach such a stage of depression. I don't feel that such a historic monument as the GGB should be altered so dramatically in an effort to save a limited number of people that will use another alternative if they are that set on committing suicide. I feel for these people. We had a suicide in our immediate family so the issue is close to home, however, I don't think this project is the right answer. The views of the bay are just gorgeous and should not be altered at such a high cost as what is being proposed.
Roz	Zinns	The bridge should be left as is. The monies needed for these alternatives would add even more to the toll. \$50-\$60 million would be much better spent on many other needs in our area.
Stephen	Zipperlen	Do not ruin the beauty of one of the engineering wonders of the world.
Stephen	Zipperlen	No matter what you do people intent on suicide will find a way to jump. The forty to fifty million dollar cost should rather be spent on improving the southern approach road to the bridge.
David	Zucker	50 million dollars to save a couple dozen lives per year. Over 10 years, that would be about 250 people saved - some of whom might try again. That works out to \$200,000 per life over a 10 year span. Or, half that money could go to mental health assistance, homeless programs, and so on; saving a far greater number of lives. A suicide barrier is an extremely expensive way to help a very small number of people.
Stephan	Zuercher	The GGB is a huge suicide magnet -- non-physical deterrents have been tried for years and have not eliminated the problem. I love the way the GGB looks, but architectural beauty should not trump loss of life.
sasha	zullo	The bridge is perfect the way it is. Please do not alter it.
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First	Last	Comment
sasha	zullo	The bridge is perfect the way it is. Please do not alter it. The proposed estimate of spending \$1 million per person who choses to jump off the bridge per year to save them from themselves is just plain silly and a terrible waste of tax payer funds. Even if we had all the money in the world, we would not be able to protect everyone in society from themselves. Life is about choices, and for a few unfortunate souls, they made thier choice by jumping off the bridge. The reality is that this is a very foolish way to spend tax payers' money which could be directed to save more lives (such as applying those funds to mental health programs or saving more lives by placing traffic barriers in the middle of the bridge). Please let the living (and those who want to live) enjoy the bridge as it currently is: unobstructed, beautiful, and a glorious place for people to visit.
sasha	zullo	The bridge is perfect the way it is. Please do not alter it. The proposed estimate of spending \$1 million per person who choses to jump off the bridge per year to save them from themselves is just plain silly and a terrible waste of tax payer funds. Even if we had all the money in the world, we would not be able to protect everyone in society from themselves. Life is about choices, and for a few unfortunate souls, they made thier choice by jumping off the bridge. The reality is that this is a very foolish way to spend tax payers' money which could be directed to save more lives (such as applying those funds to mental health programs or saving more lives by placing traffic barriers in the middle of the bridge). Please let the living (and those who want to live) enjoy the bridge as it currently is: unobstructed, beautiful, and a glorious place for people to visit.
Glenda	Zurita	This is an absolute waste of my money, your money&€ all taxpayers' monies. Those barriers won't stop someone from jumping into traffic or hanging themselves from the bridge. But, if this goes through, are you planning on doing the same to all the bridges in the city? Why stop there? Next we'll have to erect barriers near all the cliffs. Let's shuttle people from their homes to anywhere, since who knows, they might just jump in front of a moving vehicle on any street in the city. Clearly all sharp objects will have to be banned in restaurants, and of course homes. I don't mean just knives, but scissors, staplers, pens, even pencils. And we haven't even gone into all of the poisonous things at home one could digest to end it all. PLEASE! If someone wants to off themselves, there are a myriad of ways to do it. Suicide has been happening for thousands of years. Better use of our money is trying to find out why people are so depressed, down, & desperat in our society. As someone who's known two suicides and a few others that have contemplated it, the commonality has seemed that they didn't know where to turn. Spend the money on the rest of us that want to live, or may even be on the edge, but have some seriously difficult problems facing them. Put it towards mental health counseling, education, support, and programs so that less people get so desperate as to feel the need to end their lives.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
Leila	Zwelling	As a mental health professional and San Francisco resident who has lost a close friend to suicide, I urge you to support the suicide deterrent barrier. It is crucial in saving lives.
		What a waste of money!
Stephen	Zwick	
Gene	Zwillinger`	I have no specific preference for a suicide barrier, but am strongly in favor of installing one..Life over aesthetics any time.
Gene	Zwillinger`	I am the next door neighbor to the brooks and have known Casey since she was a small child. It was clear to me that Casey's suicide was an impulse act, that could have been prevented by a suicide barrier. To those detractors that say that the suicidal person would find some other way, I would say that research clearly says that this is not so. Casey would be alive today if there was a barrier.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
Bridge Rail Foundation		<p>Bridge Rail Foundation</p> <p>Position on the alternatives under consideration for the Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent</p> <p>Resolution approved at meeting of July 28, 2008</p> <p>Be it Resolved: that the Bridge Rail Foundation strongly encourages the Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors to reject option # 6 (no-build) of the Draft Environmental Impact Report: " take no action". And be it further Resolved: that the Golden Gate Bridge Board proceed directly to adopt the best of five alternative options as the "Locally Preferred Alternative".</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>First and foremost we must reject the "take no action" option, or option #6(no-build). After well over 1,300 deaths and public demands for action to stop the suicides dating back to 1939, "take no action" is no acceptable alternative. It must be rejected.</p> <p>We should point out that the Bridge District's description of option #6 in the web site polling system leaves the impression that current District efforts may be sufficient. The suicide death rate at the Bridge has remained constant an average of over 24 per year for over 40 years. No reasonable person could consider this data and conclude the District's efforts are sufficient.</p> <p>Beyond option six, we are presented with five alternatives. Each has distinct strengths and weaknesses, and at first glance, all appear to be reasonable alternatives for stopping suicides. Unfortunately, the technical data, financial information and supporting documentation needed to arrive at a fully informed recommendation are not available. Rather we are asked to judge these options on their visual merit, and a great deal of visual material is presented for that purpose. While many of our supporters and other organizations may have a preference based solely on this visual information, we believe it would be inappropriate for us to do so without also considering all the facts needed to arrive at a recommendation we could stand behind.</p> <p>alternative options as the "Locally Preferred Alternative".</p>

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH GGB WEB SITE COMMENT FORM (Alphabetical by last name)

First	Last	Comment
A concerned citizen Enough with rising tolls!		Are you kidding me! 70 Million plus overruns (you know that will happen. Commuters footing the bill, no way. My suggestion - put up a 10 foot springboard, a couple of coat hooks, pen and pad, and let what happens happen! The bridge shouldn't be in the business of suicide prevention. Stick with what is your primary purpose.

ALL COMMENTS RECIEVED

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY



MEMORANDUM

TO: President John J. Moylan and Members, Board of Directors

FROM: Janet S. Tarantino, Secretary of the District

DATE: August 25, 2008

SUBJECT: **GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM PROJECT**

For your perusal, enclosed is the testimony, along with submitted documents, of the public speakers present at the August 22, 2008, meeting of the Board of Directors, relative to the above-mentioned project.

At the August 22nd meeting, it was requested that staff provide a summary of the various psychiatric journal articles that have been submitted to the District regarding the effectiveness of physical suicide barriers. Staff will extract the abstract or summary section from the various published articles and reports that have been submitted by project proponents and opponents and provide that information to the Board.

As of last week, over 3,000 comments had been received regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. A summary of public and agency comments will be provided at a future Board meeting.

Staff will provide a project timetable, which will be included in the Engineer's Report for the September 12, 2008, meeting of the Board of Directors. The Engineer's Report will be sent to the Board on Friday, September 5, 2008.

JST:kbe

Enclosures

c: Executive Team, M Currie, K Hopper, J Eberle, J Lee and M Graham (135 Main Street, Suite 1600, San Francisco, CA 94105)



Testimony made by
The Reverend James S. Ward
to the Board of Directors
at the meeting of the Board of Directors
on Friday, August 22, 2008

The Reverend James S. Ward

3 Azalea Drive
Mill Valley, CA
415.381.8568 jimward@ststephenschurch.org

President of the Board
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

Dear Ms. Currie and Members,

My name is James Ward. I'm a native San Franciscan and an Episcopal Priest, currently the Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Tiburon-Belvedere. I want to thank you for letting me address you this morning.

Though I am familiar with your role of public service and your fiduciary responsibility, I also recognize the weight you shoulder as custodians of a reality that can only be described as spiritual.

So I do not address you moved by legal concerns about risk exposure, or as a psychologist attempting to understand the impulsive draw of your area of custody on the death-bent human heart. Nor am I an artist whose task is to suggest or assert the captivating significance of this structure in its iconic setting.

I do not even presume to come before you as a victim of a suicide, though I pastor a congregation that with uncountable friends, relatives and neighbors has been plunged into grief, guilt, and shame at the bridge suicide of a beloved young congregant.

Rather than point to the statistics, the absurd monetizing of human life, or the mounting anecdotal evidence that a simple barrier is the only solution, I want to make a different kind of statement. I want to suggest to you that the Golden Gate Bridge is a "Sacred Space."

The prophets of what my tradition calls the Old Testament are not the only ones to encounter the evil of false worship. Religion is as natural for human beings as wishing on a star or throwing coins in a fountain, as representing our aspirations in the power and beauty of a unique architectural and engineering feat like this bridge. One of the most recognizable monuments in the world, it is the icon of a reality the worship of which energizes millions of people.

As such the bridge is not only a symbolic image and structure; it has also become an altar of sacrifice. A friend of mine challenged me about the prospect of a barrier. He said to me, "We live in an ugly era. Such an example of aesthetic beauty for its own sake is really significant and needs to be supported."

"I completely agree," I replied. And then he went where I never imagined he would go.

"And if a few people," he said, "have to be sacrificed, well, . . ."

"Excuse me!" I interrupted, indignant. "How many people is acceptable? How many lives is beauty worth." I couldn't believe he was saying it. "That is precisely my point. The bridge has become an altar of sacrifice to the idol of some sort of San Francisco, Bay Area, mystique. This is precisely what the Scriptures warn about. The prophets railed against this. Jesus' ministry was based on its rejection."

As it now stands, the bridge consumes the blood of our children. The reality I call on you to bring to an end is the hidden cult of death, the secret sacrificial price we pay for the iconic beauty that gathers up our hopes and aspirations in this fatally beautiful bridge. It's a transaction of which we must repent!

James S. Ward

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Testimony made by
Mark Whitmer
to the Board of Directors
at the meeting of the Board of Directors
on Friday, August 22, 2008,
including Research Abstracts on Suicides

August 22, 2008

Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Transportation and Highway District

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk to you about placing a barrier to stop suicides on the Golden Gate Bridge. This is a difficult decision that we do not envy you making. But we do envy the impact you will have world-wide on the subject of suicide and mental health issues. As you know people from around the world come to see the Golden Gate Bridge and the world is truly watching what you will do with this International Icon.

I have found 22 studies from around the world on the subject of suicides and barriers on bridges. They demonstrate the desire of people everywhere to try and understand and eliminate the senseless loss of life through suicide. Researchers from the U.S, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Turkey, Switzerland, Sweden and New Zealand are working hard to stop suicides.

I am present to you these Research Abstracts so you will be fully aware that suicide is impulsive; that restricting the means of suicide can save lives; that barriers work; that desperate people do not substitute one method for another on a whim; that buying them time saves lives.

We are far behind taking action compared to other countries such as: the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. Australia has taken this issue so seriously that it has made it a national crime to post on the internet any information about suicide with the intent for people to use. The law was amended to include this in 2005.!

By NOT taking any action to change the railing, YOU are deciding that any human life is disposable. You are telling the world you willingly condemn 30 people a year to death and that their lives are worthless.

To paraphrase from Edmund Burke, “To allow preventable deaths to continue, let good men and women do nothing.” We believe you ARE in your positions as directors because you ARE good men and women and you will look out for public health and safety of all the people that pass this way..

By changing the railing, you will stop the impulsiveness and restrict the means of suicide. YOU will be remembered for saving 30 or more people a year.

YOU will tell the world that in the San Francisco Bay Area that you are champions for minorities and YOU will be champions for those who cannot find their voice in a time of crisis.

YOU will tell the world that you acknowledge that mental illness is a disability that cripples the mind to a point where it is blind to see the help around it.

YOU will tell the world that you are aware that the time it takes from deciding to commit suicide to actual attempt is short lived.

YOU will tell the world that you are aware by restricting the means of suicide, that over 90% of those individuals can go on to live a normal life.

YOU will tell the world that you are aware that even with signage, telephones, cameras, bike and foot patrols, that **BARRIERS** are the most effective method to stop suicides from bridges.

Thank you for telling the Bay Area, Our State, Our Country and the people of the world that the hideous title "Suicide Magnet of the World" will no longer apply to the Majestic Golden Gate Bridge!

Thank your for time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Whitman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end.

Research Abstract on Suicides

1: The Western Journal of Medicine April 1975 122(4) pg 289-294

Suicide Survivors: A follow-up study of persons who survived jumping from the Golden Gate and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge

Rosen, D.H., MD

The six Golden Gate Bridge survivors' suicide plans involved *only* the Golden Gate Bridge. For all of them, this bridge had a special and unique meaning. Often this was related in a symbolic way to the association of the Golden Gate Bridge with death, grace and beauty. The fact that the Golden Gate Bridge leaks the world as a location for suicides should be knowledge enough for us to begin to *deromanticize* suicide, specifically as it relates to the Golden Gate Bridge, but also in a general way. In addition to *deromanticizing* suicide and death especially as they relate to the Golden Gate Bridge, these findings point to a need to do something practical in order to prevent further suicides from that structure. I underscore and concur wholeheartedly with the survivors' unanimous recommendation that a suicide barrier should be constructed on the Golden Gate Bridge.

2: Suicide Life Threat Behav. 1978 Winter; 8(4):203-16.

Where are they now? A follow-up study of suicide attempters from the Golden Gate Bridge.

Seiden RH.

The Golden Gate Bridge is currently the number one suicide location in the world. From the opening day, May 18, 1937 to April 1, 1978, there have been 625 officially reported suicide deaths and perhaps more than 200 others which have gone unseen and unreported. Proposals for the construction of a hardware antisuicide barrier have been challenged with the untested contention that "they'll just go someplace else." This research tests the contention by describing and evaluating the long-term mortality experience of the 515 persons who had attempted suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge but were restrained, from the opening day through the year 1971 plus a comparison group of 184 persons who made nonbridge suicide attempts during 1956--57 and were treated at the emergency room of a large metropolitan hospital and were also followed through the close of 1971. Results of the follow-up study are directed toward answering the important question: "Will a person who is prevented from suicide in one location inexorably tend to attempt and commit suicide elsewhere?" [This study is often quoted because 94% of these people do not go on to commit suicide]

Research Abstract on Suicides

3: Schweiz Arch Neurol Psychiatr. 1985;136(5):23-36.

[Falling as a method of suicide--psychodynamic aspects][Article in German]

Haenel T.

After some reflections upon the phenomenon of falling/jumping, the fall from a height and its meaning in fairy tales, in literature and in history is discussed. Eight casuistics with fatal and non-fatal issue serve to shed light on the psychodynamics which precipitate such acts. Referring to world-famous buildings such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris or the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, the fact is stressed that many suicidal persons are attracted by these constructions and choose the place for their suicidal act accordingly. The possibilities of suicide prevention and the treatment of patients who have survived their attempt are presented.

4: Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 1990 Sep;24(3):377-80.

Suicide from river bridges.

Cantor CH, Hill MA.

Queensland Department of Health, Brisbane.

The opening of a new high river bridge in Brisbane allowed a naturalistic experimental testing of whether the sample engaging in suicidal behaviour from the new bridge was similar to that from the adjoining older bridge. Substantial differences were found for the two samples. This suggests that persons prevented from jumping from one bridge, for example by a barrier, will not automatically jump from the alternative bridge although a minority may do so.

Research Abstract on Suicides

5: Suicide Life Threat Behav. 1993 Summer;23(2):91-100.

Characteristics of completed suicides: implications of differences among methods.

Fischer EP, Comstock GW, Monk MA, Sencer DJ.

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock 72205-7199.

Approximately 30% of suicides in New York City are the result of jumping from a height. After describing jumping suicides and jumping sites, we used polychotomous logistic regression to compare the characteristics of suicides by jumping to those of individuals committing suicide by hanging, ingestion, or shooting. Method used was significantly associated with sociodemographics, occupation, and mental health status, even after adjustment for individual access to the means of committing suicide. Our finding of an independent association between personal characteristics and method used provides strong evidence for the hypothesis that controlling access to an agent of suicide can influence overall suicide rates, at least in the short term. Study results support the introduction of preventive programs to control access to commonly employed agents of suicide.

Research Abstract on Suicides

6: J Epidemiol Community Health. 1996 Feb;50(1):30-2.

Suicide from the Clifton Suspension Bridge in England

Nowers M, Gunnell D.

Psychiatry of Old Age Clinical Research Unit, Cossham Hospital, Kingswood, Bristol.

OBJECTIVES: To examine the epidemiology of suicide by jumping from the Clifton Suspension Bridge and its impact on local patterns of suicide. **DESIGN:** Case-control study of falls from the bridge (1974-93) matched by age and sex with those using other methods of suicide. Routine OPCS mortality statistics for Bristol and District Health Authority. **SETTING:** The County of Avon and the Bristol and District Health Authority. **SUBJECTS:** 1. Individuals given coroners' verdicts of suicide, "open", or misadventure after falls from the suspension bridge and 127 matched control suicides using other methods. 2. All deaths from suicide within the Bristol and District Health Authority 1982-91. **MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES:** Past psychiatric history, demographic characteristics of suicides, and proximity of place of residence to the bridge. **RESULTS:** There were 127 falls from the Clifton Suspension Bridge between 1974 and 1993. The mean age was 35.4 years for males (n = 93) and 35.5 for females (n = 34). Those who committed suicide by jumping were no more likely to have psychiatric histories than controls (95% CI of difference--1.17%, 23.2%) and were no more likely to have been psychiatric inpatients in the past (95% CI of difference--10.2%, 13.3%). Mean distance of residence from the bridge differed little between jumping suicides and controls (difference 1.7 km 95% CI 0.5, 3.9 km). Altogether 10.2% of jumpers had a past history of schizophrenia. Suicide by jumping is significantly more common in the Bristol and District Health Authority (9.3% of all suicides; 95% CI 7.6%, 11.3%) than in England and Wales (4.9% of suicides). **CONCLUSIONS:** Patterns of suicide in the Bristol and District Health Authority are affected by the presence of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Those who commit suicide by jumping from the bridge do not differ significantly from those using other methods of suicide. Provision of safety measures on the bridge may lead to the prevention of some suicides.

Research Abstract on Suicides

7: Acta Psychiatr Scand. 1997 Jul;96(1):1-6.

Suicide by jumping.

Gunnell D, Nowers M.

Department of Social Medicine, Canynge Hall, Bristol, UK.

This review summarizes the published literature on suicide by jumping, in particular focusing on the social and psychological characteristics of people who have chosen this method of suicide, and the opportunities for prevention. Suicide by jumping accounts for 5% of suicides in England and Wales, and there are marked variations in the use of this method world-wide. A number of locations have gained notoriety as popular places from which to jump. Such sites include The Golden Gate Bridge and Niagara Falls in the USA, and Beachy Head and the Clifton Suspension Bridge in the UK. There is no consistent evidence that those who commit suicide by jumping differ sociodemographically or in their psychopathology from those who use other methods of suicide, although this method is more often used for in-patient suicides, possibly due to lack of access to other means. Survivors of suicidal jumps experience higher subsequent rates of suicide and mental ill health, but the majority do not go on to kill themselves, suggesting that preventive efforts may be worthwhile. This view is supported by other evidence that restricting access to the means of suicide may prevent some would-be suicides. Such measures may also reduce the emotional trauma suffered by those who witness these acts. Health authorities and coroners should consider reviewing local patterns of suicide by jumping, and if necessary institute preventive measures.

Research Abstract on Suicides

8: Arch Kriminol. 1998 Nov-Dec;202(5-6):129-39.

[Epidemiologic and phenomenologic aspects of suicide caused by leaping from a high bridge] [Article in German]

Blohm C, Püschel K.

Institut für Rechtsmedizin der Universität Hamburg.

Since the fascinating Köhlbrand Bridge within the harbour of Hamburg (520 m long, 53 m high) was put into operation in the year 1974, 56 persons (47 males, 9 females, aged between 20 and 82 years) committed suicide by jumping from the bridge up to 1997. These suicides could not be prevented although video supervision of the bridge has been arranged and a police station is not far away. The suicides took place without any predictable frequency concerning time and season. However, after reports of spectacular cases within the media there was a tendency of suicidents to prefer the same manner of suicide, for instance in the year 1994. In recent time, a considerable number of suicidents did not jump from the very top of the bridge down into the water but hit to the ground after jumping from the access ramps. The special aim of this retrospective study included an analysis of the injury pattern (autopsy rate only 47%!) and special phenomenological and reconstructive aspects of the suicides.

9: Am J Psychiatry. 1999 Dec;156(12):1994-5.

Influence of traumatic grief on suicidal ideation among young adults.

Prigerson HG, Bridge J, Maciejewski PK, Beery LC, Rosenheck RA, Jacobs SC, Bierhals AJ, Kupfer DJ, Brent DA.

Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn, USA. Holly.Prigerson@Yale.edu

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of traumatic grief on suicidal ideation. **METHOD:** The Beck-Kovacs Scale for Suicidal Ideation was administered to 76 young adult friends of suicide victims. **RESULTS:** Traumatic grief was associated with a 5.08 times greater likelihood of suicidal ideation, after control for depression. Comorbid traumatic grief and depression were not associated with a greater likelihood of suicidal ideation. **CONCLUSIONS:** Syndromal traumatic grief heightens vulnerability to suicidal ideation.

Research Abstract on Suicides

10: Med J Aust. 2000 Jan 17;172(2):67-9.

Comment in: Med J Aust. 2000 Jan 17;172(2):52-3.

Jumping from the Westgate Bridge, Melbourne.

Coman M, Meyer AD, Cameron PA.

Department of Emergency Medicine, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Vic.

OBJECTIVE: To describe characteristics of people who jumped from the Westgate Bridge (identifying risk factors for attempted suicide) and to determine why people may survive such a jump. **DESIGN AND SETTING:** A retrospective case review (coroners' reports and hospital records) of all people known to have jumped from the Westgate Bridge between 1991 and 1998. **RESULTS:** We identified 62 people who jumped from the Westgate Bridge over the study period. Seven survived. Forty-one (74%) of those who jumped were male. The average age was 33.8 years (range, 15-58 years). Forty-four (71%) had known mental illness (23 schizophrenia, 21 depression). Thirty-nine (63%) landed in water, falling from a height of 58.5 m. Nineteen (31%) fell onto land and in four cases (6%) the landing site was not determined. All survivors landed in water. Six people died from drowning after the fall, and in eight more deaths drowning was a major or contributing factor. All jumps resulted from suicidal intent, and 12 people (19%) had positive toxicology screens for alcohol or other non-prescription drugs at postmortem. **CONCLUSIONS:** Each year the Westgate Bridge is the scene of about eight suicide attempts by jumping (particularly by men with active psychiatric illness). Some deaths by drowning could be prevented by early detection and rapid emergency service response. The erection of an effective safety barrier would probably prevent more deaths.

Research Abstract on Suicides

11: Forensic Sci Int. 2001 Feb 15;116(2-3):157-62.

Suicides by jumping from Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul.

Cetin G, Günay Y, Fincanci SK, Ozdemir Kulusayin R

Department of Forensic Medicine, Cerrahpasa Faculty of Medicine, University of Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey

Suicide methods may differ widely. One of these methods is jumping from a height. The people who choose a high bridge for jumping may be considered as a special group. In this study, we evaluated the demographic data, mortality rates and postmortem findings of individuals who jumped from the 64m high Bosphorus Bridge of Istanbul. For this purpose, we reviewed registration forms of two police centers on both sides of the bridge, court archives, and postmortem examination reports of the deceased for a period of 10 years between 1986 and 1995. During this period, 65 people had jumped from the Bosphorus Bridge of Istanbul. The mortality rate was 96.9%, as two individuals survived their suicide attempt. The male/female ratio for attempts was 15:1 (61 males, four females) in this study in contrast to the male/female ratio of 1.6:1 for all suicidal cases in Turkey. The average age of subjects was 29.2 (median: 26, range: 16-54). The frequency was highest in the 15-24 age group with a rate of 38.4%. People who jumped from the bridge were younger than other reported cases of suicide. For all methods of suicide in Turkey 53.5% of subjects are under the age of 35. However, in our study, 75.8% of individuals who committed suicide from the Bosphorus Bridge were under the age of 35. Unmarried people accounted for 56% of the individuals whose marital status was known. 20.8% of the individuals whose employment status was known were unemployed. 59% of the cases whose education was known were high school graduates. The highest rate of suicide by jumping was in 1990, and occurred during the fall and winter months, primarily between the hours of 24.00 and 06.00. The Bosphorus Bridge is forbidden to pedestrians. Arrival method to the bridge was by a taxicab in 53.3% of the cases. 91% of the recovered bodies had been discovered during the first 2 days of jumping. Positions on impact with the water were estimated according to external and internal injuries. Among the cases in which the position of impact could be assessed by external and internal injury patterns, combined lateral and horizontal positions were most common.

Research Abstract on Suicides

12: Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2001 Oct;35(5):557-62

Effectiveness of barriers at suicide jumping sites: a case study.

Beautrais AL.

Canterbury Suicide Project, Christchurch School of Medicine, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, New Zealand. suicide@chmeds.ac.nz

OBJECTIVES: Suicide safety barriers were removed from a central city bridge in an Australasian metropolitan area in 1996 after having been in place for 60 years. The bridge is a known suicide site and is located adjacent to the region's largest hospital, which includes an acute inpatient psychiatric unit. This paper examines the impact of the removal of these barriers on suicide rates. **METHOD:** Data for suicide deaths by jumping from the bridge in question, from 1992 to 2000, were obtained from the regional City Police Inquest Office. Data for suicide deaths by jumping from other sites in the metropolitan area in question, from 1992 to 1998, were obtained from the national health statistics database. Case history data about each suicide death by jumping in the metropolitan area in question, from 1994 to 1998, were abstracted from coronial files held by a national database. **RESULTS:** Removal of safety barriers led to an immediate and substantial increase in both the numbers and rate of suicide by jumping from the bridge in question. In the 4 years following the removal of the barriers (compared with the previous 4 years) the number of suicides increased substantially, from three to 15 (chi2 = 8, df = 1, p < 0.01); the rate of such deaths increased also (chi2 = 6.6, df = 1, p < 0.01). The majority of those who died by jumping from the bridge following the removal of the safety barriers were young male psychiatric patients, with psychotic illnesses. Following the removal of the barriers from the bridge the rate of suicide by jumping in the metropolitan area in question did not change but the pattern of suicides by jumping in the city changed significantly with more suicides from the bridge in question and fewer at other sites. **CONCLUSIONS:** Removal of safety barriers from a known suicide site led to a substantial increase in the numbers of suicide deaths by jumping from that site. These findings appear to strengthen the case for installation of safety barriers at suicide sites in efforts to prevent suicide deaths, and also suggest the need for extreme caution about the removal of barriers from known jumping sites.

Research Abstract on Suicides

13: Accid Anal Prev. 2004 Jul;36(4):691-4.

Are suicides by jumping off bridges preventable? An analysis of 50 cases from Sweden.

Lindqvist P, Jonsson A, Eriksson A, Hedelin A, Björnstig U.

Department of Community Medicine and Rehabilitation, Umeå University, Umeå SE-907 12, Sweden. per.lindqvist@spo.sll.se

This is a community-based sequential case series of 50 individuals who committed suicide by jumping from bridges in two regions of Sweden. Of the 50 subjects, 32 were men and 18 women, with a median age of 35 years. At least 40 had psychiatric problems. The frequency of suicide was highest during the summer months and during the weekends. A total of 27 bridges were used, with a total length of just under 9 km. Three bridges accounted for almost half of all suicides. Limiting the availability of one method of committing suicide is reported to reduce the overall suicide rate; why suicide and injury suicide preventive measures might be considered. Since this study demonstrates that few bridges attract suicide candidates, this injury mechanism needs to be acknowledged by the road system owners and included in the safety work.

14: Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior 35(4) August 2005

Securing a Suicide Hot Spot: Effects of a Safety Net at the Bern Muenster Terrace

Reisch, T., Michel, K.,

The City of Bern has a high percentage of suicides by jumping (28.6%). Related to other local hotspots, the highest number of death (mean 2.5 per year) is found at the Muenster Terrace in the old city. In 1998, after a series of suicides, a safety net was built to prevent people from leaping from the terrace and to avoid further traumatization of people living in the street below, we analyzed the number of suicides by jumping before and after the installation of the net. We also assessed the number of media reports referring to this suicide method. After the installation of the net no suicides occurred from the terrace. The number of people jumping from all high places in Bern was significantly lower compared to the years before, indicating that no immediate shift to other nearby jumping sites took place. Furthermore, we found a moderate correlation between the number of media reports and the number of persons resident outside Bern committing suicide by jumping from high places in the city.

Research Abstract on Suicides

15: Aust Fam Physician. 2006 May;35(5):335-8.

Suicide prevention - targeting the patient at risk.

Bridge S.

Department of Medicine, James Cook University. bridgeside@ozemail.com.au

BACKGROUND: Suicide is a major cause of death from adolescence upward. While there has been a concentrated effort to educate families and health workers to be aware of warning signs of pending suicide, there has been limited information or practical strategies available for people at risk of suicide or for those who have suicidal thoughts. Recent acknowledgment of the role of impulsivity in suicide highlights the need for such information. **OBJECTIVE:** This article identifies those at risk of suicide and outlines strategies for suicide prevention. **DISCUSSION:** Patients with suicidal thoughts are not an infrequent component of presentations in general practice and present a considerable challenge to the general practitioner because it is very difficult to predict who will make a suicide attempt. There has been much published to assist the GP to identify those at risk, but little to suggest how to assist the patient in such a crisis. Research into the role of impulsivity in suicide would suggest that unless the patient has strategies to confront the suicidal thoughts themselves, they remain at significant risk.

16. Suicidologi 2005, Vol. 10 NR. 2

Suicide by Jumping: is prevention possible?

Gunnell, D., Nowers, M., Bennewith, O.

CONCLUSION: Whilst suicide by jumping generally accounts for a relatively small proportion of all suicides, such deaths are often very public events. Nevertheless the erection of barriers at particular sites frequently provokes controversy. Whilst there is no clear evidence that the installation of barriers results in a reduction in overall population suicide rates, extrapolation from other studies concerning the effects of changes in the availability of commonly used methods suggests this may be the case. Further benefits, for example reduced media reporting of suicides, may arise from the prevention of such deaths. Other measures, including safety nets, surveillance cameras and freephone telephone lines, might usefully be considered at sites from which jumping suicides frequently occur.

Research Abstract on Suicides

17. British Journal of Psychiatry (2007) 190; 266-267

Effect of Barriers on the Clifton suspension bridge, England, In local Patterns of suicide: Implications for prevention

Bennewith, O., Nowers, M., Gunnell, D.

Summary: We assessed the effect of the installation of barriers on the Clifton suspension bridge, Bristol, England, in 1998 on local suicides by jumping. Deaths from this bridge halved from 8.2 per year (1994-1998) to 4.0 per year (1999-2003, $P=0.008$). Although 90% of the suicides from the bridge were by males, there was no evidence of an increase in male suicides by jumping from other sites in the Bristol area after the erection of the barriers. This study provides evidence for the effectiveness of barriers on bridges in preventing site-specific suicides and suicides by jumping overall in the surrounding area.

18: Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2007 Dec;37(6):681-7.

Suicide by jumping and accessibility of bridges: results from a national survey in Switzerland.

Reisch T, Schuster U, Michel K.

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Rates of suicide by jumping show large regional differences. Barriers on bridges may prevent suicides but also may lead to a substitution of jumping site or method. The aim of our study was to compare suicide data from regions with and without suicide bridges and to estimate the effects on method and site substitution if bridges were to be secured. In a national survey, suicide data for the years 1990 to 2003 were collected. Regions with high rates of bridge suicides were identified and compared with regions with low rates, and the analysis revealed that only about one third of the individuals would be expected to jump from buildings or other structures if no bridge was available. The results suggest no method substitution for women. For men, a trend of a substituting jumping by overdosing in regions without suicide bridges was found. We conclude that restricted access to suicide bridges will not automatically lead suicidal individuals to choose another jumping site or suicide method. The results support the notion that securing bridges may save lives.

Research Abstract on Suicides

19: Inj Prev. 2007 Feb;13(1):57-9.

Preventing suicide by jumping: the effect of a bridge safety fence.

Pelletier AR.

Division of State and Local Readiness, Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. arp1@cdc.gov

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the effect of a bridge safety fence in preventing suicide. **METHODS:** We examined suicides from jumping off the Memorial Bridge in Augusta, Maine, from 1 April 1960 to 31 July 2005. The safety fence was installed during 1983, the mid-point of the study period. **RESULTS:** 14 suicides from the bridge were identified; all occurred before installation of the safety fence. The number of suicides by jumping from other structures remained unchanged after installation of the fence. **CONCLUSION:** The safety fence was effective in preventing suicides from the bridge. There was no evidence that suicidal individuals sought alternative sites for jumping.

20: Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2008 Jun;42(6):544-6.

Suicide, misappropriation and impulsivity.

Cheah D, Schmitt G, Pridmore S.

Department of Psychological Medicine, Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

OBJECTIVE: To describe a patient who survived a suicidal act in which lethal means were used and who subsequently cooperated with psychiatric examination. **METHOD:** Case report. **RESULTS:** A 22-year-old man jumped from a bridge into the water 49 m below and survived. He was admitted to hospital for assessment. No psychiatric diagnosis could be made on either Axis I or II. He had misappropriated money and lost it gambling, and detection was imminent. He described his jumping as being the result of a sudden impulse. While he was falling he changed his mind and assumed an appropriate diving posture with the intention of preventing his death. **CONCLUSIONS:** This is an example of a person performing a highly lethal suicide act, in the absence of Axis I or II disorder. Threat of disgrace and possible prosecution; and impulsivity were significant factors.

Research Abstract on Suicides

21. British Journal of Psychiatry (2007) 190; 266-267

Effect of Barriers on the Clifton suspension bridge, England, In local Patterns of suicide: Implications for prevention

Bennewith, O., Nowers, M., Gunnell, D.

Summary: We assessed the effect of the installation of barriers on the Clifton suspension bridge, Bristol, England, in 1998 on local suicides by jumping. Deaths from this bridge halved from 8.2 per year (1994-1998) to 4.0 per year (1999-2003, $P=0.008$). Although 90% of the suicides from the bridge were by males, there was no evidence of an increase in male suicides by jumping from other sites in the Bristol area after the erection of the barriers. This study provides evidence for the effectiveness of barriers on bridges in preventing site-specific suicides and suicides by jumping overall in the surrounding area.

22. **Suicide prevention through means restriction: Assessing the risk of substitution**

A critical review and synthesis

Marc S. Daigle

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Abstract

The effectiveness of restricting access to certain means of committing suicide has been demonstrated, at least as regards toxic domestic gas, firearms, drugs and bridges. At the individual level, studies tend to indicate that many persons have a preference for a given means, which would limit the possibility of substitution or displacement towards another method. Similarly, the fact that suicidal crisis are very often short-lived (and, what is more, influenced by ambivalence or impulsiveness) suggests that an individual with restricted access to a given means would not put off his plans to later or turn to alternative methods. This has been more difficult to demonstrate scientifically in population studies. Nevertheless, it appears that, should such a shift occur towards other means, it would be put into effect only in part and over a longer term.

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Testimony made by
Christine Kaplan
to the Board of Directors
at the meeting of the Board of Directors
on Friday, August 22, 2008,
including a Petition with 461 signatures
in favor of a suicide deterrent
on the Golden Gate Bridge

I have with me and am submitting to you, several petitions with a total of 461 signatures, that have been gathered by concerned citizens, with the united request that you choose one of the 5 barrier options for the railing on the pedestrian walkway on the Golden Gate Bridge and Stop the Suicides from occurring.

Among these petitions is one our family posted on the Internet which will demonstrate to you how much of an impact the suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge have on people all around the world.

Over two-thirds of our states are represented on this petition. People from the countries of Belize, Canada, Greece, France, Thailand, Germany, Romania, Switzerland, Turkey, Sweden, Somalia, the Netherlands, Tunisia, Serbia and Montenegro, the United Kingdom, Italy and the Republic of Korea are represented on this petition.

They represent a world-wide society of people who believe that every single life is important. They want you to know that by changing the railings, you will change the destiny of the individual, and potentially, the destiny of the rest of the world. These people have taken the time to write comments on this petition to voice their concerns to you directly.

When you read them...

They tell you this is a matter of public safety and social responsibility.

They tell you this is a matter of life not looks.

They tell you that they don't want any other family to experience the pain of losing a loved one to suicide.

They tell you the easy access to death needs to be eliminated.

They tell you a person who commits suicide dies once,
but the family and friends die a thousand deaths.

They tell you to provide safe and secure public facilities in respect for people affected by any disability.

These 461 signatures believe that every endeavor must be taken to save the life of a human being, regardless of the cost, regardless of the aesthetics.

We request that you make the commitment to save lives by raising the railings on the Golden Gate Bridge. Thank you for your time.

Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge District

We the undersigned are requesting that the Board of Directors stop the impulsive acts of the mentally ill and raise the height of the railing on the Golden Gate Bridge.

As Board of Directors you have been aware of the high potential and actuality for suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge for 70 years. The emergency call boxes and patrols have helped save many people each year but they have done nothing to decrease the amount of suicides annually. In fact, the number is slowly rising.

Now is the best time and opportunity to help stop mentally ill people from making an impulsive, irrational choice to take their lives in such an easy manner.

Please do not condone and perpetuate the callousness that encompasses our society. Please do not make it easier to turn a blind eye to these "silent" suicides by doing nothing.

Please, Raise the Rails and Save Lives !

	Name	From	Comments
1.	Angelica Corpeno	Lombard, IL	
2.	John Smith	Ellensburg Dep, NY	
3.	Michele Vernet	Garland, TX	
4.	Mark Whitmer	Hercules, CA	
5.	Linda Donsky	Mountain House, CA	<i>Dayna Whitmer, Hercules, CA</i>
6.	Linda Donsky	Mountain House, CA	
7.	Ashley donskey	mountain house, CA	
8.	Pam Boland	Grovetown, GA	
9.	David Dunkleberger	Doylestown, PA	For more impact, add a personal comment here

	Name	From	Comments
10.	Panagiotis Rigopoulos	Patras, Greece	
11.	Steve Klein	Montreal, Canada	
12.	Sharon Boyd	San Pedro, Belize	
13.	Dora Kassis	Athens, Greece	
14.	cara gubrud	milaca, MN	
15.	Stephen Puryear	san Pablo, CA	
16.	Howard Shaw	Emeryville, CA	
17.	Huong Nguyen	Stockton, CA	
18.	Jessica Donsky	Santa Rosa, CA	My cousing Matthew was a great human being, and since he has passed, his memory and his will to change the world will continue and will be passed down in our family. I think about him all the time, and know that he is happy being free.
19.	Robert Tiger	Boulder, CO	The number of people who die leaping off of the Golden Gate Bridge is staggering. This dark side of the legacy of what is otherwise a beautiful national treasure, and the terrible sorrow and loss that goes with each leap, can be easily ended. If raising the rails causes no structural impact to the bridge, there is absolutely no reason to not do it!
20.	Julie LaGuardia	San Ramon, CA	
21.	Frances Beeman	Pleasant Hill, CA	Dayna Whitmer is a good friend whose son jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge. At the time of depression, suicide is often a temporary thought to many. The Golden Gate Bridge has a history of suicides and may be looked upon as a more prestiges way to end your life. Raising the rail of the bridge would be a method of helping to prevent this.
22.	WILMA ADAMS	Richmond, CA	We only get one life in this world. Isn't it worth saving?
23.	Keith Atkins	Grass Valley, CA	Mattie I Love and Miss You , Uncle Keith
24.	Anne Mountain	Millville, CA	
25.	Louise Lanham	Pasadena, TX	
26.	Shelley Smith	Carlsbad, CA	In respect for people affected by disabilities of any kind, we MUST provide safe and secure public facilities as a RULE as a way of living a responsible inclusive life in integrity. When we have an opportunity to improve dangerous enviroments we cannot look the other way, we must take action for the good of all.
27.	George Smith	Carlsbad, CA	
28.	Steve Dale	Frankston,victoria, Australia	
29.	sandy funderburg	los angeles, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
30.	Kathleen Desforges	Solana Beach, CA	Please increase the size of the rails on the Golden Gate Bridge so no accidents can easily happen there. Ms. Desforges
31.	Janet Ketchum	Corte Madera, CA	When is the GG Bridge District finally going to do something constructive to help end this suicide site. Been reading about it for years...but nothing gets done. How many lives do we have to loose to finally get some action?
32.	Catherine Wathen	Arroyo Grande, CA	Please Raise the Rails! If they can get a barrier on the Eiffel Tower & Empire State Building, why not the Golden Gate Bridge? To choose aesthetics over anyone's life is absurd. And by doing nothing, you are choosing!
33.	Janice Rains	Concord, CA	Yes, we need to make jumping more difficult or impossible!
34.	Emily Perry	Sudbury, MA	
35.	John Brooks	Tiburon, CA	On January 29th of this year, at 6:40AM, my daughter Casey leapt to her death from the Golden Gate Bridge. Her body has not been found. She was a beautiful, spirited, fun-loving, popular high school senior preparing to go off to college to make her mark in the world. She was 17 years old and was my only child. Our entire community has been crushed. A brutally personal 9/11. Sadly, the Golden Gate Bridge is our dirty little secret, and this coming from a community that prides itself as caring and compassionate. For those of you who still oppose a suicide barrier let me ask you a question. Would you still feel this way if you lost the most precious thing in your life to the bridge?
36.	Therese Atkins	Sparks, NV	
37.	Autumn Burley	Crockett, CA	
38.	BiLL Fowlie	Harmony, ME	
39.	Tom Stearns	Burlington, VT	
40.	Jessica Marie Cash	Hercules, CA	Mattie was a mentor to me, another brother, and above all else he was one of the beat friends I will ever have. I hope that more people sign this and can see that this is something that truly needs to be done.
41.	Allan Ross	Chandler, AZ	If nothing else, let this be a gesture to those who feel like they have nothing left. The barrier will have been made by people who care enough to try and save your life. Maybe that will be worth more than a metal guard rail.
42.	Josh Vallis	pinole, CA	It is to bad that the city has not realized that this bridge has to many fatalities and they really need to do something about it. im sorry to your family for your loss, my condolences. It is about time someone has made a move on this i thank you and wish you the best

	Name	From	Comments
43.	Rachel Hodge	Goldsboro, NC	I hope that this passes and they make the rail a lot more higher and we can prevent this from happening, we can sign this to make the rail higher and get a decrease in suicides on the GG Bridge !
44.	Laurie McHale	Arroyo Grande, CA	
45.	Joseph Johansen	Port Coquitlam, Canada	Knowing of the loss that survivors of suicide go through I fully support their efforts for a little piece of constant in a world that turns inside out in these events.
46.	Herbert Holmes	Las Vegas, NV	
47.	Darrell Freeman	Aberdeen, WA	
48.	Debra May	Arroyo Grande, CA	We can only imagine the grief and the heartbreak this family has suffered. Please, listen to this plea and help prevent future suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge. Thank you.
49.	Toni Sokoloski	Cummaquid, MA	
50.	kathleen unger	san francisco, CA	
51.	Sami Rayes	Portland, OR	
52.	john Houghton	carlsbad, CA	Being A Psycho Therapist, I'm familier with momentary suicidal irrationality. Given the time and effort it takes to climb "Higher Rails" could save more lives.
53.	Kevin Hines	San Francisco, CA	My name is Kevin Hines of the Bridge Rail Foundation, I am truly sorry for your loss and I know that the pain will never go away but you are doing a wonderful thing and I will do my best to get everyone I know to sign this petition and I know a lot of people who care about this cause. I will say a prayer for you and Mattew. I wish you well on this journey of healing.
54.	Delaney Genna	Rodeo, CA	
55.	Shanna Marie Fong	Hercules, CA	I only had the pleasure of knowing Mattie for a short period of time. He was a truly wonderful person and he will be missed dearly. I have seen what his death has done to those close to me, and we are determined to keep other families and friends from having to go through the same situation. Please raise the rails and help us prevent such tragedies!
56.	simara rose	los angeles, CA	
57.	Carl Darling	palo Alto, CA	I have witnessed someone jumping from the GG Bridge several years ago, and have shared the pain for the loss of his son with Mark Whitmer. I do believe this would prevent jumpers from being attracted to this place.
58.	Diane Pamplin	Fernley, NV	We spend so much time and money on public safety and security, yet suicide prevention is not addressed in proportion to the number of people it effects. Every measure possible should be taken to ensure the safety of EVERYONE.

	Name	From	Comments
59.	Michael Pamplin	Fernley, NV	
60.	Meg Ballash	Atlanta, GA	
61.	Seth Stern	East Brunswick, NJ	
62.	Can Atik	Ankara, Turkey	
63.	Stephanie Laguens	Chicago, IL	
64.	Patricia Linane	Arroyo Grande, CA	My heart goes out to you
65.	Doris Lew	Napa, CA	I am so very sorry for your loss. My husband and I, too, lost our only son to a suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge, in May 2007. And we, too, believe that a higher rail would have prevented his death. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts.
66.	amethyst leon	San Pablo, CA	
67.	Jessica L	El Cerrito, CA	
68.	courtnee stogner	Danville, CA	love is the movement, to write love on her arms
69.	Alexandria Lynberg	Coronado, CA	I live near the Coronado Bridge and there are NO railings! Just a small guard rail...suicides are no joke!
70.	Amanda Coggin	San Francisco, CA	I lost my boyfriend to suicide a year and a half ago. He didn't jump off the bridge, but I do believe that had he not had access to the means as to how he took his life, he may not have done it. As per the bridge rail, surprisingly, I was against it at first (even after my boyfriend's suicide). My first thought was that if they were going to take their lives, they would do it no matter what. Then I met Kevin Hines, spoke out, became a Board member of the NorCal Board of Trustees for The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and I learned a few things. Most importantly, I learned that 95% of those saved from jumping off the GG Bridge are still alive and well today. That set me straight. Now I know there should be a barrier and if nothing else, it is drawing attention to a cause that has been far too ignored for too long...mental illness and suicide prevention.
71.	Christine Gosney	Nipomo, CA	If this can save one life--it's worth the cost to add another railing, or to raise the existing railing. It just might give someone that extra second to reconsider his/her action.
72.	Jen Freitas	Oakland, CA	
73.	Nicole Haney	Brokem Arrow, OK	3.5 feet? my 5 year old nephew could easily climb over that.
74.	Mark Schulman	San Francisco, CA	
75.	Leigh Ann Miller	New Orleans, LA	I'm a public health professional & this is a public health issue. Prevention is key & often more cost effective than other options. Raise the rails!
76.	angela willson	Vacaville, CA	
77.	Adrienne Walker	Los Osos, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
78.	Dianne Hoffman	Waterford, WI	Dear Dayna, I am so proud of you for doing something so positive and so important through all your grief and pain. A railing 3.5 feet high is not tall enough to stop anyone. And if raising the railing saved <i>just ONE</i> life, and <i>one</i> family from going through the heartache of suicide that you and your family have endured, it would be well worth doing. I hope that the GGB District reads this petition and acts! Love you and we miss Mattie. Aunt Di and Uncle Dick
79.	Joey Wolosz	Yountville, CA	
80.	Teresa Dillen	San Francisco, CA	
81.	Esmeralda Alvarez	Hercules, CA	It was sad to here about this terrible loss! I knew of him by Jessica Cash herself, and I feel bad for his family & friends for his pass. Raise the rails!
82.	Elise Holmes	Loris, SC	I've lost more than just one person in my family due to suicide. Raising the rails could help others to stop and think more about what they're about to do. 3.5 feet is definitely not enough to stop anyone. I'm sorry for your loss, and it's so amazing how you want to do something like this to help others when dealing with your own pain. Raise the rails!
83.	AMY KNOX	San Ramon, CA	
84.	Janet Frishberg	Redwood City, CA	
85.	Geni Thayer	Tiburon, CA	
86.	Peta Cooper	San Francisco, CA	I've lost a family member and a childhood friend to suicide. And I have several friends who have been impacted in one way or another. Signing this is my committment to support a barrier of some kind on the GG bridge.
87.	Susan Groff	Oakland, CA	
88.	Le Anna Hopper	El Sobrante, CA	
89.	Charles Pratt	Hercules, CA	I realize that there are extra expenses but there is a lot of expenses in search rescue and medical.
90.	Ken Holmes	Novato, CA	
91.	Wendy Cruz	San Francisco, CA	Such a small sacrifice to save lives! It is a no brainer!! The Bridge will still look lovely and soo many lives will be saved. Once a person gets passed this impulse they may go on to live wonderful long beautiful lives. THis could be any of us. ANY one of us. PLease hesitate no longer and get this barrier up, FAST! For the future of our children..
92.	kaye fichman	san Rafael, CA	Our 19 year old daughter made two suicide attempts at the Golden Gate Bridge. She had been living with mental illness since age 8. The first time she was stopped by the Highway Patrol.The second time they saw her and tried to convince her not to <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
92.	kaye fichman	san Rafael, CA	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> jump but she could not be persuaded. The Coast Guard picked up her body right away. There isn't a single day we don't think of her and miss her. The Bridge is an alluring loaded gun in our backyard.
93.	Anne Gray	Manchester, MO	In memory of Bryce Broughton
94.	Sandra Jackson	Hancock, NH	I consider this to be a very worthwhile project, and long overdue.
95.	Heather Quisenberry	Pittsburg, CA	Dayna, I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful Matthew. I lost my son Alexander Lyndon on September 29 2005. He disappeared and was viewed jumping, but it took 2 weeks for me to be notified. He was 21. I will not stop until the GGBD does the "right thing" (the only moral imperative) and raises that damned rail. God bless you and your family Heather
96.	Betsy Maldonado	oakland, CA	I miss you Mattie xoxox
97.	Alan Dunkel	Hayward, CA	In loving support of Mathew's friends and family.
98.	Mariah Quisenberry	Pittsburg, CA	I miss you my brother Alex.
99.	Laura Ramirez	Walnut Creek, CA	WE ARE ONE
100.	patrick hgines	san francisco, CA	70 years of needless deaths! Raise the rail and end the deaths NOW
101.	Maria Rigazio	Oakley, CA	Death to any family, is hard to deal with, but for a suicide it is devastating.
102.	John Guillory	Oakland, CA	Raise the the rail. One life lost is one life too many, John G.
103.	Phillip Handin	San Francisco, CA	I have a dear friend who survived the jump from the bridge. He definitely would have been deterred had there been a barrier on the bridge. Do not allow the current condition to continue any longer. MOVE IT FORWARD NOW.
104.	Leilani Hernandez	Martinez, CA	
105.	Debra Graham	Eugene, OR	Our nephew and cousin, Matthew Whitmer ended his life in November 2007 by jumping from the bridge. Had there been a barricade, it might have made a difference in his decision to jump. A barricade installed now could make a difference for another person. Please construct the barricade immediately. Without it, additional families will suffer from a tragic lose. Deb, Mark, Jennifer, Jessica and Mikah Graham
106.	Kay Derrico	Walnut Creek, CA	Suicide is preventable! Many of us have been impacted by suicide; let's do the best we can to minimize this terrible outcome.

	Name	From	Comments
107.	Christian Pitkin	San Francisco, CA	Being that my Dad took his life 5 years ago due to Depression, I completely understand what it's like to lose a loved one to suicide. And it makes perfect sense to build a preventive rail on the Golden Gate Bridge. This will save LIVES!!!
108.	Tina Wilson	Concord, CA	Please, Raise the Rails and Save Precious Lives!
109.	Tom Sooy	Houston, TX	This is a no-brainer. Spend the money and raise the rails. When the site is not available perhaps those needing help will seek the help they need.
110.	LEANN DRICKER	MARTINEZ, CA	MY GOOD FRIEND MATT DIES ALSO RAISE THE RAIL
111.	Lucy Santiago	Milwaukee, WI	I'm so sorry for your lost of your son. I can't even imagined what it would feel liked loosing a loved one, particulrly when it can be prevented it. It makes me more than happy to signed this petition for others whose life can be saved .
112.	anonymous anonymous	SF, CA	
113.	Jayne Crabill	Woodbridge, CA	We lost our oldest son, Ross, in March 2007 when he jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge after being on anti-depressants for only 5 weeks. He was only 23 years old and much loved by many friends and family around the world. He was a very caring, loving young man who will live in our hearts forever.
114.	Dave Hull	Oakland, CA	The NYTimes Magazine article on bridgerail.org is a watershed article, upending the traditional and now dated view of suicide as inevitable. We lost our daughter Kathy over four years ago, but the loss is not over and done with, it is ongoing. Every parent in the Bay Area has cause for serious concern over the low rail on that bridge.
115.	Louise and Fred Krieger	Brightin, MI	We lost a young family member due to a suicide off the Golden Gate Bridge in 2007. I had no idea it was such a problem there. It is amazing to me that something hasn't been done to install a railing before and that it has taken so long to get a railing installed. I think this railing should be installed tomorrow!
116.	Robert Gomez	Concord, CA	Please don't delay any longer and save some lives now
117.	Carol Roadenbaugh	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA	
118.	Jackson Grant	Norman, OK	Please raise the rails on the Golden Gate Bridge. I lost my great friend Ross in 2007 off the Bridge, and his family lost an incredible son/brother/cousin. It would be an outstanding service to the friends and family of those lost off the Bridge to fix it in a way that will prevent future suicides.

	Name	From	Comments
119.	Liz and Mike Muench	Westlake Village, CA	<p>My dear cousin's oldest son, Ross, tragically ended his life in March 2007 by jumping off the Golden Gate bridge. Through all this we learned that it only takes 4 seconds to end your life by jumping off the GG bridge. If there had been a deterrent like a barrier, that might have made the difference. The posted signs are not enough as there is reputed to be an average of 24 deaths by suicide per year off that bridge. This is a historic and beautiful bridge but unfortunately, for our whole family and the many friends Ross had and people he touched, it now has a different meaning. Please raise the rails and set an example for San Francisco- that of a caring city, a small price to pay for the lives that would be saved and the thousands of people who care deeply about those lives so they would not have to go through what we are going through.</p>
120.	Emmet McDonagh	San Francisco, CA	<p>I am one of the lucky ones - I got stopped by the CHP on a foggy day where the only thing that was stopping me was not wanting any walkers on the bridge to have a chance of seeing me jump because I wouldn't want them to feel terrible because they didn't do anything to stop me. That kept me out there for about 90 minutes walking back and forth between the 2 towers.</p> <p>A barrier will save lives - it's a proven FACT Barriers aren't ugly - ugly is ignoring the problem with lies and shallow and lame excuses A barrier will be built - the sooner it's done the less money it will cost Bridge architect Joseph Strauss (who wanted a higher barrier) is probably ticked off that his masterpiece is still an immediate death magnet Visitors will no longer question why on earth people of this region haven't done the 1 and only thing that is needed to solve this 70+ year problem It is impossible for the barrier to prevent any more suicides - but the longer it takes someone to climb it the better, and safety for rescue help is something that must be addressed before a design is chosen Yes, studies take "X" amount of time - but let's remember this: With every passing day that there is no barrier there is the high risk of an innocent, confused, good-hearted person who can be a valuable asset to our society losing their life If there's any reason to speed the process that's the best one I have</p>
121.	Laszlo Privari	Grass Valley, CA	<p>It is about time that the Bridge District makes a serious effort in preventing suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge. It has been discussed for the past 35 + years, and no results. Please do something!!!</p>

	Name	From	Comments
122.	Dana McMullen	El Cerrito, CA	This is essential to save many lives! The debate is clear. Without a barrier, we continue to loose valuable members of our society. This is not only unecessary but unconscionable.
123.	Toni Papia	Oakley, CA	
124.	Terri Ybarbo	Lumberton, TX	Help save a life. Please.
125.	Art Kane	Santa Rosa, CA	
126.	mary(Mimi) goodall	Martinez, CA	I have seen the impact suicides have on the remaining families and friends. Anything we can do to deter the person from action, untill the temporary feelings of hopelessness abate, must be done! Raise the rails, it's a common sense, no brainer!!!
127.	Morgan C.	Smithville, OH	
128.	Kita Curry	Culver City, CA	It's not true that the people who jump off the Golden Gate Bridge would just go elsewhere if a rail were added. Removing lethal means has been proven to reduce the incidence of suicide. We put stoplights at busy intersections to save lives; adding a rail to the Bridge is an analagous preventive measure. Only the stigma associated with suicide can explain our very different reaction to the two life saving interventions. The majority of people who survive suicide attempts are grateful--as is Kevin Hines, one of the few people to survive a jump of the Golden Gate Bridge. In fact, a study of 500 people who were prevented from jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge over a 40 year period found that nearly 94% were still alive or had died of natural causes. Kita S. Curry, PhD, President/CEO Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center Culver City, CA Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Our Suicide Prevention Center
129.	Dixie Kendall	Pasco, WA	
130.	Katy-Marie Becker	Phoenix, AZ	
131.	Magruder Taylor	Vallejo, CA	I hope my signature contributes to the prevention of future suicide attempts. Raise the rail on the Golden Gate Bridge.
132.	Siobhan Mills	Surprise, AZ	
133.	shawna mcguire	Phoenix, AZ	
134.	Heidi Kendall	Pasco, WA	
135.	Juile Kinloch	Oakland, CA	I believe that it is an ethical imperative that the Bridge District agree to the construction of a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. Suicide is so often the impulsive act of an individual in a time-limited mental and emotional state. If we truly value life, we would choose to make all <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
135.	Juile Kinloch	Oakland, CA	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> obvious, desirable and highly lethal venues like the bridge as inaccessible as possible. Regardless of whether some individuals would simply use other means if the bridge was less accessible, erecting a barrier sends the message that we care enough to stop suicide where we know it will otherwise happen and were we clearly have the ability.
136.	Hollyanne Stevens	p.h.x, AZ	
137.	virginia garrison	longmont, CO	my closest cousin's oldest son, Ross Crabill, also ended his life by jumping off the Golden Gate bridge. He was a wonderful boy from an outstanding family. God only knows why a college graduate, and outstanding student would want to do that, but if it's extremely difficult to jump from the bridge, then maybe kids wouldn't do it. Please raise the rails. Even if it saves only one life, it's worth it.
138.	Anita Kofta	Holmen, WI	
139.	Lucy Jonas	Livermore, CA	As a California constituent and resident of the Bay Area, I urge you to facilitate the implementation of an effective suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge. The number of suicides that have occurred at the bridge over the past 70 years is appalling--over 1000 people have died--and it is imperative that you take action immediately.
140.	Marilee J. Layman	Manassas, VA	I didn't know the suicide rate on the Golden Gate Bridge was so high until a friend's son jumped last year. I can't imagine that, given the study information showing that most people who are stopped from suicide go on to live long lives, people would prefer to keep a "pretty" bridge rather than saving lives.
141.	Ed K	pasco, WA	
142.	Lauren Bunnell	Los Angeles, CA	My friend Henry jumped off the Bridge last May and changed my life forever. I know that Henry's suicide was mostly impulsive and had there been a barrier, he probably would not have killed himself. Building a barrier is essential in decreasing the number and (strangely) the glamor of jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge.
143.	Arline Lewis	Clovis, CA	I lost my daughter to suicide 14 years ago. She was 21, married, and left a young husband and two sons behind. The pain a family goes through is never ending. Why would you prevent a child from running into the street, but not build a barrier to protect a person from jumping off a bridge? Neither of them, at that moment in time, know better. If they were thinking straight, they wouldn't be on the bridge in the first place. It appalls me that few people seem to care what happens to those 30 people a year. What if your child is the next one to jump? Would you care then?

	Name	From	Comments
144.	Jessica O'Rear	Redwood City, CA	
145.	Craig Maas	Lodi, CA	My best friend through high school and college ended his life by jumping from the bridge. The day I found out was the worst day of my life.
146.	lynne purcell	napa, CA	
147.	John Valdez	Antioch, CA	
148.	Jill Thuman	El Dorado Hills, CA	Please do it now!
149.	Jan Bettencourt	Irwin, PA	In memory of Alex
150.	Jeffrey Finder	El Sobrante, CA	This will also prevent people from being thrown off the bridge, which is how someone I knew was murdered to make it look like a suicide.
151.	Jennifer Goldberg	Livermore, CA	
152.	Rebecca Munoz	Martinez, CA	Saving one life is critical! Not only preventing suicides at the time should be deterred, but aftercare should be implemented -- anyone trying to jump making a call for help! Let's help them recover and get them the necessary medical attention to assist them live out the rest of their natural life.
153.	nick rodriguez	antioch, CA	
154.	Gloria Hill	Pleasant Hill, CA	Suicide results from untreated mental illness. The mentally ill are viewed as the untouchables of our society. The brain is part of the body and no one needs to be ashamed to get and ask for help. It is terrible that there is so much stigma. Many lives have been lost and will continue to be lost until we educate the public and start in elementary schools.
155.	Kevin Atkins	Sparks, NV	
156.	Joe Castano	Danville, KY	No mater the cost, if just one life is saved. It has paid for it self many times over. This can be a model for other states.
157.	Janice Tagart	San Francisco, CA	Building a barrier, while initially costly, will save a great deal of money now spent on bridge patrols, coast guard rescue activities, CHP involvement in suicides, etc.
158.	Teri Barnett	Martinez, CA	
159.	Maralyn Atkins	Eugene, OR	Please fix the bridge as it should have been done in the beginning. I lost a grandson last November and if guards were in place maybe he would still be with us today. Please save some lives and do the right thing. God Bless you
160.	peter alexander	san rafael, CA	In Alisha's memory. our beloved daughter
161.	Larry Lew	Napa, CA	Stop the deaths, build the barrier!
162.	Sharon Park	La Canada, CA	
163.	Pankaj Shah	Des Plaines, IL	

	Name	From	Comments
164.	Gloria Cevallos	San Francisco, CA	Thank you for doing this Dayna. We will get this done in memory of our Matthews and to prevent the thousands of families and friends from having to feel the devastation that we are feeling right now.
165.	Dale Russell	Eugene, OR	This is my Sister's son, Matt. He live was taken too soon. Please do something, so another family doesnt have to have the same heartache.
166.	Theresa Meier	Bartlesville, OK	
167.	SHELLY HERRING	SPRINGFIELD, OR	Its sad that we have to ask that something be done. This kind of thing affects everybody even if you havent lost a loved one this way. But if you look at it, you will know somebody who did and so on and so on.
168.	Raymond Zablotny	San Francisco, CA	We also lost our 18 yo son Jonathan to this bridge. It is essential that a barrier be erected to protect others from their brief times of intense psychic pain. The evidence is clear that barriers protect people from momentary impulses.
169.	andria falcon	santa rosa, CA	Please raise the rails and save lives!
170.	Jane Core	Benicia, CA	
171.	Robin Hudson	Tulsa, OK	If there is anything that can deter someone who is thinking of ending their life it should be done without question!! Save a life!!
172.	Pamela Schultes	Bartlesville, OK	Anything that helps deter even 1 of our young Americans from committing suicide is worth voting for.
173.	Charles Pratt	Hayward, CA	
174.	Jules Chan	San Francisco, CA	
175.	Terry Oxford	San Jose, CA	My only daughter, Jennifer Oxford, jumped to her death in February of 2005. Her actions were documented on the bridge cameras. Because of physical limitations, the 3 1/2 foot railing gave this site easy access to an almost guaranteed opportunity to escape from the physical and amotional pain she was feeling at that time. How sad that only 3yrs later her disease, Fibramyalgia, is now recognized in the medical community and treatment is available. We believe that if this site had not made it so "easy" for her to "escape", she would be with us today. It provided a way for her to leave without worry of (1) not succeeding and ending up in a vegetative state, (2) knowing her family/friends would find her and have to deal with that emotional pain. Words fail us when we think of our gratitude to the officer whose quick reactions upon finding Jennifer's car and the Coast Guard members who went to sea at 2:00am on Friday, February 19, to find Jennifer and bring her home to us. Thank you! To the Whitmer family, our hearts go out to you. The only pain worse than ours is not knowing what happened to your <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
175.	Terry Oxford	San Jose, CA	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> child and not being able to bring them home. To the member of the GGB Board, I pray each day that you, your family, your friends and their friends are spared this grief. Please raise this railing now. Please show the world that one life lost is one too many and that this negligence will not be tolerated "on your watch".
176.	Hannelore Barnes	Mill Valley, CA	For my classmate, Will Hudner.
177.	Joanne Critchley	London, United Kingdom	
178.	Kirsten Raschko	Napa, CA	
179.	Rachel Viegas	Corte Madera, CA	In January of this year, my friend Casey took her own life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. They never found her. I love her and miss her. I am convinced that, if there was a barrier on the bridge, Casey would still be with us today. Rest in peace and love.
180.	Lenette Viegas	Corte Madera, CA	I have lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for my entire adult life. I have always looked at the Golden Gate Bridge as a form of beauty until recently. Although I was somewhat aware of the bridge's "history" where suicides were concerned, I was oblivious to the numbers of suicides as well as the numerous pleas to raise the rail. I can speak from experience when I say that suicide is often an impulsive act, and can also state with great certainty, had the bridge been available to me in my teenage years, I would not be here today. I am now happy to be alive and a parent to 2 beautiful children who recently lost one of their classmates in what I consider to be a criminal act....she took her life by jumping off the GG Bridge. I use the term criminal, because it never should have happened, and would NOT have happened, had officials been more concerned with human lives rather than "the view". Casey, Matthew, Henry and so many others, maybe just another jumper to you.....Daughters, Sons, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Mothers, Fathers, Grandmothers, Grandfathers, Uncles, Aunts and Friends to us. Now they're gone.
181.	Theresa Williamson	Torrance, CA	Had a coworkers son jump from the bridge, current barriers are a joke, its too easy climb over!
182.	Ann Cummings	Antony, France	My son died by jumping off a bridge into a canyon in 2006.
183.	Michelle husby	El Sobrante, CA	
184.	Margaret Ely Hart Lewis	Kentfield, CA	I have lived in Marin all my life, almost 60 years, and have known three people who died jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. Please honor them by erecting a barrier to prevent other families from the pain of suicide.

	Name	From	Comments
185.	Carolyn Makens	Tiburon, CA	It is a tragedy that we have allowed even one teenager to jump from this bridge without doing anything. I am an average parent of average children and our family has personally known two teenagers who were from good families that have chosen to jump of the bridge from Marin county. We must not allow this to happen to our youth. We have an obligation as adults to protect our young from danger and it is a shame that we have done nothing but try to hide this problem. I am sure that every teenager that jumps within seconds regrets their decision without any chance of being saved.
186.	Katharine von Fischer	Larkspur, CA	I have worked for the Suicide Prevention Center in the past and as a retired psychotherapist can attest to the temporariness of the suicide impulse, especially in young people. Please place an appropriate preventative fence on the bridge.
187.	Andi Alnwick	Brooklyn, NY	
188.	William Pickelhaupt	San Francisco, CA	It is time to save lives!
189.	Nanette Orman	Half Moon Bay, CA	I berlieve it is not only humane, but a practical step to add a suicide barrier to this bridge, eliminating not just waste of life, but the current costly and inefficient patchwork of bridge patrols, cameras, searches by the Coast Guard, etc.
190.	Bill C	Southern Pines, NC	
191.	roger grimes	san francisco, CA	For those who have power in this matter, please show compassion for people who are in pain or have a mental disorder. Don't make the bridge a suicide magnet for the unfortunate among us.
192.	Jen Howells	Tunbridge Wells, United Kingdom	
193.	Heather Warnken	OWINGS MILLS, MD	
194.	Christine Foley	Belvedere, CA	Making it harder to commit suicide by raising the rails is no different from keeping guns, pills and other dangerous substances locked up away from those who may want to do themselves harm & much advertising has been spent on those cause - so it should be for the bridge.
195.	Joshua Weil	Santa Rosa, CA	I support a barrier to improve safety and decrease the risk for impulsive suicide attempts.
196.	Choon Seok Koh	Yeosu, Korea, Republic Of	Safety is always important, anytime, anywhere.
197.	Steven Viegas	Corte Madera, CA	It's time for the GGB officials to take responsibility for allowing so many people to die, who could have had a chance at life. Make it right!!!
198.	Jay Lee	Yeosu-si, Jeollanam-do, Korea, Republic Of	

	Name	From	Comments
199.	Jae Hun Jeong	Yeosu-si, Korea, Republic Of	Jae Hun Jeong
200.	Bruce Hull	Ventura, CA	
201.	Ronald Marrelli	Bountiful, UT	As a leader in my church I have counselled and refered several people with different forms or mental illness to professionals who help people with such illness. This is a serious and growing problem. Any deterrent to suicide can help people not make unrepairable decisions.
202.	Ronald Bogin	El Cerrito, CA	
203.	Lucy Oh	Santa Rosa, CA	
204.	Bob Brandriff	Berkeley, CA	
205.	Kristen Alexander	San Luis Obispo, CA	
206.	M Frantz	San Luis Obispo, CA	
207.	Tracy Follmer	Scottsdale, AZ	
208.	Jeong-IK KIM	Seoul, Korea, Republic Of	
209.	Virginia Dugas	Atascadero, CA	Kristin, I'm touched that you would humbly ask for our support. Our family is happy to sign the petition and forward it to other caring people. Sorry for your loss and everyone else who has lost a loved one to mental illness and or suicide. The Dugas'
210.	Maryke McDougall	Cape Town, Somalia	
211.	Pamela Larter	Morro Bay, CA	My heartfelt prayers reach out to all of the families. My hope is for a solution to this problem. I will be happy to forward this to others. Thank you Virginia. Godspeed
212.	Danielle Thulin	Redondo Beach, CA	
213.	Brian Alexander	Yucaipa, CA	I hope this problem is solved soon! Before too many more loses!
214.	Sara Stevens	Charlotte, NC	
215.	Amber Flounders	Denver, CO	
216.	John Peterson	Mcminnville, OR	
217.	kathleen turner	wakefield, MA	
218.	Angela VanCleve	Alachua, FL	
219.	kenyatta yamel	Milwaukee, WI	
220.	Elena Pintilie	Toronto, Canada	
221.	Christine Sacco	Wakefield, MA	Please spare other families the pain these families have had to go through by adding a deterrent. Thank you.
222.	Joseph Neale	Wakefield, MA	
223.	diane mueller	Rocheport, MO	Mattie lives in our hearts

	Name	From	Comments
224.	Marcie Leach	San Rafael, CA	I personally know at least one person who survived and is glad he did and so are his relatives and friends. I also personally know another family whose only son jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge and they will always wonder what <i>could have happened</i> . <i>I too lost a son and cannot begin to describe how heart-rending this is</i> . Please do anything you can to prevent this happening to others
225.	Amy Spooner	Burlington, VT	By raising the rails many lives will be saved. Please re-construct the bridge and make it safer for people. It is unfortunate that people become frustrated and combined with their mental illness they make such poor choices. I pray for them and ask God to guide them through their thoughts before they make this horrible choice; however by raising the rails thus making it more difficult for people to jump the possibility of preventing this from happening is increased...Please make the bridge safer so that no more lives are lost...
226.	Walter and Joan McMullen	Longmont, CO	
227.	Linda Beal	Lincolnshire, United Kingdom	
228.	Stefanie Gardenhire	Los Angeles, CA	
229.	Diana Ashkenasy	Montebello, CA	The fact that SF hasn't acted on deterring people from jumping from the GG Bridge by building some type of obstacle is a black mark on the City! Do the Directors of the GG Bridge really think that if it's not a widely known fact that even ONE life/family has experienced this tragedy it won't affect others? Time to stop sweeping this calamity under the rug. Time to put something up so it makes it nearly impossible for these tragedies to happen. Time to be able to look at the GG Bridge as a thing of beauty, not one of personal sadness and tragedy.
230.	Brenda Stuckmeyer	Florissant, MO	
231.	STEFANIE MANNEL	vacaville, CA	Regardless of the fact that these barriers are adding to the structure of the bridge's original beauty, WE ARE LOSING LIVES! I know of two young people, Mattie Whitmer and Kenny Sugo. They were too young to have died!
232.	Melanie Roys	Goose Creek, SC	
233.	karen bergeron	Montreal, Canada	my heart goes out to this young man's family, i to lost a very good friend after he jumped off the jacque cartiers bridge in 2003 since then the goverment has put up steel netting so that some thing like this would not happen again. i am so sorry for the families who have lost loved ones to the bridge
234.	Agnes Agnesa	Bangkok, Thailand	

	Name	From	Comments
235.	Maria Oniga	Medias, Romania	
236.	Dimitrije Spasic	Belgrade, Serbia And Montenegro	
237.	Jacinthe Vigneault	St-hubert, Canada	
238.	Radwen Tounsi	Tunis, Tunisia	
239.	Randy Lankford	Vincennes, IN	Now is the time for us all to work to try and prevent this tragedy. No one should feel the pain of losing someone this way.
240.	Jill Epley	Wheatfield, IN	
241.	Chris Kuhar	Alexandria, VA	
242.	Alice Olivo	Trebaseleghe, Italy	
243.	Stephanie Downey	Bemidji, MN	Suicide is preventable. Please "Raise the Rails" now.
244.	Laura McAmis	Oakland, CA	
245.	Jean Hull	Oakland, CA	Please create a barrier to suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge. Too many lives have been lost.
246.	Lance Ashkenasy	Montebello, CA	Build a barrier, any barrier, just do what it takes to end the suicides off the Golden Gate bridge!
247.	Erika Brooks	Tiburon, CA	Our only child, Casey died jumping from the bridge on Jan.29th, 6 1/2 months ago. She is irreplaceable. She had worked hard for over 12 years to prepare for her next big step in life, going to college, and had already been accepted at Bennington College in VT. No one, not even her best friends, therapist or us, her parents, had an inkling that she was feeling like "ending it all". She woke up at 5am that morning and drove down to the bridge and jumped before the sun even rose. Her body was never found and SHE IS NOT EVEN BEING COUNTED AS ONE OF THE poor souls who have tragically ended their lives there. Her grave is the waters under the Golden Gate Bridge, and I can't even place a cross or memorial there, or I'll be arrested and forced to take it down.
248.	Andrew Chlebus	Providence, RI	The Golden Gate Bridge is a beautiful and magnificent engineering accomplishment. It would become even more beautiful if we can minimize the reminder that it has served as the site of so many horrible suicides that take so many lives and affect the lives of many grieving families. Human life is more important than the slight visual impact of a barrier.
249.	Scott Perkins	Columbia, MO	Please raise the rails.
250.	Karen Skvarek	Chicago, IL	
251.	Michael Cryer	Denver, CO	

	Name	From	Comments
252.	Pam Morton	Rhineland, WI	My life has been affected by individuals that chose to end their pain by taking their own lives. I have also witnessed the quality life that persons can have after a serious episode where their path to suicide was diverted and are now very thankful for that brief moment that made a difference and they decided not to take their life. Please raise the barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge as putting a 'wrench' into one's plan most often buys some precious time to help these persons when they feel they have no other choice.
253.	Carol Bischoff	Kerkrade, Netherlands	
254.	Bronwyn Hughes	Melbourne, Australia	
255.	Catherine Schmidt	Henderson, NV	
256.	Rondelian Brown	VACAVILLE, CA	I didn't know Mattie, I know his Mom Dayna and she is a wonderful Medical Professional and person and I know that she was a wonderful Mom. I'm very proud of her for starting and supporting this petition to Raise the Rails and Save Lives. I'm sorry that Mattie's life ended so soon but I know that he's no longer in pain and that he is at peace in heaven with God.
257.	Anthony Cucchi	Clinton, MA	Please raise the rails, save lives!
258.	Ange Barrett	Castleford, United Kingdom	
259.	Mark Russell	Concord, CA	
260.	David Lesperance	Dundas, Canada	We did this in Toronto amidst concerns about the "visual impact". Those concerns are lost in the reality of lives saved and architectural awards.
261.	roxie schliesman	Holmen, WI	
262.	Razzle Dazzle	Oswego, NY	I am sorry for your loss. Hopefully, raising the rails will prevent other tragedies.
263.	Lisa Heier	Pompano Beach, FL	On December 28, 2006 my cousin Matthew jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge. His body was found one week later. My prayer is that no other family would experience the pain of losing a loved one off this bridge.
264.	Katharine Ellis	Berkeley, CA	I lost a friend to the bridge. I have worked on a suicide line and people have described their plans to jump from the Golden Gate or other public bridges. I have been depressed myself in my lifetime, and when I think of how to go, I think of the bridge. I don't want to think of it this way. I want it to be a landmark and a local source of pride. Please build a barrier so jumping isn't feasible. People commit suicide impulsively. They question their actions up to the moment they jump (or until they have completed <i>(continues on next page)</i>)

	Name	From	Comments
264.	Katharine Ellis	Berkeley, CA	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> another method). A barrier really will work. Let people walk on it and find solace in the beauty that surrounds them, not think about how easy it would be to slip away into the water. Thank you.
265.	LeAnn Wooldridge	Hayward, CA	My heart goes out to Matthew's family. Unfortunately, I can relate to the pain suffered due to the loss of a loved one to the Bridge. My boyfriend Larry of eight years ended his 40 year life much too soon on July 26, 2007. Many are worried that a barrier on the Bridge will diminish its' beauty, when in fact its' beauty diminishes more each year with each life lost that could have been saved. The rails must be raised!
266.	Shoshana Simon	San Bernardino, CA	
267.	John Dodge	Fremont, CA	Last year on 7-26-07, I lost my oldest friend. He was 41 years old and I'd been friends with him since I was 11 or so years old. To this date, my heart is broken and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't find myself sobbing in tears thinking about him. I am outraged that this bridge was even constructed in the first place without safety precautions. Since the beginning of time, when man was introduced to the concept of currency, his priorities have caused him to be driven into the pit of spiritual darkness. To those of you who have the power to make the final say, if you're not on the side of preserving life, you are on the side of terminating it! Be warned, there is a very high price to be paid. Peace and love in Christ Jesus Sincerely, John Adrian Dodge
268.	Amber Caylor	Hayward, CA	
269.	John Hull	Pearland, TX	A young niece of mine jumped from the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge to her death.
270.	Mary Jo Pugh	Walnut Creek, CA	A child of a friend died jumping from the bridge. It devastated her family and friends.
271.	Meg Barankin	Walnut Creek, CA	
272.	Christopher Dumbleton	Pleasant Hill, CA	
273.	Andy Quisenberry	White Plains, MD	I lost my nephew Alexander Lyndon from a jump from the bridge in 2005. Where I live SF is considered so progressive but you aren't progressive enough. The East coast is starting to frown on you guys over there. Quit acting so "cutting edge". Other iconic suicide magnets are WAY ahead of you in their efforts to resolve the problem. You're looking pretty bad San Francisco. It's pretty shameful. "Open up those Golden Gates, California here I come?" or is it "come jump off our Golden Gates, cus we don't give a damn"? I guess it's the latter.

	Name	From	Comments
274.	Caterina Harris	Brentwood, CA	
275.	Melani Van Petten	Oakland, CA	It's about time to face this issue and do something to help solve the problem of one of the most beautiful bridges in the world playing host to suicide.
276.	Jennifer Polci	Vancouver, Canada	
277.	Kathi Wilson	concord, CA	Please help to deter any future attempts of suicide off the Bay Bridge. I know that if a short period of time passes for the person contemplating suicide, they might likely change their mind about doing so if they do not find an easy way out, i.e. the Bridge. Thus the suicide could be prevented. Please help.
278.	MARGUERITE F. Huycke	Edmonds, WA	Dear friends lost a daughter in a suicide from the bridge. That momentary decision to end it all leaves lifetime burdens and heartaches for parents, relatives and friends from which it is impossible to recover. The bridge loses it's beauty when it is the vehicle for anyone to take his or her life.
279.	Melissa Coker	Newark, CA	
280.	Kate Sweeney	Yardley, PA	
281.	Patricia Beers	Folsom, CA	
282.	Collette Updegraff	Manchester, CT	Please raise the rails to save a life!
283.	Virginia Shimabukuro	Alameda, CA	
284.	Jody Reiss	San Francisco, CA	I'm a psychotherapist who has lost a client, a colleague, and the 17-year-old son of a colleague on the bridge. In the last 6 months, two of my clients have attempted suicide from the bridge. We can't call ourselves a civilized society without addressing this issue and make an attempt to save lives.
285.	Rafael Gonzalez	Irvine, CA	
286.	Marsha Stockton	Salinas, CA	My dear friends lost their daughter to a jump off the bridge, and I went their with them after to see what she saw before she jumped. If only it were a little harder to make the quick decision.
287.	Robbyn Jackson	San Francisco, CA	Raising the rail height WILL be an effective suicide deterrent. It would be unconscionable for the Bridge District to do nothing knowing that doing nothing will lead to more lives to be lost when raising the rail will lead to lives saved. In any business or industry in this country, knowing of a risk posed by one's facility that is not corrected leads to fines and civil judgments (wrongful death). This should be no different.
288.	Richard Geiger	Castro Valley, CA	Family friends lost their daughter on the bridge. We remember holding her as a baby and following her through life. Let's make the bridge safe!

	Name	From	Comments
289.	Renee Flower	Santa Cruz, CA	About five years ago, a friend's life was ended in a jump into the waters flowing under the Golden Gate bridge. I still miss her. The bridge was never the same for me after that event -- its orange red glow is now a monument to sorrow.
290.	Val Kofman	Mountain View, CA	
291.	HILARY MUSSON	SACRAMENTO, CA	I LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU MATTIE. EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE ABSENT IN BODY, YOU ARE STILL PRESENT IN SPIRIT.
292.	Anne Fleming	San Francisco, CA	
293.	Cristina Basques	Roseville, CA	I was not close to Matt but did meet him. He was an amazing person! Hilary (who will someday be what would have been his sister-in-law) is my best friend so i have seen what a tragedy this is. If the rails were higher or built differently none of this would probably have happened! May he rest in peace and may god be with the friends and family!
294.	Jenny Andrus	San Francisco, CA	For heaven's sakes, we are such a super safety conscious society and yet we still make it so easy for people to jump off the bridge. Stop it now! Build a barrier.
295.	Melissa Beasely	Rancho Cordova, CA	
296.	Frank Winters	Stewartsville, NJ	In memory of another Matt, who sadly took his life from the bridge. To put up a barrier seems like such a no brainer based on the sad statistics!! Put it up now, and help try to prevent more sadness and sorrow!
297.	Lisa Firestone	Santa Barbara, CA	
298.	Adriene Diamond	Oakland, CA	A client where I work took his life by jumping from the bridge - he was 28 years old. I absolutely support building a barrier to deter people from using the bridge as a means to end their lives.
299.	Christine Kaplan	Lafayette, CA	We lost our beautiful son Adam at the bridge last December 28, 2007. Adam had been diagnosed with Bi-polar illness a year prior. He was just 24 years of age. We believe it was an impulsive move made during a psychotic episode and that he chose the bridge because of the easy access that it affords.
300.	kayla unger	lafayette, CA	in memory of adam.
301.	Joe Coleman	Lafayette, CA	A barrier at the bridge is long overdue. Ken and Christine's loss of Adam last December heightened our awareness. But this is not a new problem. It seems hard to believe that it has been over 50 years since my aunt took her life at the bridge and nothing has been done.
302.	Lindsay Roach	San Francisco, CA	

	Name	From	Comments
303.	GINNY BRUZZONE	LAFAYETTE, CA	The proposed barriers add a significant and needed deterrent to potential suicide attempts. We lost a young man and dear friend in the prime of his life, just 24 years old, when he jumped from the Golden Gate Bridge this past holiday season. Had any one of the proposed barriers been in place, I believe he would be here today, contributing greatly to society and blessing our lives with his presence.
304.	Susan and Larry Ricksen	Lafayette, CA	In memory of Adam.
305.	Elana Kun	Belle Harbor, NY	It is imperative that measures be taken to prevent suicide at all costs. Even if it could save just one life, the financial investment would be worthwhile.
306.	Joanie Boyle	San Francisco, CA	I lost my nephew Adam on Dec. 28, 2007 at the GG Bridge. He was in the early phases of learning how to manage his bipolar disorder, which was diagnosed less than 1 year prior to his death. Unfortunately his treatment program had recently lapsed, and his disease got away from him before help could reach him. We strongly feel that his suicide was an impulsive act from the depths of his illness, and that the GG Bridge's 3.5 foot railing made it way too easy for him to act before his mood and impulse shifted. Losing him this way has been the most devastating loss imaginable for our family and his friends, and has impacted the lives of hundreds of others. We must build a barrier to suicide on the GG Bridge NOW to prevent this terrible tragedy from repeating itself again and again. Please, please make it happen this time, I and my family implore you.
307.	Karen Hillman	Oakland, CA	
308.	Ann Clarkson	Lafayette, CA	I lost my best friend's son on Dec. 28, 2007. I know that if it had not been so easy for him to carry out an impulsive decision he would still be with us today. Please build a barrier to prevent other families and friends from having to endure the pain of losing a loved one to suicide from jumping from the GG Bridge.
309.	Julia Inobe	Lafayette, CA	I lost a wonderful friend when he jumped from the golden gate bridge. Aesthetics is nothing compared to the value of human life. I truly believe the suicide was impulsive and could have been prevented with a larger barrier.
310.	Kathleen Bodnar	San Francisco, CA	Any of the suicide barrier designs would be great.
311.	Sandra Milligan	Colorado Springs, CO	We know that restricting lethal means to suicide helps. It is our responsibility to restrict means, even at a cost. We spend so much on other projects, this one is well worth the money. Please endorse.
312.	Gil Varon	Santa Barbara, CA	
313.	Gwen Moore	Colorado Springs, CO	

	Name	From	Comments
314.	Stephanie Scott	San Francisco, CA	
315.	Joanne Harpel	New York, NY	
316.	veronica rice	stone mountain, GA	I agree totally agree with your cause.
317.	Steve Hull	Oakland, CA	Raising a rail is an OBVIOUS requirement to for public safety and social responsibility. There is NO valid argument that can be made against social responsibility and safety. Cost is insignificant (compared to other public safety and social responsibility expenditures). "View" would actually be unaffected, but regardless, it is NOT a valid argument. If aesthetic must be preserved, close off foot traffic so that it can be safe. If foot traffic must be preserved, then rails must be raised SO THAT IT CAN BE SAFE. SAFETY CANNOT BE COMPROMISED.
318.	Robert Canning	Davis, CA	

Raise the Rails - Save a Life

In 2005, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District approved studies for wind tunnel designs and an environmental report to evaluate raising the railing along the pedestrian walkway of the Golden Gate Bridge to reduce suicides.

The wind tunnels studies showed several designs that do not compromise the structure of the bridge. The draft of the Environmental report has been released.

Part of the report lists the options available: 4 railing options, a net/capture device below the bridge AND **not doing anything** and letting **more than 30 people** continue to jump from the bridge **each year!**

Suicide is one of the more critical phases of mental illness, such as depression, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. A person is not thinking clearly and rationally at these times. The impulse for suicide is short-term and if the railing were higher it would prevent most people from taking a **permanent action** for a **temporary condition.**

We have the opportunity **at this time** to protect those who are unable to help themselves at a critical period in their lives.

The Board of Directors has been aware of the high potential and actuality for suicides from the Golden Gate Bridge for 70 years. The emergency call boxes and patrols have helped save many people each year (twice as many annual suicides) but these methods have done nothing to decrease the amount of suicides annually.

In fact, the number of suicides is rising.

NOW is the best time and opportunity to help stop mentally ill people from making an impulsive, irrational choice to take their lives in such an easy and lethal manner.

Please, Help us Raise the Rails and Save Lives !

~~~~~

**We the undersigned hereby petition the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to raise the height of the railing along the pedestrian walkways on the Golden Gate Bridge.**

|                                      |                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
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# Raise the Rails - Save a Life

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# Raise the Rails - Save a Life

|                                            |                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
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# Raise the Rails - Save a Life

|                                    |                                                     |
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| _____<br>Signature                 | _____<br>e-mail                                     |
| _____<br>Address                   | _____<br>City, State and ZipCode                    |
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| _____<br>Signature                 | _____<br>e-mail                                     |
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| _____<br>Address                   | _____<br>City, State and ZipCode                    |

22



# Raise the Rail—Stop the Suicides

We the undersigned hereby petition the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to raise the safety railing along the pedestrian walkways on the bridge. The site of over 1,300 suicides, the Bridge District has been aware of this problem for over 70 years.

Please sign below

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Signature *Debra*

email

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*Betsy SoBlanc*  
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email

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Signature

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Address

City, State & Zip Code

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Please sign below

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# Raise the Rail—Stop the Suicides

We the undersigned hereby petition the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to raise the safety railing along the pedestrian walkways on the bridge. The site of over 1,300 suicides, the Bridge District has been aware of this problem for over 70 years.

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Signature *[Signature]*

email *cre8ive\_nrg@hotmail.com*

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City, State & Zip Code

Signature *[Signature]*

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Address 15111 Hollyhock ct Lathrop CA 95330

CA  
City, State & Zip Code

Signature *[Signature]*

email *Ryan\_Sullivan@earthlink.net*

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San Mateo CA 94401  
City, State & Zip Code

Signature *[Signature]*

email *bridgerail@perc.a.us*

Address #22 A Deck Sausalito 94965

CA  
City, State & Zip Code

# Raise the Rail—Stop the Suicides

We the undersigned hereby petition the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to raise the safety railing along the pedestrian walkways on the bridge. The site of over 1,300 suicides, the Bridge District has been aware of this problem for over 70 years.

Please sign below

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Signature Ufamevio J. Cavallero

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Address 561 El Camino del Mar

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Signature Bail A Price

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Address

City, State & Zip Code

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Please sign below

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Signature Therese Du Dru

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email m-lee@stsu.edu

City, State & Zip Code San Francisco, CA 94112

Signature Larissa Gross

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email \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Signature Jessica O'Flaherty

Address 1000 Potrero West,

email \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code (Dumbarton) Ca 95142

Signature Michelle

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email \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature Mike Link

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email twigabrook@yahoo.com

City, State & Zip Code CA 94118

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Please sign below

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Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

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City, State & Zip Code

Signature Valeria Khebestniko

Valeria Khebestniko@gmail.com  
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Address

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Signature Linda Lee Lorentzen

linda.lor@sonic.net  
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Santa Rosa CA 95404  
City, State & Zip Code

Signature

email

Address

City, State & Zip Code

Signature

email


Address

City, State & Zip Code



# Help Raise the Rails and Save Lives !

We the undersigned hereby petition the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to raise the safety railing along the pedestrian walkways on the Golden Gate Bridge to stop the suicides from occurring.

|           |                                                                                     |                         |                                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Signature |  | e-mail                  | <u>bigpackintown@yahoo.com</u> |
| Address   | <u>3417 Serpentine Dr.</u>                                                          | City, State and ZipCode | <u>Antioch, CA 94509</u>       |
| Signature | <u>Ann Geegan</u>                                                                   | e-mail                  |                                |
| Address   | <u>1100 Belmont Ave</u>                                                             | City, State and ZipCode | <u>Vallejo CA 94591</u>        |
| Signature |                                                                                     | e-mail                  |                                |
| Address   |                                                                                     | City, State and ZipCode |                                |
| Signature |                                                                                     | e-mail                  |                                |
| Address   |                                                                                     | City, State and ZipCode |                                |
| Signature |                                                                                     | e-mail                  |                                |
| Address   |                                                                                     | City, State and ZipCode |                                |

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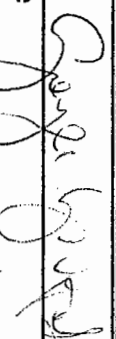
|           |                          |                         |                       |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Signature | <i>Marcel Breier</i>     | e-mail                  |                       |
| Address   | 1632 BROADHAVEN Way      | City, State and ZipCode | Pittsburg CA 94575    |
| Signature | <i>[Signature]</i>       | e-mail                  |                       |
| Address   | 5311 Ridgewood Circle #8 | City, State and ZipCode | El Sobrante, CA 94803 |
| Signature |                          | e-mail                  |                       |
| Address   |                          | City, State and ZipCode |                       |
| Signature |                          | e-mail                  |                       |
| Address   |                          | City, State and ZipCode |                       |
| Signature |                          | e-mail                  |                       |
| Address   |                          | City, State and ZipCode |                       |

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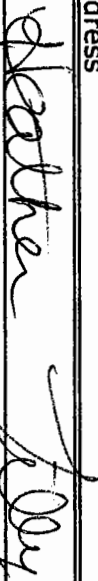
|           |                                                                                     |                        |                              |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Signature |  | email                  | Cruellar@stanford.edu        |
| Address   | 74 Barnes Ct. #579 SF                                                               | City, State & Zip Code | Stanford CA 94305            |
| Signature |    | email                  | lavagurl@earthlink.net       |
| Address   | 4333A Vachell Lane                                                                  | City, State & Zip Code | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401    |
| Signature |    | email                  | stincerebystacey@comcast.net |
| Address   |                                                                                     | City, State & Zip Code | Pleasant Hill CA             |
| Signature |    | email                  | Allifanlightfeet@yahoo.com   |
| Address   |                                                                                     | City, State & Zip Code | Orinda CA 94503              |
| Signature |    | email                  |                              |
| Address   | 1738 Milburn Dr Pleasant Hill                                                       | City, State & Zip Code | Pleasant Hill, CA 94523      |

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| Signature |    | email                  | juleschalich@hotmail.com        |
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| Signature |    | email                  | pegfastmail.fm                  |
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| Signature |    | email                  | dianepinness@yachar.com         |
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| Signature |    | email                  | wooltherilly@stanfordalumni.org |
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Please sign below

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Signature

*Christine McCarty*

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*ccarty@att.net*

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Signature

email

Address

City, State & Zip Code

Signature

email

Address

City, State & Zip Code

Signature

email

Address

City, State & Zip Code

Signature

email

Address

City, State & Zip Code



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Signature Rachel Weiss REEZBUZZ@comcast.net  
email

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature Roxanne Makoff rmakoff@sps.edu  
email

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail petitions to: **Bridge Rail Foundation, 3710 Sacramento St #466, San Francisco CA 94118**



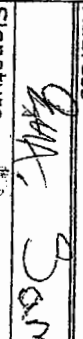




# Raise the Rail—Stop the Suicides

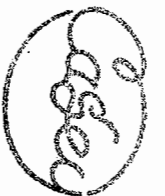
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|           |                                                                                     |                        |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Signature |  | email                  | jocelynmuis@yahoo.com   |
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| Signature |    | email                  | Dame@dreadnomail        |
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| Signature |    | email                  | festballsam@pacbell.net |
| Address   | 180 Stewart Dr                                                                      | City, State & Zip Code | Tiburon CA 94920        |
| Signature |    | email                  | Max.abrahams@du.edu     |
| Address   | 180 Stewart Dr                                                                      | City, State & Zip Code | Tiburon CA 94920        |
| Signature |    | email                  |                         |
| Address   | 180 Stewart Dr                                                                      | City, State & Zip Code | Tiburon CA 94920        |

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|           |                           |                        |                             |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Signature | <i>Angel T. J...</i>      | email                  |                             |
| Address   | <i>12 Ruben St.</i>       | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Novato, CA 94947</i>     |
| Signature | <i>Kina Gulorava</i>      | email                  |                             |
| Address   | <i>55 AEGUELLO cir</i>    | City, State & Zip Code | <i>SAN RAFAEL CA 94901</i>  |
| Signature | <i>BOB NADJINI</i>        | email                  |                             |
| Address   | <i>440 Delosby Ave</i>    | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Mill Valley CA 94941</i> |
| Signature | <i>Marcuma Monaco</i>     | email                  |                             |
| Address   | <i>360 Eastwood Ave</i>   | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Daly City CA 94015</i>   |
| Signature | <i>Ellen Lou Shapiro</i>  | email                  |                             |
| Address   | <i>160 SAN RAFAEL AVE</i> | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Belvedere</i>            |

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CA 94920



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Carbar0404@yahoo.com

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Sunnyvale CA 94087

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Pleasanton CA 94566  
City, State & Zip Code



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|           |                                           |                        |                                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Signature | <i>Kathleen Dwyer</i>                     | email                  | <i>Kathy@colwellbarker.ca</i>  |
| Address   | <i>Ken Dwyer<br/>21 Redwood Pass.</i>     | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Corte Madera, CA 94701</i>  |
| Signature | <i>Marie D. Hotal</i>                     | email                  | <i>marid109@chopman.edu</i>    |
| Address   | <i>3 Asplen Dr. Mill Valley, CA 94941</i> | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Mill Valley, CA 94941</i>   |
| Signature | <i>Jill Wood</i>                          | email                  | <i>jillwood@gmail.com</i>      |
| Address   | <i>2470 Washington St #201</i>            | City, State & Zip Code | <i>San Francisco, CA 94115</i> |
| Signature | <i>C. Dingwall</i>                        | email                  | <i>Cedmmie711@yahoo</i>        |
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| Signature | <i>Marilyn C. Jensen</i>                  | email                  | <i>mcjensen@aol.com</i>        |
| Address   | <i>209 Paradise Drive</i>                 | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Yuba City, CA 94990</i>     |

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|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Signature | <i>Elena E. Pease</i>       | email                  | <i>peaseseg@stopbridge</i>      |
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| Signature | <i>Jack Hurdley Lusk</i>    | email                  | <i>lusk@bridge</i>              |
| Address   | <i>4 Polaris Point Rd</i>   | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Belvedere, CA 94920</i>      |
| Signature | <i>Roger D. Givens</i>      | email                  | <i>mgivens@bridge</i>           |
| Address   | <i>56 E. ...</i>            | City, State & Zip Code | <i>San Francisco CA 94114</i>   |
| Signature | <i>William R. Gubler</i>    | email                  | <i>WRGUBLER@bridge</i>          |
| Address   | <i>160 Bayview Avenue</i>   | City, State & Zip Code | <i>Belvedere CA 94926</i>       |
| Signature | <i>J. ...</i>               | email                  | <i>Timeconquest@capital.com</i> |
| Address   | <i>44 Via San Fernando</i>  | City, State & Zip Code | <i>TL... CA 94926</i>           |

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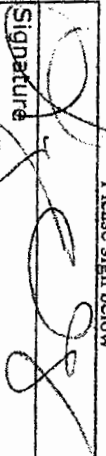
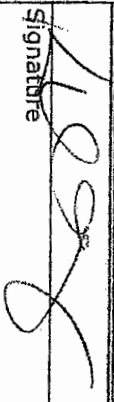
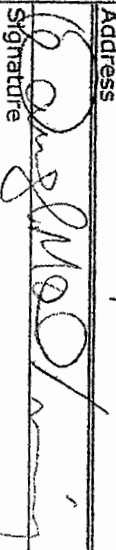


2500

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|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
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| Signature |    | robert@starengine.com      | email                  |
| Address   | 38 Sonoma Way                                                                       | CA, CA 94925               | City, State & Zip Code |
| Signature |    | darryl.delaney@comcast.net | email                  |
| Address   | 44 SPRINGRIDGE WEST, TIBURON, CA 94920                                              |                            | City, State & Zip Code |
| Signature |    | t-mask@vernetmail.com      | email                  |
| Address   | 115 ROCK HILL DR. TIBURON, CA 94920                                                 |                            | City, State & Zip Code |
| Signature |    | jeffrey.clauson@aol.com    | email                  |
| Address   | 1036 Camelia St. Berkeley CA                                                        | Berkeley CA 94716          | City, State & Zip Code |


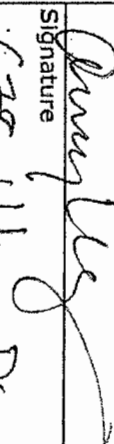



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|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Signature |  | email                  | nweirksner@gmail.com    |
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| Signature |    | email                  | amy-weirksner@gmail.com |
| Address   | 678 Hilary Dr                                                                       | City, State & ZIP Code | Tiburon CA 94920        |
| Signature |    | email                  | Sencthorndw@comcast.net |
| Address   | 6555th Ave SE                                                                       | City, State & ZIP Code | Mill Valley CA 94930    |
| Signature |    | email                  | lgrey@aol.com           |
| Address   | 17 Marina Blvd                                                                      | City, State & ZIP Code | Costa Mesa, CA 92626    |
| Signature |    | email                  | jgulick@gulickad.com    |
| Address   | 618 Riley Ave #11                                                                   | City, State & ZIP Code | Corte Madera CA 94125   |

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Testimony made by  
Christine Kaplan  
to the Board of Directors  
at the meeting of the Board of Directors  
on Friday, August 22, 2008,  
including an Executive Summary  
on Suicide Prevention  
from the CA Department of  
Mental Health





I am here regarding your upcoming decision about suicide barriers.

I would like to submit for your consideration, copies of the Executive Summary from the newly created Office of Suicide Prevention here in California. The Office of Suicide Prevention was created in February of this year, within the Department of Mental Health, after Californians passed Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, for improved Mental Health Care in our state.

This department's Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention is called:

"Every Californian is Part of the Solution"

This plan states one of its goals is to raise awareness that suicide is preventable and to create an environment that supports suicide prevention and help-seeking behaviors.

Reducing access to lethal means is an important component in their campaign because, and I Quote from this summary:

"Almost half of survivors of suicide attempts reported less than one hour passed between the decision to complete suicide and the actual attempt. Another 24% reported that time was less than 5 minutes.

Restricting access to lethal means can put time between the impulse to complete suicide and the act itself, allowing opportunities for the impulse to subside, or warning signs to be recognized."

You need to approve one of the 5 barrier options for the pedestrian walkway to give mentally ill people in crisis more than just one last hour of life.

And Until the barrier is erected, please, Please, seriously consider restricting access to the bridge or improve the current methods of intervention to further reduce suicides until the railing is changed.

# CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC PLAN ON SUICIDE PREVENTION: *Every Californian Is Part of the Solution*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### INTRODUCTION

The statistics about suicide are alarming. Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in California. Every year approximately 3,300 Californians lose their lives to suicide; more suicide deaths are reported in our state than deaths caused by homicides. On average, nine Californians die by suicide every day. Suicide and suicidal behaviors occur among all age groups and across all socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

The causes of suicide are complex. Too often there is lack of coordination between service systems and providers and a lack of knowledge about how to recognize the warning signs of suicide. And for far too long, suicide has been viewed as a taboo subject. Fear of stigma and discrimination surrounding suicide can be so pervasive that it often deters people from seeking help.

Suicide is a devastating tragedy in terms of the lives lost and the emotional heartbreak family members and other loved ones endure. This tragedy is even more distressing because suicide deaths are preventable.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger charged the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) with the development of the California Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention. DMH embarked upon this work in partnership with the Suicide Prevention Plan Advisory Committee composed of mental health experts, advocates, providers, researchers, and representatives from nonprofit and government agencies. The

Advisory Committee also included other important voices—survivors of suicide attempts and suicide loss. A copy of the Plan can be obtained online at [www.dmh.ca.gov](http://www.dmh.ca.gov).

The *California Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention: Every Californian Is Part of the Solution (Plan)* is built upon the vision that a full range of strategies, starting from prevention and early intervention, should be targeted to Californians of all ages, from children and youth to adults and older adults. The *Plan* is a blueprint for local and state-level action.

This Executive Summary includes a fold-out chart that summarizes the core principles, strategic directions, recommendations, and next steps that are detailed in the *Plan*. The six core principles are embedded in all levels of planning, service delivery, and evaluation across the four strategic directions. These four strategic directions are broad levels of focus that the recommended actions and next steps address. The recommended actions are not an exhaustive list, but they reflect critical priorities to reduce suicide and its tragic consequences. Finally, the next steps outline activities that should be taken at the state and local levels to begin implementing the *Plan*.

Suicide prevention must be a priority in our state. While many challenges lie ahead in carrying out this work, tremendous opportunities also exist. With thousands of lives at stake each year, every Californian needs to be part of the solution.



## THE PROBLEM AND THE CHALLENGE

Suicide is defined as the intentional taking of one's own life. Suicidal behavior is a broader term that also includes self-inflicted, potentially injurious behaviors. Suicides may be "hidden" behind tragic events, such as lethal overdoses of prescription or illegal drugs, single car collisions with a fixed object, or incidents when an individual engages in a life-threatening behavior that compels a police officer to respond with deadly force.

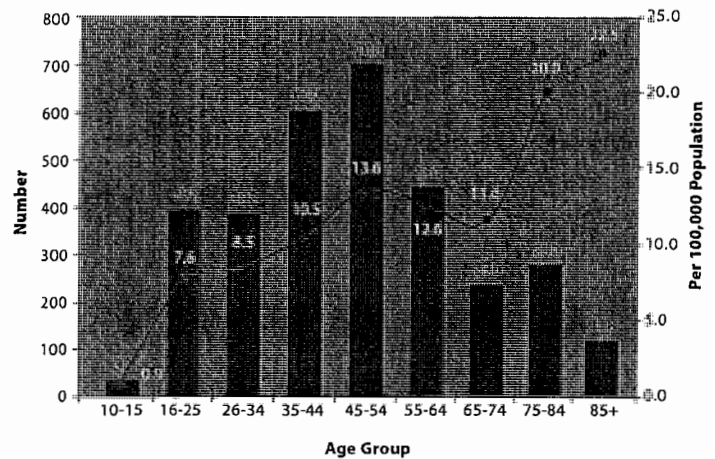
The causes of suicide are complex and vary among individuals and across age, gender, cultural, racial, and ethnic groups. The risk of suicide is influenced by an array of biological, psychological, social, environmental, and cultural risk factors. Many people who attempted or completed suicide had one or more warning signs before their death. Recognition of warning signs has a greater potential for immediate prevention and intervention when those who are in a position to help know how to appropriately respond.

Protective factors can reduce the likelihood of suicide by counterbalancing some of the risk factors. These protective factors include access to effective health and mental health care, strong connections to family and community support, and skills in problem solving, conflict resolution, and nonviolent handling of disputes.

### Who Dies By Suicide?

- Adults over the age of 85 have the highest suicide *rate* in California. The rate of suicide increases significantly with advanced age. Depression and chronic illness are often significant risk factors for suicide among older adults.
- The largest *number* of suicide deaths occur in the age range of 45 to 54.
- Among youth and young adults between 16 to 25 years of age, suicide is the third leading cause of death. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, strokes, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined.
- Males are three times more likely to die by suicide than females. Women attempt suicide three times as frequently as men and are more likely to be hospitalized for self-inflicted injuries, primarily from poisoning or hanging. Sixty percent of hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries are among females.
- Rates of suicide differ significantly among racial and ethnic groups. In California, whites have the highest suicide rate followed by Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, African Americans, Asians, people identifying as two or more races, and Latinos.

**Suicide Death Rates (Line) and Number of Deaths (Bars) in California by Age, 2005. (California Department of Public Health)**



### Factors Associated with Increased Suicide Risk

- According to the National Institute of Mental Health, as many as 90 percent of individuals who died by suicide had a **diagnosable mental illness or substance abuse disorder**. Certain psychiatric diagnoses increase the risk of suicide substantially, such as major depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse exacerbate the risk of suicide.
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation data indicate that suicide is the third leading cause of death in California's prisons. Nationally, more than half of all inmates in the **criminal justice system** have a mental illness; this rate is three times that of the general population.<sup>1</sup>
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that there are 1,000 suicides per year among **veterans** receiving care through the VA health care system and as many as 5,000 per year among all veterans.
- Many individuals who are **homeless** meet many of the criteria for elevated suicide risk, such as untreated mental illness, social isolation, poverty, and substance abuse. Studies have found that individuals who are homeless for longer than six months may be at particularly high risk.<sup>2</sup>
- Specific **immigrant and refugee** populations face additional issues pertaining to acculturation, family and intergenerational conflict, and access to culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services.<sup>3</sup>
- **Rural** states have the highest rates of suicide in the U.S., particularly among adult and older adult males and youth. Contributing factors may include availability and quality of mental health services, rates of gun ownership, and percentage of older adults in rural areas.<sup>4</sup>
- **Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning** individuals, particularly adolescents and young adults, have significantly higher rates of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts than their heterosexual counterparts.<sup>5</sup>

- Suicide is the second leading cause of **postpartum** maternal deaths.<sup>6</sup> Up to 14 percent of women report suicidal ideation during pregnancy and in the postpartum period. Perinatal depression is believed to be one of the most common complications women experience during and after pregnancy.

## Means of Suicide

Firearms are used in over 40 percent of suicides in California. Addressing access to firearms and controlled substances is one way to prevent many suicides.

Almost half of survivors of suicide attempts reported that less than one hour had passed between their decision to complete suicide and the actual attempt; another 24 percent indicated it was less than five minutes.<sup>7</sup> Restricting access to lethal means can put time between the impulse to complete suicide and the act itself, allowing opportunities for the impulse to subside or warning signs to be recognized.

## The Cost of Suicide and Suicide Attempts

Suicide has both immediate and far-reaching effects on families and communities. Beyond the emotional toll, there are also financial costs. The economic burden of suicide is spread throughout various systems, including education, hospitals, primary care, mental health, and corrections. The estimated cost for the over 3000 suicides and 16,000 suicide attempts that occur every year in California is over \$449 million per year, plus approximately \$3.8 billion in lost lifetime productivity.

## STRATEGIES FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide prevention encompasses a wide range of prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies that offer education, foster resiliency, and enhance protective factors in individuals and communities.

### Create a System of Suicide Prevention

A system of suicide prevention should include a range of services and programs designed to effectively meet the needs of individuals of all ages and from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds. The system's success would be judged on how well the parts are coordinated and build upon one another. To ensure that this system is effective, it is critical to assess the assets and gaps, make a plan, implement it, and reassess it. In addition, coordination and partnerships must occur at multiple levels.

**At the state level** an Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) has been established to provide a single point of contact and a central point of dissemination for information, resources, and data about suicide and suicide prevention programs. The OSP will serve as a liaison with national partners as well as other states, ensure that activities build on resources and materials where they already exist, and provide expert consultation on the development of local suicide prevention plans and activities.

**At the local level**, a broad range of partners need to collaborate to create a system of suicide prevention that crosses county, municipal, and district-wide jurisdictions. Local coordination efforts should include assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the wide range of suicide prevention efforts needed at the community level.

Ultimately, a **multi-level public health approach** is needed to create a system that reduces risk factors and enhances protective factors for individuals and communities. This approach broadly promotes wellness and health as well as early intervention for individuals at risk, and it can reduce the likelihood of multiple negative outcomes, including suicide, mental illness, and violence.

### Targeted Approaches

Several targeted approaches have been developed that provide services and supports that are tailored to the needs of a particular population at high risk, a type of setting, or a specific community need.

#### Suicide Prevention Hotlines

Hotlines are an effective way for people in crisis to reach out for help regardless of where they are or what time of day it is. Currently, California has eight accredited hotlines that are members of the National Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK).

#### Population-Specific Interventions

Due to the unique characteristics of different age groups and racial/ethnic populations, and the disparities in their access to services, effective suicide prevention approaches need to include outreach and intervention strategies specifically designed to target these groups.

##### *Older Adults*

Up to 75 percent of older adults visited their primary care physician within a month of their suicide, and the majority of them were not receiving mental health treatment. Many effective programs for older adults integrate mental health services with primary care and provide outreach, engagement, and education that are embedded within existing community structures and services that older adults commonly use.

##### *Peer Support Models*

A growing body of literature substantiates the effectiveness of services and supports delivered by individuals with direct experience of mental illness. Engaging individuals who have been impacted by suicide, including families, friends, and survivors, can be a powerful tool to prevent suicide and future attempts.

##### *Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Communities*

Employing culturally appropriate strategies make a substantial difference. To be effective in addressing suicide and mental illness, interventions need to incorporate knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes that reflect the families and communities they serve.

### *Children, Youth, and Young Adults*

Nationally, many more children and youth need mental health services than receive them. Among those who do receive services, most receive them at school. School personnel are in a key position to identify early warning signs of suicide risk and assist students in finding help. School programs can enhance the capacity to build resiliency among students by adopting curricula that teach problem-solving skills, conflict resolution, and nonviolent handling of disputes.

Unfortunately, many young people who are at high risk of suicide may have already stopped attending school or may have contact with the juvenile justice system. It is critical to develop strategies to reach out to these individuals through community groups, places where young people congregate, and co-location of youth mental health specialists in primary care settings.

### *Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement*

Several effective training models exist that educate officers about the signs of mental health problems and suicide risk and how to appropriately intervene while maintaining public safety. Programs such as jail diversion and re-entry offer models for collaboration between the prison system, community social services, and the community mental health system.

### *Employers*

Integrating suicide prevention into work settings through resource directories, education, and training may reach a large number of adults who may be at risk, but who are not likely to seek out mental health services. Resources and information should be available to all employees and integrated into existing employee support networks.

### *Veterans and the Military*

Strategies that take into account the specific experiences many veterans have had and the culture of the military are necessary to ensure that veterans receive the support they need. Given the magnitude of the problem, it is critical that the military, including the California National Guard and VA medical centers, are partners in suicide prevention.

## **Implementing Training and Workforce Enhancements**

Effective suicide prevention strategies depend on a trained workforce. Providers in multiple service fields must be equipped to recognize and intervene when suicide risk is present. Service guidelines need to be developed that lead to trainings that specifically address the concerns and missed intervention opportunities in different settings, such as primary care, emergency response systems, crisis centers, older adult and long-term care programs, schools, and the venues served by law enforcement and probation officers.

## **Educating the Public to Take Action to Prevent Suicide**

Effective suicide prevention strategies also depend on an educated public. Multiple strategies have been developed to provide appropriate information about suicide and how to find help in the community.

### *Gatekeepers*

Gatekeepers are members of the community who may regularly come in contact with many individuals, some of whom may be contemplating suicide but are not likely to seek mental health services on their own. Gatekeeper training targets a broad range of individuals, such as school health personnel, employers, faith-based and spiritual leaders, community-based service staff, and natural community helpers. This model has been shown to be particularly effective for helping older adults and young people.

### *Reducing Access to Lethal Means*

Reducing access to lethal means is an important component of suicide prevention when it is integrated with other local, regional, and state-level activities. Education about safe storage of potentially lethal means, such as firearms and medications, can save lives.

### *Public Awareness Campaigns*

Public awareness campaigns can be an important education strategy to reach large numbers of people. Nearly two-thirds of those who have a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment because of fears of stigma and discrimination. Educating the media and entertainment industry about how to accurately report and portray information about suicide can counter the adverse effects of stigma and reduce the "contagion" effect.

## **Improving Program Effectiveness and System Accountability**

While information is available about a number of effective and promising suicide prevention practices, much more needs to be learned about programs specifically designed to serve California's diverse population groups. With these substantial gaps in knowledge about how suicide impacts all Californians and how to better prevent it, a research agenda must be established to better develop responsive policies and design effective programs to reduce suicide's impact. Fortunately, California has the necessary partners and elements to take on this work.

### NOTES:

*[This section contains a very faint, illegible image of a document page with a grid pattern, likely representing a table or data set.]*

## CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC PLAN ON SUICIDE PREVENTION:

### *Every Californian Is Part of the Solution*

#### CORE PRINCIPLES:

- Implement culturally competent strategies and programs that reduce disparities.
- Eliminate barriers and increase outreach and access to services.
- Meaningfully involve survivors of suicide attempts and the family members, friends, and caregivers of those who have completed or attempted suicide, and representatives of target populations.
- Use evidence-based models and promising practices to strengthen program effectiveness.
- Broaden the spectrum of partners involved in a comprehensive system of suicide prevention.
- Employ a life span approach to suicide prevention.

#### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1:

##### *Create a System of Suicide Prevention*

Increase collaboration among state and local agencies, private organizations, and communities by coordinating and improving suicide prevention activities and services throughout the state, from health and mental health promotion through crisis intervention.

##### **STATE - Recommended Actions**

- Establish a statewide Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP).
- Engage a coalition of public partners to integrate, coordinate, enhance, and improve policies and practices.
- Develop a network of statewide public and private organizations.
- Convene and facilitate working groups that will address specific populations and issues.
- Expand the number and capacity of accredited suicide prevention hotlines based in California.
- Create a statewide consortium of suicide prevention hotlines.
- Identify and implement needed improvements in confidentiality laws and practices.

##### **LOCAL - Recommended Actions**

- Appoint a county liaison to the state Office of Suicide Prevention and convene a suicide prevention advisory council.
- Develop a local suicide prevention action plan.

- Enhance links between systems and programs to better address gaps in services and identify resources.
- Deliver services that reflect integration among systems providing crisis intervention, including health, mental health, aging, social services, first responders, and hotlines.
- Integrate suicide prevention programs into education institutions, services for older adults, the workplace, and the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
- Develop and promote programs that reduce or eliminate gaps for historically underserved racial and ethnic groups and other high-risk populations.
- Ensure that the county has access to at least one accredited suicide prevention hotline call center.
- Explore opportunities for training and consultation between counties to develop suicide prevention hotline capacity.

##### **STATE - Next Steps**

- Staff the Office of Suicide Prevention established on February 6, 2008.
- Issue an action plan that assesses the current level of activities and major gaps, and identifies objectives toward implementing the initial activities described in "Next Steps."
- Establish a technical assistance infrastructure to support local suicide prevention efforts.
- Establish a coalition of state-level organizations to coordinate suicide prevention efforts. The coalition should include:
  - K-12 and higher education
  - Services for older adults
  - Criminal and juvenile justice systems
  - Veterans' services
  - Health and mental health services
- Assess the current status of suicide prevention hotlines in California and build a consortium of accredited suicide prevention hotlines statewide.
- Support expanded functions for the accredited suicide prevention hotline centers, such as training centers and after-care services.
- Enhance the database for monitoring, tracking, evaluating, and reporting suicide prevention hotline calls in California.
- Provide technical assistance to expand or link accredited hotlines to additional venues and formats to improve access to information on local services.
- Provide technical support to counties to conduct a comprehensive assessment of suicide prevention services.
- Link and provide technical support to county-level advisory councils.

### **LOCAL - Next Steps**

- Appoint a liaison in each county to the state Office of Suicide Prevention.
- Convene or build upon an existing entity to establish a local suicide prevention advisory council to develop a suicide prevention system.
- Design and implement a comprehensive assessment of the existing county suicide prevention services and supports and the major gaps.
- Develop a local suicide prevention action plan through an inclusive community process based on the comprehensive assessment.
- Assess the capacity of local or regional accredited suicide prevention hotlines and take steps to achieve accreditation of call centers or build the capacity of already accredited call centers.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2:**

### *Implement Training and Workforce Enhancements to Prevent Suicide*

Develop and implement service and training guidelines to promote effective and consistent suicide prevention, early identification, referral, intervention, and follow-up care across all service providers.

#### **STATE - Recommended Actions**

- Convene expert workgroups to establish suicide prevention service and training guidelines and model curricula for targeted service providers.
- Expand opportunities for training for selected occupations and facilities.
- Determine which occupations are to be targeted for required training and to implement the requirements.

#### **LOCAL - Recommended Actions**

- Establish annual targets for suicide prevention training and develop and implement a plan to meet these targets.
- Increase the priority of suicide prevention training and tailor state guidelines to meet local needs.

#### **STATE - Next Steps**

- Assess the current criteria and standards for service and training guidelines that address suicide prevention, early intervention, treatment, and suicide attempt follow-up care for California's diverse population.
- Recommend, develop, and broadly promote standard service and training guidelines and curricula for targeted service providers. Review licensing and credentialing processes to assess viability of new training requirements.
- Coordinate and review surveys on local training needs and provide support to counties.

- Deliver "train the trainer" sessions for targeted service providers.

### **LOCAL - Next Steps**

- Review local Mental Health Services Act Workforce Education and Training assessments to expand suicide prevention training. If needed, conduct a supplemental survey for suicide prevention training and technical assistance needs. Set local training targets for selected occupations and develop a plan to meet those targets and measure progress.
- Tailor, disseminate, and promote service and training guidelines. Design and implement an inclusive community process to adapt guidelines as necessary.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3:**

### *Educate Communities to Take Action to Prevent Suicide*

Raise awareness that suicide is preventable and create an environment that supports suicide prevention and help-seeking behaviors.

#### **STATE - Recommended Actions**

- Launch and sustain a suicide prevention education campaign.
- Coordinate the suicide prevention campaign with any existing social marketing campaigns designed to eliminate mental health stigma and discrimination.
- Engage and educate the news media and the entertainment industry.
- Promote information and resources to reduce access to lethal means.
- Disseminate and promote models for suicide prevention education for community gatekeepers.

#### **LOCAL - Recommended Actions**

- Build grassroots outreach and engagement efforts to tailor the suicide prevention campaign to meet community needs.
- Engage and educate local media to promote greater understanding of the risks and protective factors related to suicide and how to get help.
- Educate individuals to recognize, respond to, and refer people demonstrating acute risk factors warning signs.
- Promote and provide suicide prevention education for community gatekeepers.
- Develop and disseminate directory information on local suicide prevention and intervention services.
- Incorporate peer support and peer-operated services models.

#### **STATE - Next Steps**

- In conjunction with any existing social marketing efforts, develop and implement an age-appropriate, multi-language education campaign to positively influence help-seeking behaviors and reduce suicidal behaviors.



- Obtain the necessary social marketing consultation to design, test, and promote the suicide prevention messages for target populations at risk for suicide.
- Support local efforts to engage and educate the media by disseminating resources from national suicide prevention organizations.
- Identify a strategy for reducing access to lethal means in California.
- Identify and disseminate models that counties can use to implement suicide prevention gatekeeper education.
- Conduct regional training to build local capacity of peer support programs.
- Design and maintain a web page for the Office of Suicide Prevention that provides links to information; identify and develop new information as needed.

- Make suicide and suicide attempt data easily accessible to the public and policy makers.

### LOCAL - Recommended Actions

- Increase local capacity for data collection, reporting, surveillance, and dissemination.
- Build local capacity to evaluate suicide prevention programs to improve those programs.
- Establish or enhance capacity for suicide death reviews and provide regular reports to the Office of Suicide Prevention and the local suicide prevention advisory council.
- Enhance reporting systems to improve the consistency and accuracy of data about suicide deaths.

### STATE - Next Steps

- Working collaboratively with local, state, and national entities, develop a California-specific research agenda. Design a process to identify priority activities from a comprehensive review of multiple data sources and an inclusive decision-making process.
- Improve data collection and reporting as well as surveillance systems to better understand suicide trends and the impact of protective and risk factors in diverse populations. Target research in key areas, such as policies and programs appropriate for specific ethnic, cultural, and age groups.
- Develop an evaluation component to track and monitor the statewide effort.
- Develop and disseminate data reports on special topics and specific target populations to enhance programs and service delivery.

**LOCAL - Next Steps**

- Coordinate local outreach, awareness, and education with other social marketing efforts to expand suicide prevention messages and information in multiple languages.
- Design and implement a strategy to better engage and educate the local media on the importance of appropriate and responsible reporting about suicide.
- Design a community education plan that may include a community calendar of activities promoting suicide prevention, integration of suicide prevention information into ongoing services, and localizing national and state suicide prevention events.
- Reach out to community gatekeepers to increase their awareness and participation in suicide prevention efforts.
- Develop and widely disseminate a directory of local suicide prevention services and locations necessary.
- Foster the development of peer support programs.

**LOCAL - Next Steps**

- Assess local data sources and reporting processes pertinent for suicide prevention and develop and implement a strategy to enhance data collection.
- Coordinate with the state Office of Suicide Prevention to build local capacity for program evaluation.
- Establish a suicide death review process and provide regular reports to the suicide prevention advisory council.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4:

### Improve Suicide Prevention Program Effectiveness and System Accountability

Improve data collection, surveillance, and program evaluation and launch a research agenda to design responsive policies and effective programs to reduce the impact of suicide in diverse populations.

### STATE - Recommended Actions

- Develop a California surveillance and research agenda.
- Test and adapt evidence-based practices and promote the evaluation of promising community models.
- Identify or develop methodologies for evaluating suicide prevention interventions.



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Testimony made by

David Hull  
of the Bridge Rail Foundation

to the Board of Directors

at the meeting of the Board of Directors

on Friday, August 22, 2008,

including a Position Paper

on “Suicide Prevention on Bridges”

from the National Suicide Prevention  
Lifeline



## **National Organizations Support Suicide Prevention Barriers**

As leading organizations dedicated to preventing suicide and ending the stigma of mental illness, we support restricting the means of access by which people die by suicide as a vital and effective approach for saving lives. This includes the construction of suicide prevention barriers on bridges such as those being considered for the Golden Gate Bridge. Numerous scientific studies examining the effectiveness of bridge barriers and other means restrictions support this position.

Barriers work by giving individuals and those who care for them something they desperately need – time; time to change their minds, time for someone to intervene and time to seek help. Despite many myths and misconceptions, suicide is often an ambivalent act, and many who attempt suicide don't want to die. Rather, they are seeking an end to psychological pain and great mental distress. Most have a definable and diagnosable psychiatric illness, substance use disorder, or both, which are often unrecognized and untreated.

Another common misconception is that those averted from a suicide attempt at a bridge will simply find another method to die – called “means substitution.” However, scientific research continues to raise doubt about this premise. Indeed, a specific study which followed up on 515 individuals who were thwarted from attempting suicide at the Golden Gate Bridge found that only six percent of these individuals later died by suicide. Further studies have shown that once barriers have been built at one location, deaths do not increase from other nearby bridges and overall suicide deaths can decline throughout the area after barriers are in place. Furthermore, bridge barriers have been shown to be very effective at reducing suicides among young men, a group for whom prevention efforts are very challenging.

Another benefit of building barriers is the reduction of media coverage of suicides from that location. We know from research that media coverage of suicides from a specific location can contribute to copycat suicide also known as contagion. An effective barrier would reduce suicides and the subsequent media coverage, thus helping to remove the allure of locations like the Golden Gate Bridge as “suicide magnets”.

When people die by suicide at the Golden Gate Bridge it takes an enormous toll on surviving families, friends and the community including rescue workers, hospital staff, coroners and police officers. After more than 70 years of debate and more than 1,250 lives lost, it is time to build a suicide prevention barrier.

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) – [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org)

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) - [www.AAGPonline.org](http://www.AAGPonline.org)

American Association of Suicidology (AAS) – [www.aas.org](http://www.aas.org)

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) – [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

American Psychiatric Association (APA) – [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org)

Families for Depression Awareness - [www.familyaware.org](http://www.familyaware.org)

Mental Health America (MHA) - [www.mentalhealthamerica.net](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) – [www.save.org](http://www.save.org)

Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA) – [www.spanusa.org](http://www.spanusa.org)

<7/2008>



National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

**SUICIDE PREVENTION ON BRIDGES:  
THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE POSITION**

**John Draper, Ph.D., Director, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

June 16, 2008

At the January 2008, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Bi-Annual Steering Committee meeting, the Committee addressed the question:

*What is the position of the Lifeline Steering Committee on the use of bridge phones as the primary intervention to prevent bridge suicides?*

The Lifeline Steering Committee position is that the use of bridge barriers is the most effective means of bridge suicide prevention. Subsequently, as bridge/transportation authorities or other stakeholders approach the Lifeline with requests for implementing bridge phones, the Lifeline should emphasize the need for barriers as the most effective solution.

In addition to “reducing access to lethal means” (barriers), the Lifeline recognizes that “promoting access to lifesaving means”—such as signage or other public education media near bridges that promotes awareness of hotlines (such as 273-TALK) or other suicide prevention services—is a **supplement** to bridge barriers.

Bridge or transportation authorities may choose to install bridge phones linked to local suicide prevention call centers as cost saving mechanisms over installing bridge barriers. Lifeline is **unable** to recommend this approach as the first most effective, empirically-validated course of action in preventing suicides from bridges.

### **Background**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of more than 130 independently operating crisis call centers linked to a series of toll-free lines, of which the most prominent is 800-273-TALK. Callers to this number are routed to the nearest networked center to them, and calls are answered by telephone helpers trained in suicide prevention who assess the caller’s risk, provide support, intervention and resource linkages, as needed. This service is administered by Link2Health Solutions, Inc., under a five-year grant provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Link2Health’s administration of the program’s operations is aided by their partnership with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) and consultation with national experts in suicide prevention who act as members of the Lifeline’s Steering Committee and two Subcommittees (Standards Training and Practices Subcommittee and Consumer-Survivor Subcommittee).

Recently, Lifeline’s administrators asked its Steering Committee to address the role of the Lifeline and its crisis centers in consulting with transportation and bridge authorities seeking to implement bridge phones to prevent bridge-related suicides. Community debates have arisen over the most effective intervention for preventing persons from suicidal acts associated with bridge jumping. These debates are entangled with issues related to evidence-based practices, cost-effective measures, and personal opinions and agendas. The Lifeline has been brought into this debate over the past year by several state bridge authorities. These bridge authorities have been advised by one consultant



who has supported the use of bridge telephones and not the use of bridge barriers as a first line of suicide prevention.

The Lifeline was first approached in the spring of 2007, when the New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) proposed to establish suicide prevention phones (using the Lifeline number) on five bridges in the Catskill region of the state. The NYSBA sought to effectively prevent suicides from occurring on these bridges and had reviewed a number of methods for addressing the problem. Erecting physical barriers had been ruled out by the NYSBA, due to claims that the structure and locations of the bridges prevented practical use of bridge barriers (e.g., weight and wind issues; snow trapping against the bridges, transportation hazards; safety inspection impediments). Based on a model proposed by a suicide prevention consultant, the NYSBA sought to combine the installation of Lifeline bridge phones in conjunction with a public education/awareness campaign promoting the Lifeline number.

Since completing installation in the summer of 2007, some media and the NYSBA have hailed the program as a success, and a “model for other bridge authorities around the nation”. This recognition has emerged in spite of a lack of current evidence clearly supporting the model’s effectiveness in significantly reducing overall suicides from the appointed bridge locations. However, as a consequence of a growing awareness of the NYSBA’s model, the Lifeline has been contacted by other bridge authorities in NYS, as well as other interested parties from Virginia to Santa Barbara, CA.

With the increasing interest in the NYSBA bridge phone model—and its concomitant promotion of Lifeline and/or local crisis centers as integral to this proposed solution to bridge suicides—Lifeline felt that it was critical to consult with its national Steering Committee for guidance on this issue. In light of convincing evidence supporting the efficacy of restricting access to lethal methods of suicide, the Lifeline Director expressed his concern that the propagation of bridge phone strategies could potentially undermine political will in support of bridge barriers. In the absence of a clear stance from the Lifeline that clearly considered the efficacy of barrier approaches, bridge phones and/or signage, a bridge or transportation authority might proceed with NYSBA-like approach without full knowledge of the evidence and experience known to Lifeline and other members of the suicide prevention community.

#### **Evidence: Bridge barriers effectively prevent bridge-related suicides**

- **Decades of research clearly demonstrate that bridge barriers effectively prevent suicides** (e.g., Beautrais, 2007; O’Carroll & Silverman, 1994). England’s National Institute of Mental Health examined “suicide hotspots” in a 2006 report analyzing appropriate interventions, including bridges in their analysis. In reviewing all suicide prevention approaches—barriers, signs and telephone hotlines, bridge patrols and staff trainings—they concluded that “The most effective form of prevention at jumping sites is a physical barrier, which literally restricts access to the drop”. Other illustrations include:

- **Bloor Street Viaduct Bridge, Toronto.** By 2003, the 480 deaths by suicide from Toronto's Bloor Street Viaduct were second in number only to the Golden Gate Bridge, the most prominent location for bridge-related suicides in the world. Amidst mixed public opinion and efforts by some community groups to undermine the project, suicide prevention advocates succeeded in persuading the city to install "The Luminous Veil" barrier in 2003. There have been no suicides from the Viaduct since the barrier's installation (Zinko, 2005).
- **Duke Ellington Bridge, Washington, D.C.** Washington D.C. installed a barrier on the Duke Ellington Bridge in 1986, prompted by findings that an average of four persons per year had killed themselves by jumping from this structure. This was more than double the number of suicides reported from a neighboring bridge in D.C., the Taft Bridge. During the barrier's installation, one person died by suicide by jumping from the Ellington Bridge, and no other suicides by jumping occurred over the next five years. Over the same period, suicide rates from the non-barrier-restricted Taft Bridge remained unchanged (O'Carroll & Silverman, 1994).
- **Grafton Bridge, Auckland, New Zealand.** When safety barriers were removed from the Grafton Bridge in Auckland, New Zealand, the site experienced a five-fold increase in suicides. Subsequently, when the barriers were re-installed, no further suicides occurred, and other bridge sites did not demonstrate a "substitution effect" (e.g., an increase of suicides from other bridges as a result of barriers at the Grafton Bridge) (Beautrais, 2007).
- **Memorial Bridge, Augusta, Maine.** 14 suicides occurred from the Memorial Bridge in Augusta, Maine from 1960-1983. Since a barrier was erected in 1983, no further suicides have occurred from the bridge. The CDC researcher that examined the suicide prevention impact of the barrier noted that no other sites in the area registered an increase in suicides, suggesting no "site substitution". The researcher further concluded that the larger decline in the city's suicide rate compared with the rest of the state "further suggests that the fence was probably effective in lowering the overall suicide rate in Augusta" (Pelleteir, 2007).
- **Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol, England.** When a partial barrier on the Clifton Suspension Bridge was erected in Bristol, England, the overall number of suicides from the bridge was cut in half over a five year period. The researchers examining the barrier's efficacy recommended that a complete barrier would reduce the number of suicides further. They noted that these findings, along with evidence that no significant increases of jumping from other nearby bridges subsequently occurred, concluded that barriers are effective "in preventing site-specific suicides and suicides by jumping overall in the surrounding area" (Bennewith, Nowers & Gunnell, 2007).

It has been argued by some that installing barriers on bridges will only lead suicidal individuals to seek other methods (Glasgow, 2007). Some of the research above indicates that there is no evidence to support this assertion, while some appears to suggest findings to the contrary, e.g., that bridge barriers may reduce overall suicides in the surrounding area. A recent investigation of this hypothesis was deliberately undertaken through a national survey in Switzerland, whereby suicide rates from regions with and without "suicide bridges" were examined to estimate the degree to which "method substitution" might occur (Reisch, Shuster & Michel, 2007). The researchers found that regions with bridges attracted more "suicide jumpers" than regions without bridges, including regions with other buildings or high places where jumps are occurring. After applying a formula to



analyze the comparison, the authors estimated that 62% of individuals would not choose another place to jump from, and concluded overall that “method substitution” would not be significant (Reisch et al.2007). This finding supported the authors’ earlier investigations concluding that bridge barriers effectively reduce suicides in the regions where they are installed (Reisch & Michel, 2005). Similarly, a study of 515 persons who were restrained from leaping off the Golden Gate Bridge over a period of 40 years found that nearly 94% were still alive at the time of the investigation or had died from natural causes (Seiden, 1978). In general, research has shown that persons thwarted in utilizing a preferred method of suicide do not typically seek other approaches to kill him/her self (Daigle, 2005).

Even if method substitution concerns were considered to be valid, the degree to which such concerns are relevant from the perspective of a bridge or transportation authority is highly questionable. In general, opponents of barriers that cite the “method substitution” criticism are implying that a bridge or transportation authority should factor overall community suicide prevention effectiveness into their decision-making process. However, the primary responsibility of such authorities is to better ensure that commuters using their highways, bridges, tunnels or overpasses are protected from safety hazards. To the degree that individuals are killing themselves on their property and research shows that specific structures such as barriers can effectively prevent them from doing so, their serious consideration of barrier installation should therefore be paramount. Certainly, the installation of traffic lights, stop signs, warning and street lights are designed for the very purpose of reducing fatalities in areas considered to be vulnerable to travelers. How might the public respond if a transportation authority rejected a proposal to install a traffic light at a dangerous intersection because “accident-prone drivers would simply get in an accident elsewhere”? Suggesting that bridge or transportation authorities should make exceptions for bridge barriers due to method substitution is contrary to their typically responsible approach of employing the most effective measures to maximizing the safe use of their bridges, roads or highways.

In addition to preventing suicides from bridges, transportation authorities have noted that barriers may have other safety benefits to bridge users. In reviewing a proposal to build a barrier on the Cold Spring Canyon Arch Bridge near Santa Barbara, the CalTrans authority determined that a barrier would protect riders and hikers from falling over the rail under windy conditions, and traffic safety would improve by reducing the risk of cars parked on the bridge deck by would-be jumpers (CalTrans Report, 2008). In a personal communication with the Tappan Zee Bridge Authority in New York, their plan to raise the railing was motivated by a need to support their structure’s safety for vehicles first, with the secondary benefit of adding a degree of difficulty for would-be jumpers (personal communication with Ramesh Mehta, 4/29/2008).

### **Are suicide prevention phones on bridges effective?**

Aside from the structural or cost issues related to installing bridge barriers, there is another reason that bridge phone proponents have supported their implementation. A suicide prevention consultant to the NYSBA bridge phone initiative stated his view on the subject in a letter to the CalTrans Authority, in response to a challenge to this approach by the Glendon Association, a Santa Barbara area suicide prevention organization:





*The Glendon Association has given the impression that NYSBA did not choose to install suicide prevention barriers on its bridges due to maintenance and traffic concerns, such as snowplowing and bridge inspections. While these factors did play a role in our decision, there was a fundamental reason that NYSBA did not opt to install barriers: suicide prevention barriers are an inferior solution to the problem of suicides on bridges. Suicide prevention measures that place the suicidal individual in touch with another human being are the preferred method for preventing suicide. Such a 'human barrier' will outperform any physical barrier and save more lives (Speilman, G. in letter submitted to CalTrans, January 9, 2008)*

Recent research has shown that crisis hotlines can reduce suicidal thinking, with some users reporting that calls to hotlines prevented them from killing themselves (Gould, Kalafat, Munfakh & Kleinman, 2007). In the New Forest region of the United Kingdom, hotlines and signage promoting their use were placed in select car parks due to data showing significant numbers of car-exhaust-related suicides at those locations. A three-year evaluation of the initiative found both a significant drop in car-exhaust suicides at those car parks and a reduction of suicides in New Forest, in general (King & Frost, 2005).

However, is it true that bridge phones on "suicide bridges", in particular, can "outperform barriers" in preventing suicides from these locations?

Some answers to this question are suggested by the experience of using bridge phones in New York. Glatt (1987) reported that 30 of 39 would-be jumpers called the Dutchess County suicide prevention bridge phone on the Mid-Hudson Bridge in New York over a two-year period. The 30 bridge-phone callers were typically ambivalent and receptive to help, with only one later dying by suicide. Of the non-callers from the bridge, five subsequently leapt to their death. The NYSBA's installation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline bridge phones on five bridges in the Catskill region of New York in 2007 linked to the same Dutchess County crisis line, a member center of the Lifeline network. Since the lines have been installed, calls from the bridge have led to two rescues of suicidal individuals. However, at least two suicides have occurred from the bridges since the phones were installed. In addition, New York's Tappan Zee Bridge partially adopted the NYSBA's model and installed Lifeline bridge phones, though they did not include signage or handouts prominently promoting the Lifeline number to commuters. Since their installation in 2007, the phones have not been used, and four individuals have killed themselves by jumping off the bridge.

The experience of installing crisis/suicide phones on bridges in other regions has also shown inconsistent efficacy in preventing bridge-related suicides. Some of the examples are chronicled below.

- **Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco.** Since crisis/suicide hotline phones were installed on the Golden Gate Bridge in 1993, there have been at least 380 suicides from that location through 2007 (Trumbull, 2005).
- **Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Saint Petersburg, Florida.** Since crisis phones were implemented on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Saint Petersburg, Florida to prevent suicides from that structure, 22 people jumped to their deaths from the bridge in the following three years (Jones, 2003).



- **Coronado Bay Bridge, San Diego.** Suicide prevention call boxes and signs promoting their use on the Coronado Bay Bridge in San Diego have not led to a reduction of suicides at that location (CalTrans Report, 2008).

While it may be true that suicide hotline call boxes on “suicide-prone bridges” have successfully prevented suicide for individuals who have chosen to use them, it is also clear that many suicides have occurred from bridges where they have been present. Placing a hotline phone on a bridge provides a “rescue option” for suicidal individuals who are knowingly ambivalent. However, for other persons who come to the bridge that are consumed with psychological pain and intent on dying, relying on them to pick up the phone in that climactic moment places too much confidence in their capacity to still make a rational choice. By analogy, imagine a roadway that dead-ends into a cliff, with a canyon below. Would it make more sense to put a clear, large “STOP” sign at the edge of a cliff, with the hope that a speeding driver might slow down in time, or would it be more reasonable to erect a solid barricade blocking access further up the road?

#### **Are signs on or near bridges promoting suicide hotlines effective in preventing bridge suicides?**

In extending the previous analogy, imagine a roadway sign placed a mile ahead of the cliff that read something like, “Road ends in 1 mile; Detour ½ mile ahead”, with signs following that led the traveler to an intersecting road for continuing safe passage. A similar bridge suicide prevention strategy has been used which employs signs near a “suicide-prone bridge” offering a number intended to “detour” persons in crisis to hotline services. The suicide prevention logic of providing such a “detour”—instead of implementing barriers—is further stated in Mr. Spielman’s letter to CalTrans:

*Physical barriers...do nothing to address the suicidal condition of the person who might be tempted to jump from the bridge. Unlike the live voice at the receiving end [of a telephone], a physical barrier does not give a desperate person a reason to live or serve as a listening post for the real or imagined motives for being on the bridge....By relying solely on an inanimate object to ‘save a life’, an opportunity to identify and help a suicidal individual is lost.*

Placing signs promoting a hotline number near bridges could encourage people in crisis to call for help from their home, their car, or some location removed from the perilous precipice of the bridge. It is likely that most suicidal persons who select a specific bridge from which to jump have traveled across that bridge repeatedly, or “cased the bridge” previously in planning their suicide. Exposing persons in crisis to hotline information well before an imminent jump is clearly preferable to providing a suicidal individual with a chance to get help exclusively from a phone on a bridge.

It may also be advisable for such signage near bridges to avoid explicitly mentioning suicide, to minimize reinforcing public associations between the structure and these tragic past events. Less explicit wording can also invite non-suicidal individuals in crisis to call and get help before they are suicidal.

The NYSBA supplemented their billboards with other information and materials promoting the Lifeline to nearby residents. The NYSBA advertised the Lifeline on local newspaper web sites for



up to a year, such as Mid-Hudson News.com. That banner ad linking to the Lifeline's web site received 62,859 views in August 2007 alone, according to a personal communication from the NYSBA's Communications Director, John Bellucci (9/25/2007). Additionally, the NYSBA provide Lifeline wallet cards (complete with suicide warning signs) at commuter toll booths near the bridges that are dispensed to inquiring travelers that have expressed curiosity about the billboard messages. Approximately a year after introducing the initiative, the NYSBA has reported handing out 750 wallet cards at their toll booths, and have ordered more cards to replenish their supply (Bellucci, personal communication, 5/1/2008).

Is there evidence, however, that such signage and promotional information reduces suicides on bridges? It is possible that such information campaigns require time to register a clear impact, as their focus is more "prevention" than "intervention". With the NYSBA initiative now only a year old, it may be too early to gauge its long-term effect on nearby community suicide rates. Overall, there are few evaluations that have explicitly examined this approach. The Coronado Bay Bridge in San Diego employed a similar model using bridge phones and public awareness signage, to little effect. Perhaps the closest evidence suggesting the potential efficacy of this method is the previously cited research showing a reduction in suicides in car parks and the surrounding New Forest community following the implementation of hotline awareness signs and phones in car parks.

Nevertheless, the compelling logic of "promoting access to lifesaving means" (e.g., hotlines) in no way undermines the argument for implementing approaches to "restricting access to lethal means" (e.g., bridge barriers). Rather than contrasting the effectiveness of these approaches, a strong case can be made for their complementary impact on suicide prevention if employed in tandem. As barriers can most effectively keep suicidal persons from jumping off bridges, nearby hotline information can, as Mr. Spielman might also say, point such desperate persons to an empathic voice that can help them find a reason to live.

## **Conclusion**

Transportation and bridge authorities around the nation have been under enormous pressure to address "suicide-prone bridges" under their auspices. They face a wide variety of challenges in determining the appropriate method for preventing further suicides from occurring on their property. As noted by the NYSBA and other bridge authorities, among the considerations they face in considering barriers and alternative methods include: structural and weight issues; potential weather hazards (snow removal, wind factors); safety concerns related to bridge and barrier maintenance; high costs of barrier installation; and impassioned advocates from suicide prevention circles, as well as community residents seeking to preserve the historic, environmental and/or scenic vista of the bridges in their current state (Bellucci, personal communication, 4/29/2008). Increasingly, local crisis lines as well as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline are consulted by bridge authorities and/or community advocates to discern both the feasibility and efficacy of linking bridge phones to their services for the purposes of preventing further suicides from such locations. This paper is intended to provide reasonable perspectives and research that might help guide Lifeline and its network of centers in their response to such inquiries.



Based on the current state of the research, physical barriers are an effective means of preventing suicides on bridges. Further, there is no evidence that barriers on bridges lead to “method substitution” for would-be jumpers. In contrast, bridge phones and other “human barrier” methods have not shown comparable success in significantly reducing bridge suicides in any known situation where they have been implemented. In consulting with bridge or transportation authorities, it is therefore suggested that the Lifeline and its network of crisis centers recommend bridge barrier installation as the most effective bridge suicide prevention approach. In order to promote awareness of resources for help, it is further suggested that Lifeline and its network centers recommend that bridge or transportation authorities support the dissemination of public education materials, signage or other information about hotlines or other local suicide prevention assistance, as appropriate. However, the latter recommendation is best seen as a supplement to a barrier, as it alone is unlikely to significantly reduce bridge suicides. Above all, it should be made clear to inquiring authorities: *barriers are the most effective means of preventing suicides on bridges.*

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