

AUDIO CONFERENCE ONLY

October 18, 2021



**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS INCLUDED IN THE BICYCLE SAFETY STUDY
FOR THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE**

Monday, October 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference Number: (415) 569-6446
Public Overflow Numbers: (415) 636-8761

Public Comment Note: Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, until further notice, this meeting will be conducted via teleconference only (no physical location). Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely via the teleconference numbers listed above. During the public hearing comment period, your name will be called in the order received. Each individual will be allotted up to three (3) minutes for public comments concerning the item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Public Hearing. Public comments may also be submitted by e-mail to publichearing@goldengate.org or by mail to the District Secretary. All comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Introduction

The State of California Streets and Highways Code provides the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) Board of Directors (Board) authority to adopt and enforce rules and regulations that aid and ensure the safe and orderly flow of traffic on any facility of travel constructed by the District.

The purpose of this Hearing is to seek input from the public regarding a specific package of recommendations that, if adopted by the Board, will result in changes to the District's rules and regulations as they pertain to travel on the Golden Gate Bridge (Bridge) sidewalks.

Background

The use of bicycles as a means of transportation for commuting and recreational travel is increasing and a significant share of this growth is attributable to the rising popularity of electric bicycles, or E-bikes. As a transportation agency, the District wishes to maximize the utility of alternative modes of transportation while maintaining sharp focus on our overarching responsibility of ensuring maximum safety for all persons who use the Bridge for transportation, tourism, and recreation.

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In support of these goals and in light of the relatively new phenomenon of E-bikes at the Golden Gate Bridge, staff has engaged in a review of our bicycle safety policies and current conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians at the Bridge. This effort has included significant public outreach and engagement with multiple stakeholder groups in developing a specific slate of recommendations targeted at improving Bridge sidewalk safety for cyclists and pedestrians while ensuring that we optimize access and utility for all users.

A primary product of this review is the October 2020, *Bicycle Safety Study for the Golden Gate Bridge* (Study) which was presented to the Building and Operating Committee at its February 25, 2021, meeting. The Study was a collaboration between District staff and an independent consulting group, Alta Planning + Design (Alta), to gather data and observations on current Bridge sidewalk conditions and use those data and observations to seek opportunities to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety while ensuring maximum utility and accommodation for bicycling on the Bridge for commute and recreational travel.

As part of this effort, staff has engaged with the local bicycle community and vendors of bike share and rental bikes for feedback and recommendations during the process. This public outreach culminated in a two-week long web-based virtual open house along with a live web-based town hall style meeting where we briefed participants on the methodology and findings of the Study and afforded participants the opportunity to submit questions and comments.

Recommendations

The specific Study recommendations for which we are seeking public comment during the Hearing are as follows:

- Revise the District’s Master Ordinance to establish a maximum speed limit of 15 mph for bicycles on the Bridge sidewalks along with a maximum speed limit of 5 mph for bicycles on the sidewalk areas around the Bridge towers.
- Revise the District’s Master Ordinance to allow pedal assisted electric bicycles (e-bikes) of types 1, 2, and 3 to use the Bridge sidewalks.
- Revise the District’s Master Ordinance to clarify the list of rolling type pedestrian conveyances prohibited on the Bridge sidewalks.

Additional recommendations that do not require formal Board action for implementation:

- Continue use of signage and pavement markings to delineate space between bicycles and pedestrians on the East Sidewalk.

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- Install changeable directional wayfinding signage for cyclists at major Bridge approaches.
- Continue use of radar speed advisory signage for cyclists on the Bridge sidewalks and install additional radar speed advisory signs on the downhill approaches to the narrow sidewalk sections at the North Anchorage House.
- Add “Path Narrows” signage, object markers, and pavement markings along with 5 mph advisory speed signage on the approaches to the narrow sidewalk sections at the North Anchorage Housing.
- Install additional “High Wind” advisory signage and establish a standard operating procedure to allow cyclists use of the East Sidewalk during high wind events.
- Create a weather station feed to our District website to advise cyclists of current wind conditions on the Bridge.
- Create a sidewalk safety incident self-reporting tool on our District website to collect additional information and a more complete accounting of sidewalk safety issues.
- Establish a District bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee to ensure continued and ongoing engagement with these user groups of our Bridge, Bus, and Ferry systems.

Public Outreach

- Staff worked with consultant Alta to conduct a web-based virtual open house on the Study and its recommendations from Friday, September 24, 2021 through Sunday, October 10, 2021.
- Staff worked with consultant Alta to conduct a live web-based virtual town hall meeting on the Study and its recommendations on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.
- Two hundred and seventy-one (271) public comments were received through the virtual open house and virtual town hall meeting.

Public Notification

- Staff placed advertisements announcing the public hearing in the *Marin Independent Journal*, *La Voz*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- Staff made press releases to local media outlets announcing the public hearing.
- Staff placed postings on District social media sites announcing the public hearing.

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- Staff sent email notifications to customers and community-based organizations announcing the public hearing.
- Staff placed signage on the Bridge sidewalks and at the Bridge Plaza announcing the public hearing.

Public Comment Process

The public comment period remains open and comments on these proposals can be submitted in the following ways:

1. Attend the Hearing and comment directly
2. Email publichearing@goldengate.org
3. Send written comments to:

District Secretary
PO Box 29000 Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-9000

The District's practice is to treat all comments equally without regard to the manner in which the comments are submitted or received. Therefore, individuals need not attend the public hearing and provide testimony in person if they have commented through email or written forms or commented through the virtual open house or virtual town hall meeting. All comments received through the above methods will be considered in the final recommendation. Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Next Steps

Following the public hearing, staff will evaluate all comments received and determine whether changes or modifications need to be made to the proposals. A final recommendation that includes summary of public comments received will be brought to the Building and Operating Committee at its November 2021 meeting and subsequently to the full Board.