



Agenda Item No. (7)

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of February 23, 2023

From: Roger Elauria, Bridge Captain
David A. Rivera, Deputy General Manager, Bridge Division
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **ONE-YEAR UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BICYCLE SAFETY
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation

This report is provided for informational purposes only and does not require any action. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Directors with an update regarding implementation of the Bicycle Safety Recommendations and a summary of data collected on bicycle accidents on the Bridge.

Summary

At its meeting on November 19, 2021, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) Board of Directors (Board) approved these actions: 1) adopt a maximum speed limit for bicycles on the Bridge, 2) allow electric bicycles on the Bridge sidewalks, 3) clarify that pedestrian-type rolling conveyances are prohibited on Bridge sidewalks, and 4) establish the District Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Additional items that did not require formal Board action, but were recommended to improve safety conditions for the Bridge sidewalks (Bicycle Safety Recommendations) were:

1. Continue use of signage and pavement markings to delineate space between bicycles and pedestrians on the East Sidewalk.
2. Install changeable directional wayfinding signage for cyclists at major Bridge approaches.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. Install additional “High Wind” advisory signage and establish a standard operating procedure to allow cyclists use of the East Sidewalk during high wind events.
6. Create a weather station feed to the District's website to advise cyclists of current wind conditions on the Bridge.
7. Create a sidewalk safety incident self-reporting tool on the District's website to collect additional information and a more complete accounting of sidewalk safety issues.

Eleven (11) of the Bicycle Safety Recommendations have been implemented. Additionally, a safety incident self-reporting tool along with wind advisory information has been added to the District's website. (See attachments 1-5)

Bicycle Accident Data

Monthly bicycle incident data is summarized and published in the Report of the General Manager to the Board. District staff is notified of bicycle accidents either because the accident requires a District response or because the accident was reported on the District's new online sidewalk safety incident self-reporting tool. The bike accidents reported to staff fall under several categories. These categories include: solo bicycle, bicycle vs. bicycle, bicycle vs. pedestrian, bicycle vs. automobile, and other. The majority of bicycle accidents consist of solo bicycle accidents.

Subsequent to allowing Class 1, 2 and 3 electric bicycles (e-bikes) and implementing a 15 miles per hour speed limit, there were 14 bicycle accidents on Bridge sidewalks in 2022 that required District response. Seven (7) accidents were on the east sidewalk and seven (7) accidents were on the west sidewalk. There were six (6) incidents in which injured bicyclists were transported to a local hospital due to injuries. Out of the 14 accidents, two (2) of these involved e-bikes.

In addition, over this same time period, the District was notified of five (5) bicycle accidents through submissions to the District's new online sidewalk safety incident self-reporting tool. Four (4) of these incidents were on Bridge sidewalks. Three (3) of the accidents were on the west sidewalk and one (1) occurred on the east sidewalk. Two (2) of these accidents involved e-bikes. These incidents were not reported to staff other than through the District's website.

In reviewing data from previous years regarding bike accidents on the Bridge sidewalks, the number of incidents has fluctuated. This data includes bicycle accidents on the Bridge sidewalks and surrounding areas under the District's jurisdiction. In 2021, there were fifteen incident reports generated. In 2020, there were 31 incidents. In 2019, there were 48 incidents. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 from 2020 to present day, bicycle riding and tourism on the Bridge initially decreased but are slowly increasing to pre-pandemic levels.

The implementation and posting of speed advisory signs along with pavement markings and changeable directional wayfinding signage has provided safety information to all bicyclists riding across the Bridge. The “Path Narrow” signage has provided bicyclists safety information when approaching the North Anchorage House. However, it is still too early in the bicycle accident data collection process to reach a conclusion as to whether the speeds of bicyclists have been affected

by the safety measures. Staff will continue to review and evaluate the District's bicycle accident data.

The recommendations implemented from Ordinance No. 2021-001 are intended to optimize the utility of the infrastructure available and to maximize the safety of the sidewalk conditions for all users to the extent possible. Further, the District has established a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) that meets quarterly and is actively engaged in these matters. PBAC held its first meeting on October 19, 2022, and currently has 15 members.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

- Attachments:**
1. Wayfinding signage
 2. Speed limit signs
 3. Wind warning
 4. Narrow Path
 5. Screenshot of District website for reporting bicycle accidents and weather information

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ATTACHMENT 1

Alexander Avenue – Sausalito



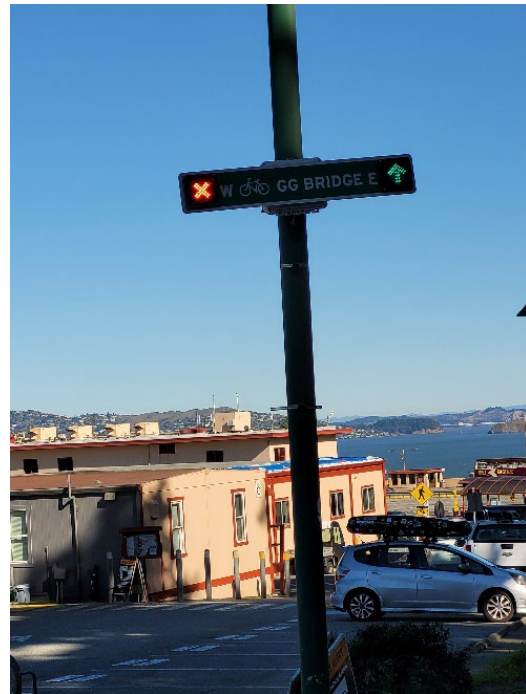
North West bike gate - Sausalito



East parking lot – San Francisco

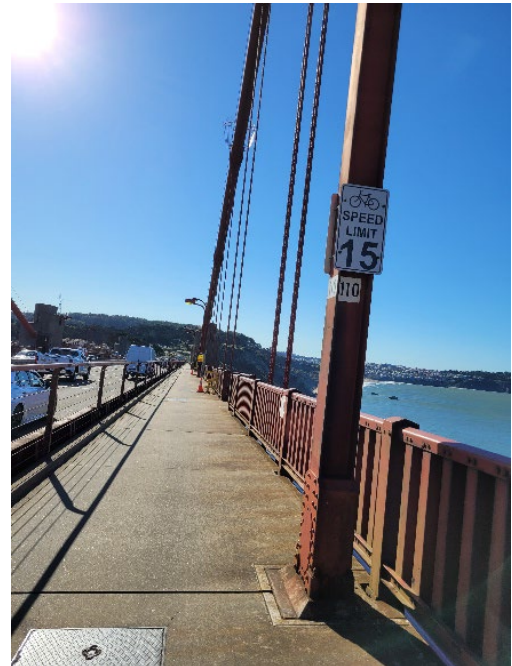


Merchant Road – San Francisco



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ATTACHMENT 2



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ATTACHMENT 4



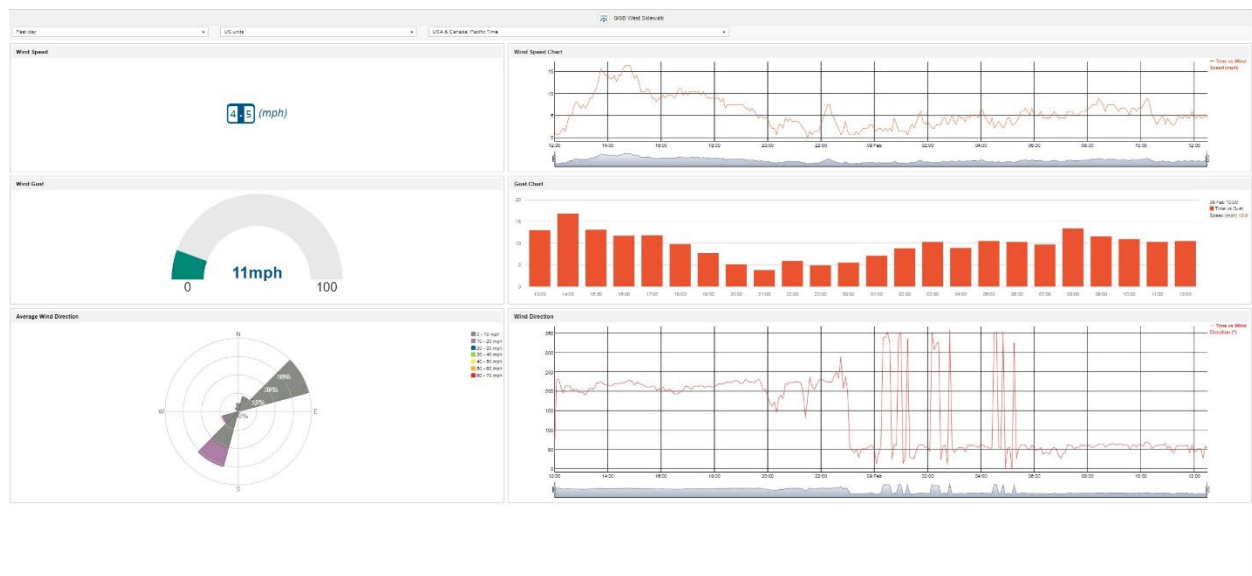
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ATTACHMENT 5

<https://www.goldengate.org/bridge/visiting-the-bridge/bikes-pedestrians/bike-incident-form/>

The screenshot shows the 'Bike Incident Form' on the Golden Gate Bridge website. The form is titled 'To Report an Incident on Your Bike While at the Golden Gate Bridge, Please Fill out the Form Below.' It includes a sidebar with navigation links such as 'TOLLS & PAYMENT', 'VISITING THE BRIDGE', 'BRIDGE OPERATIONS', 'BRIDGE MAINTENANCE', 'HISTORY & RESEARCH', 'PHOTO GALLERY', and 'GIFT SHOP'. The form fields include: First Name, Last Name, Contact Number, Email Address, Mailing Address, Date of Incident, Time of Incident, Type of Incident (with a dropdown menu), Were you riding an Electric Bike?, Road Conditions, Weather Conditions, Direction of Travel, Location of Incident, Did you or Another Person Sustain Injury?, Was There any Property Damage Due to the Incident?, Light Pole Number (if Light Pole Number is Unknown, Provide a Description of Incident Location), and a text area for 'Please provide a narrative description of the incident.' There are 'SUBMIT' and 'RESET' buttons at the bottom.

<https://dashboard.hobolink.com/public/GGBWestSidewalk#>



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