



Agenda Item No. (3)(a)–(3)(d)

To: Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of December 14, 2023

From: Ron Downing, Director of Planning
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **REPORTS OF DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEES**
(a) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY**
(b) **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
(c) **FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
(d) **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Recommendation

There is no recommendation associated with this item.

Summary

The purpose of the formation of the above-mentioned Advisory Committees is to provide the public a forum by which they can communicate their viewpoints and suggestions on the operations of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District), as well as on the bus and ferry transit systems, to the District Board of Directors and staff. These Advisory Committees meet regularly, and designated District staff participates in these meetings. From time to time, these Advisory Committees submit recommendations to the District's Transportation Committee (Committee) for its consideration.

The Secretary of the District is required to provide packets of the Advisory Committees to the Committee.

The documents attached to this report are as follows:

- (a) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY**
There is no new information at the time of this mailing.
- (b) **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Agenda Packet of November 15, 2023
- (c) **FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
There is no new information at the time of this mailing.
- (d) **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Agenda Packet of November 8, 2023

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Attachments

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BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, November 15, 2023



Convene at 6:00 p.m. – Adjourn by 8:00 p.m.
Caboose Room – Vivalon
930 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901

1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. BPAC Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Election
3. Approval of September 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes (*Attached*)
4. Bus Stoppers¹
5. Ongoing Business
 - a. ~~Customer Service Update~~ **postponed to future meeting**
 - b. San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Update
 - c. Tamalpais Overcrossing Project Update
6. New Business
 - a. Highway 37 Traffic and Transit Improvements Update
 - b. January 2024 Service Changes
 - c. 2024 Meeting Schedule
7. Announcements
 - a. Vice Chairperson Resignation – Thank You for Your Service, Brian!
8. Members' Forum²
9. Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)
10. Adjournment

Next Meeting: TBD

¹ Members to submit observed problems in bus operations, preferably in writing before the meeting, and provide a verbal summary in less than 2 minutes.

² Members to discuss topics not covered on the agenda or that should be added to a future agenda.

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BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 20, 2023



Location: Caboose Room at Vivalon, 930 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901

Committee Members Present: Scott Kempf, Brian Bailey-Gates, Mike Combs, Dave Troup

Committee Members Absent: Dan Bell

District Staff Present: Jason Cave, Schedules Analyst; Jamos Yeager, Operations Control Center Manager; Emily DelRoss, Senior Planner

Guests Present: Vaggelis Sotiropoulos

- 1. Roll Call and Introductions:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Four members were present, representing a quorum.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the May 17, 2023, meeting minutes pending edits to include the meeting location and attachment of the finalized letter to the board regarding the committee's strategic plan input.
- 3. Bus Stoppers:**
 - a. Dan Bell reported observing high local ridership in San Francisco and suggested using this ridership data to support increased service to San Francisco. Staff explained that approximately one-third of GGT riders come from San Francisco, which allows for the current service levels. Part of this ridership is attributed to SFMTA's directive to former 30X riders to utilize GGT service while the line remains suspended. Driver shortages and an impending fiscal cliff prevent expansion of GGT service in San Francisco at this time. SFMTA and GGT will continue to coordinate to understand and monitor the situation.
 - b. Dave Troup requested alternative route alignment options in the financial district, including an alignment that uses the Embarcadero through Fisherman's Wharf. Staff explained that GGT utilizes a run-limited service through the financial district and that financial and operational constraints limit the number of viable alignments at this time. GGT will continue to weigh the pros and cons of realignment and redesign options in the future, while continuing to monitor performance on the Civic Center alignment.
 - c. Dave Troup reported bus bunching between Routes 130 and 101 in the evening and requested schedule changes to create better spacing and minimize rider wait times at Salesforce Transit Center. Staff explained that bus bunching occurs in the city due to scheduled pulses at the San Rafael Transit Center and travel times that vary greatly, depending on time of day. A redesign of the system would be necessary to avoid bunching in downtown San Francisco. Direction from the Board on this topic may come as a result of the Strategic Plan.
 - d. Dave Troup requested schedule changes to Marin Transit Routes 23 or 68 for better bus spacing and shorter wait times for riders traveling from Fairfax to San Rafael. Marin

Transit staff appreciated the feedback and will take the recommendation into consideration as part of their January schedule changes.

4. Ongoing Business:

- a. San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC) Relocation Update: Emily DelRoss reported recent developments in the project. The Final Environmental Impact Report was adopted by the Board in December 2022 and a preferred alternative was selected. The preliminary (30%) design phase began in January 2023, and the Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG) was formed in May. CDAG met in May, June, July, and September, with one more meeting scheduled for October. A preliminary design is expected to be completed in early 2024. More information on the project can be found on the project webpage at: www.goldengate.org/srtc.
- b. Tamalpais Overcrossing Project Update: Emily DelRoss reported that District staff is continuing to work with Caltrans to resolve transit issues related to proposed interchange improvements. District staff expressed concerns about the lack of coordination with transit agencies and the feasibility of proposed modifications and their impact on transit operations. Staff from Caltrans and the District have met at staff and executive levels to discuss these concerns. Caltrans is preparing a traffic operations analysis and will be meeting with staff in September to discuss effort findings.
- c. Customer On-Board Survey Update: Emily DelRoss reported that on-board customer surveying is nearly complete on both bus and ferry, with expected completion by the end of the month. Telephone surveying of infrequent and non-users is in progress. The District is working with the Canal Alliance to collect input from Canal residents. The Canal District was identified as a focus area in this survey due to its high proportion of low-income and minority residents. The final report, which will summarize survey results, is expected to be completed in December 2023.

5. New Business:

- a. Highway 37 Traffic and Transit Improvements Update: This topic will be addressed at the November 15 BPAC meeting.
- b. June Service Changes: Emily DelRoss reviewed service changes that went into effect on Sunday, September 10. Most notably, Route 580 underwent major schedule adjustments to improve connections at the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station. Weekday westbound trips from El Cerrito del Norte now depart hourly on the :21s from 5:21 A.M. to 9:21 P.M., and every 30 minutes on the :51s during peak hours. Weekday eastbound trips now depart hourly from 6:22 A.M. to 9:24 P.M., and every 30 minutes during peak commute hours. Weekend eastbound and westbound trips now depart hourly in coordination with arrivals and departures from the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station. Other minor service changes include minor schedule adjustments on Route 114 with the resumption of service to the Spencer Avenue Park and Ride. Two northbound and two southbound trips were cancelled on Route 101 due to the driver shortage, with the Cotati Park and Ride lot remaining closed. Minor schedule adjustments were also made on Route 132. The next service change is scheduled for January 14, 2024.

6. Announcements:

- a. Member Resignation – Thank You for Your Service, Fredi!: Fredi Bloom has resigned from the committee. The Committee would like to thank Fredi for her fourteen years of service as a dedicated member.
- b. Bus Division Management Change: Mona Babauta left her role as Deputy General Manager for the Bus Division at the beginning of August to take a role as CEO and general manager of "SunBus" at SunLine Transit Agency in Palm Springs, CA. She was with the District for six years. An executive recruitment is underway to fill the position. Denis Mulligan will cover the role until the position is filled.
- c. State Route 37 Flood Protection Project – U.S. Highway 101 to Atherton Avenue in Novato: Caltrans is hosting a hybrid public meeting on September 21 from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato. Caltrans will provide an overview of the Project and its purpose and need, the current build alternative, and the potential environmental impacts of the project.

7. Members' Forum:

- a. Dave Troupe requested future presentation topics to cover changes coming as part of Clipper 2.0.

8. Public Comment: None.

9. Adjournment: Scott Kempf adjourned the meeting at 6:44 P.M.

Members were advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place in-person at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at Vivalon.

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PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PBAC)



Agenda for Wednesday, November 8, 2023

**Convene at 5:00 p.m. – Adjourn by 6:30 p.m.
The Dairy Room, Sports Basement Presidio,
610 Old Mason Street, San Francisco, CA**

- 1. Roll Call and Introductions**
- 2. Consent Calendar (5 minutes)**
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2023
- 3. Committee Business**
 - a. Follow-Up Questions from September 27, 2023 Meeting (Josh Widmann)
 - b. Finalize PBAC Wayfinding Signage Recommendations (PBAC)
 - c. East Sidewalk Pavement Markings (Michael Jones)
 - d. Recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues/Observations - Ongoing (PBAC Members)
 - e. Outreach for Vacant PBAC Spot (PBAC)
 - f. Finalize 2024 Calendar (Josh Widmann)
- 4. Public Comment - 3 minutes per speaker (10 minutes)**
- 5. Adjournment**

Attachments:

1. Draft Minutes of September 27, 2023 PBAC
2. Draft PBAC Signage Recommendations
3. East Sidewalk Pavement Markings

Possible Future Agenda Items:

- *Review of Pedestrian and Bicycle Access of Bus Transit Centers*

Public Comment Note: If you know in advance that you would like to make a public comment during the meeting, please email PAC@goldengate.org with your name and item number you would like to provide comment on no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. During the public comment period, speakers will be allotted no more than 3 minutes to speak and will be heard in the order of sign-up. Said time frames may be extended only upon approval of the Committee Chair.

Public comments may also be submitted by e-mail to PAC@goldengate.org. Comments submitted before the meeting will be provided to the Committee members before or during the Committee meeting. Comments submitted after the meeting is called to order will be included as an attachment to the minutes for this meeting.

Upon request, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats to individuals with disabilities. In addition, the District will arrange for disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Please send a written request, including your name, mailing address, telephone number and brief description of the requested materials, preferred alternative format, and/or auxiliary aid or service at least three (3) days before the meeting. Requests should be made by mail to: Amorette M. Ko-Wong, Secretary of the District, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, P.O. Box 29000, Presidio Station, San Francisco, CA 94129-9000; or e-mail to districtsecretary@goldengate.org; or telephone at (415) 923-2223, or the District's ADA Compliance & Program Manager at (415) 257-4416, or California Relay Service at 711.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PBAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 27, 2023



Members Present: David Alexander, Parker Day, Candy Doran, Dan Federman, Sasha Madfes, Charles Metzler, Susan Nawbary, David Pilpel, Ray Scherck, Warren Wells

Members Absent: Phoebe Ford, Kevin Gammon, Timothy Hunter

District Staff Present: Josh Widmann, Associate Planner; Roberta Regan, Administrative Assistant, Planning Department

Guests Present: Michael Jones, Michael Jones Consulting; Don Magdauz

Sasha Madfes called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. in the Dairy Room, Sports Basement – Presidio, San Francisco. A quorum of members was present. Attendees introduced themselves.

1. Consent Calendar.

Approval of Minutes from the July 19, 2023 Meeting. David Pilpel moved to approve the minutes with the addition of the meeting location in the Sports Basement-Presidio Sign Room. Dan Federman provided a second. Members unanimously approved the meeting minutes of July 19, 2023, as written.

2. Committee Business.

a. Bridge Pedestrian and Bicycle Signage Simplification. Michael Jones gave a follow-up PowerPoint presentation to the committee on next steps for improving wayfinding and signage/stripping. He also led a discussion of bicycle access and parking at the various ferry terminals and onboard the different vessels. The group discussed the process for developing a Scope of Work and multiple steps required to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for signage/stripping improvements. Michael Jones noted that District staff could produce an RFP incorporating signage suggestions from the committee. Then it would need to be approved by executive District staff, then ultimately go to the Board. Such a project would also require an identified funding source and would need to be included in the District-Adopted Budget. He stated that this discussion could continue at the next meeting with David Rivera present in order to prioritize a list of short term and long-term signage suggestions.

b. Recent Bicycle and Pedestrian District-wide Observations. Candy Doran noted several issues with bridge signage regarding pedestrians, bicycles, animals, and high wind. She also mentioned the variety of colors used. Ray Scherck commented that he felt clear signage is more important than consistency in color and style. Charles Metzler remarked that green paint should be used for a bicycle lane on the Bridge, as others have stated. Warren Wells suggested that the committee submit a recommendation to the Board to authorize a Wayfinding and Signage Study, as opposed to submitting a list of issues. District staff will provide a comment on this suggested strategy at the next PBAC meeting.

Warren Wells and others also mentioned wanting to know the best District phone number for reporting potholes or other safety issues on the Golden Gate Bridge. Josh Widmann stated that he would follow up with staff and provide this at the next meeting. David Pilpel mentioned that he was still interested in a walk-through of the Toll Plaza. Several members were eager to know when Alexander Avenue repaving would take place.

c. PBAC 2023 Meeting Schedule. Members discussed possible meeting dates for 2024. Josh Widmann recommended meeting on opposite months from other PACs. The committee agreed tentatively on the months of February, April, June, August, and October, with the caveat that schedule changes may occur throughout the year. Further discussion of actual dates will continue at the November 8 meeting.

d. Membership Vacancy. Josh Widmann shared that PBAC member Jon Herman resigned from the committee. Sasha Madfes commented that PBAC Bylaws state that the committee may not exceed 16 members, and perhaps they could add two members. Discussion ensued, and a few names were mentioned as possible candidates. Josh Widmann said to tell interested parties to email the PAC@goldengate.org mailbox to request an application. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

3. **Public Comment.** Members welcomed visitor Don Magdauz.

4. **Adjournment.** Sasha Madfes adjourned the September 27, 2023 meeting of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee at 6:39 p.m.

The next meeting of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The location will be communicated to members by email and posted on the District's website.

xxx, 2023

Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District
P.O. Box 29000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-9000

Dear President Thériault and Members of the Board of Directors,

The Golden Gate Bridge is one the great icons of American infrastructure. In addition to linking San Francisco to the North Bay for motorists and transit riders, it also serves as a critical link for those traveling by bicycle, whether they be commuters or the thousands of visitors seeking to experience the bridge up close.

In contrast to the relative simplicity of using the bridge as a motorist, the rules for those walking and biking are more complex. Visitors are presented with a bewildering array of signs featuring a wide range of iconography, which mix universal prohibitions (e.g. “no skateboards,” or “no animals”) with information about when bicyclists use the east vs. the west sidewalk.

Additionally, though bridge users come from all over the world, signage is primarily in English with no options for non-English speakers.

There are two primary negative outcomes from unclear signage. Some users experience confusion, trying to piece together where they are allowed to ride, potentially having to double back to access the correct sidewalk. Others still find themselves mistakenly violating bridge rules, typically by riding a bicycle on the wrong sidewalk, potentially leading to collisions or near-misses.

We, the members of the Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee, recommend that the Bridge District undertake several near-term and medium-term steps to improve signage and wayfinding for users crossing the bridge by foot or by bike.

Near-Term Signage/Wayfinding Modifications

Inventory and Update Signage at Sidewalk Entrances

These signs (see example below) have errors and out-of-date information and should be updated.

- Speed limit is regulatory and no longer advisory
- Pedestrian and Cyclist signs both warn of high winds
- Pedestrian and Cyclist signs both prohibit “scooter” but appear to be referring to different devices.
- Permitted usage times are difficult to parse
- Fonts and colors are inconsistent

- Signs at southeast sidewalk entrance suggest that pedestrians use roadway side of sidewalk when in fact they are direct to walk adjacent to bridge railing

Given the need for an update, we recommend clearly separating the list of prohibited activities (e.g. skateboarding, drone usage, etc) from usage times (e.g. east vs. west sidewalk) and rules of road (“yield to pedestrians,” 15 mph speed limit, which mostly apply to bicyclists).

Increase Frequency of Stencils on East Sidewalk

As recommended by the 2020 Bicycle Safety Study, stencils were installed on the east sidewalk to indicate for users that pedestrians should use the east (bayside) of the sidewalk and bicyclists should use the west side (adjacent to the roadways). These stencils were recommended to be 500’ apart. We recommend considering adding additional stencils to increase the frequency and improve compliance. Clear, color-coded icons should start at the very beginning of the sidewalk at the north and the south ends.

“Report a Problem” signage

There is currently no indication what to do or who to call in the event of an emergency on the bridge or if one sees a dangerous condition. We recommend that signage be installed periodically that offers a phone number to call to “Report collision or other hazard.”

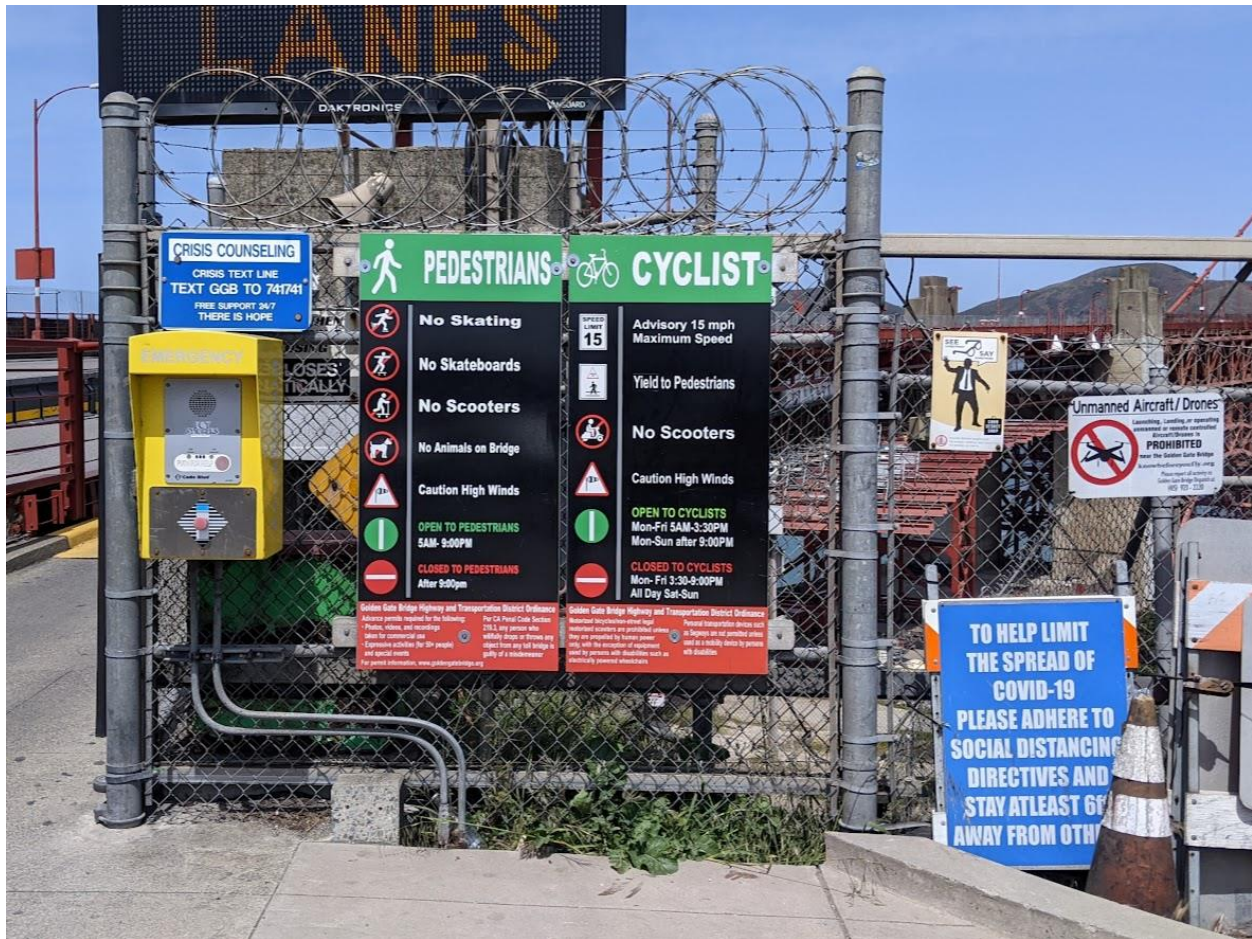
Medium-Term Signage/Wayfinding Modifications

In order to reduce user confusion and improve compliance with sidewalk usage and other regulations, we recommend that the Bridge District undertake a comprehensive signage and wayfinding plan led by an experienced consulting firm with input from the public. Some considerations for this effort should includes:

- Universal design, maximizing comprehension by people of all abilities
- Clear iconography and multiple language, ensuring that visitors understand signage
- QR code which visitors can scan for additional details
- Partnership with Caltrans and National Parks, since bicycle access to the bridge requires traveling through land managed by those agencies
- Flexibility to allow for changes necessitated by events or maintenance

We appreciate your continued efforts to improve the experience for those crossing the bridge by foot or by bicycle (including the creation of and staff support for the PBAC), and hope that this letter can provide direction for low-cost but high-impact changes that could be made in support of those goals.

Sincerely,



Attachment 1: Signage at southeast sidewalk gate (taken April 2022)



Attachment 2: Signage at northwest sidewalk gate (taken September 2021)



East Sidewalk Pavement Markings

PBAC Meeting – 11/8/23

South Access to Bridge



South Access Signage - Similar to but Different than North Signage



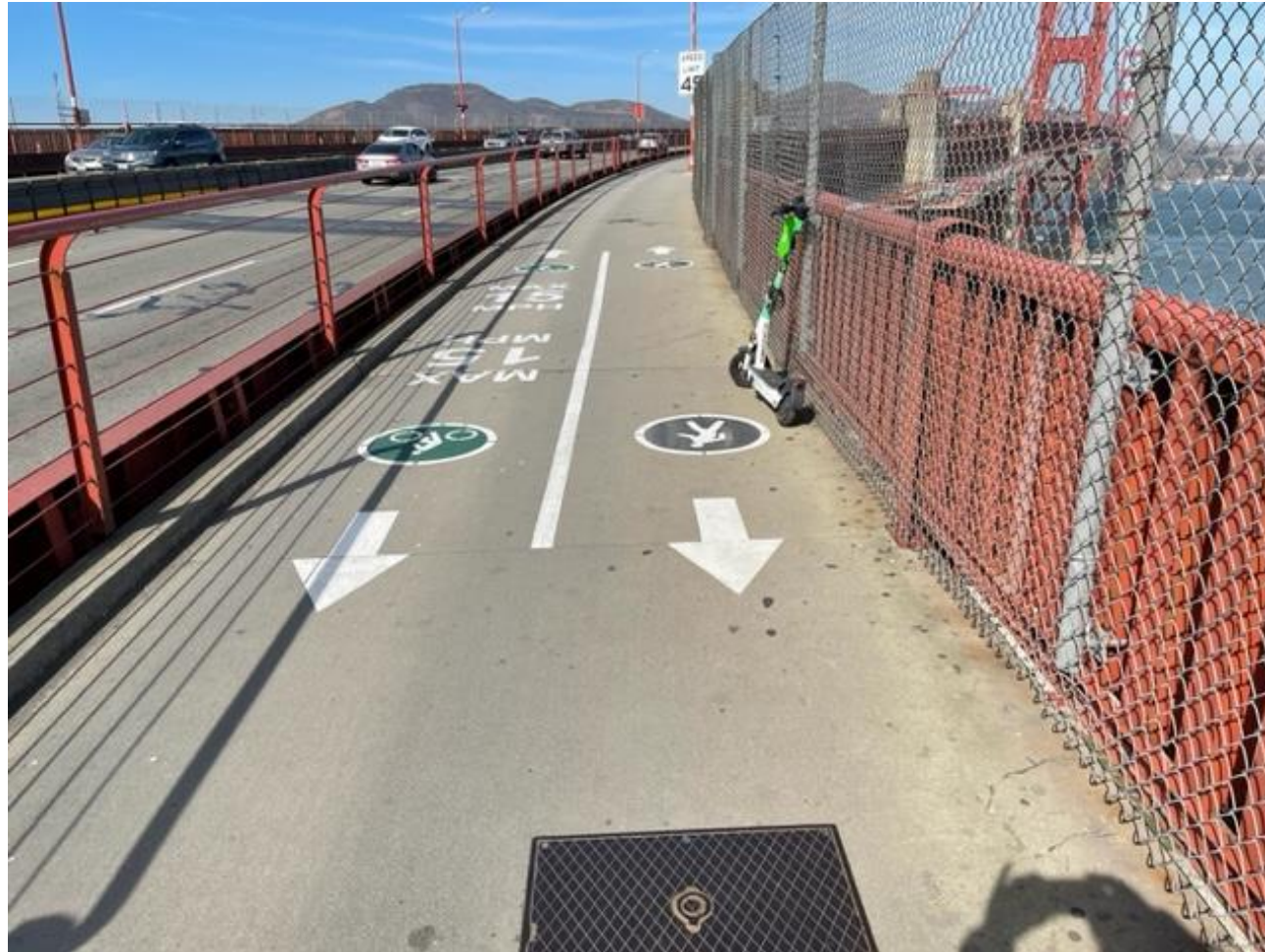
Bike/Peds in Correct Lanes



Three Abreast Peds and Bikes



- Stencils not Continuous - May Impact Behavior.
- Bike Path Width and Bike Stencil Does not Conform to the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM).
- Arrows vs Sharrows.



Conforming Behavior



Crowds of Peds Intrude into Bikeway #1



Crowds of Peds Intrude into Bikeway #2



Crowds of Peds Intrude into Bikeway #3



Crowds of Runners Intruding into Bikeway



Conforming Use



Conforming Use #2



Large Crowd Intruding into Bikeway



Peds Intruding into Bikeway



Conforming Use



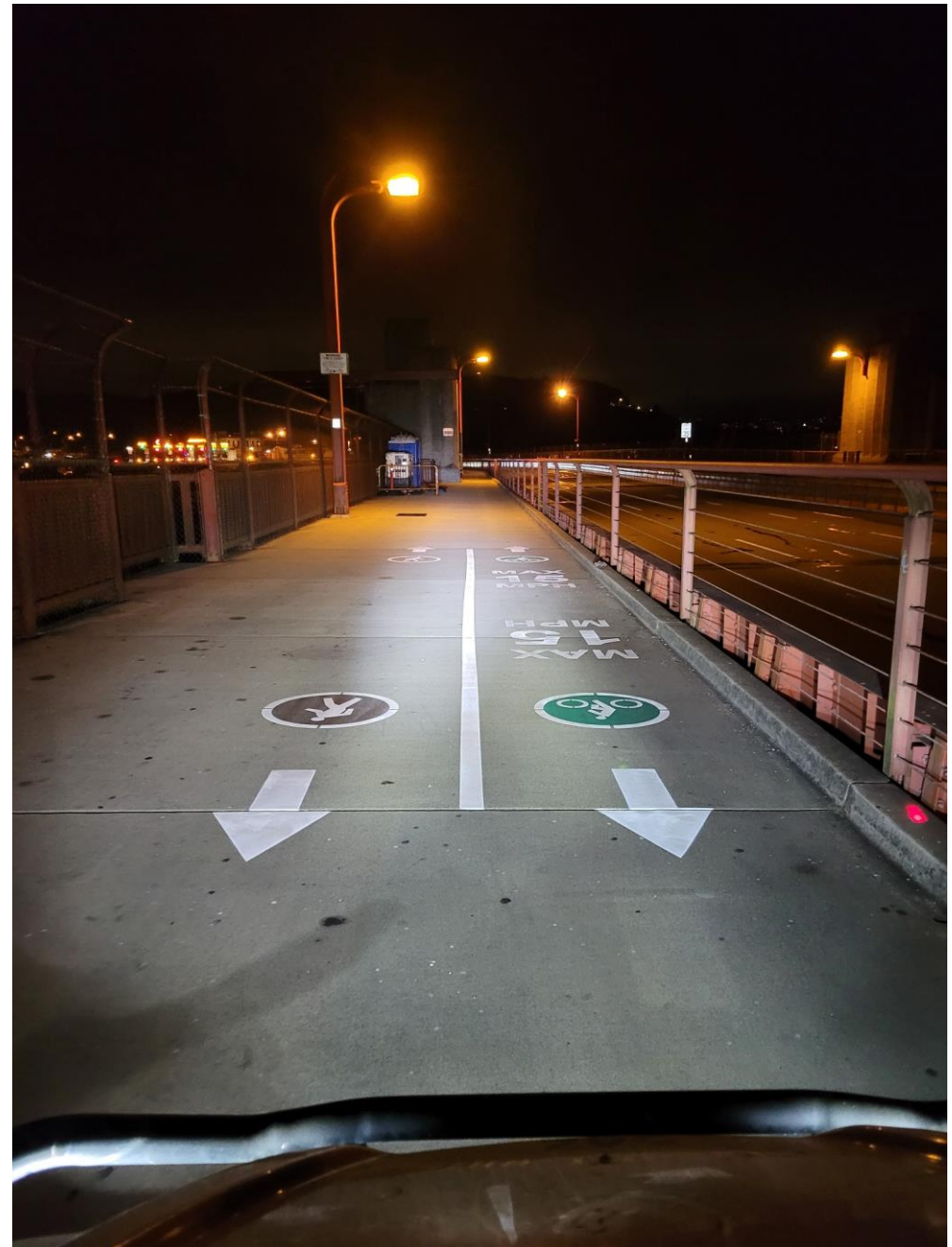
Narrow Southern Access Point



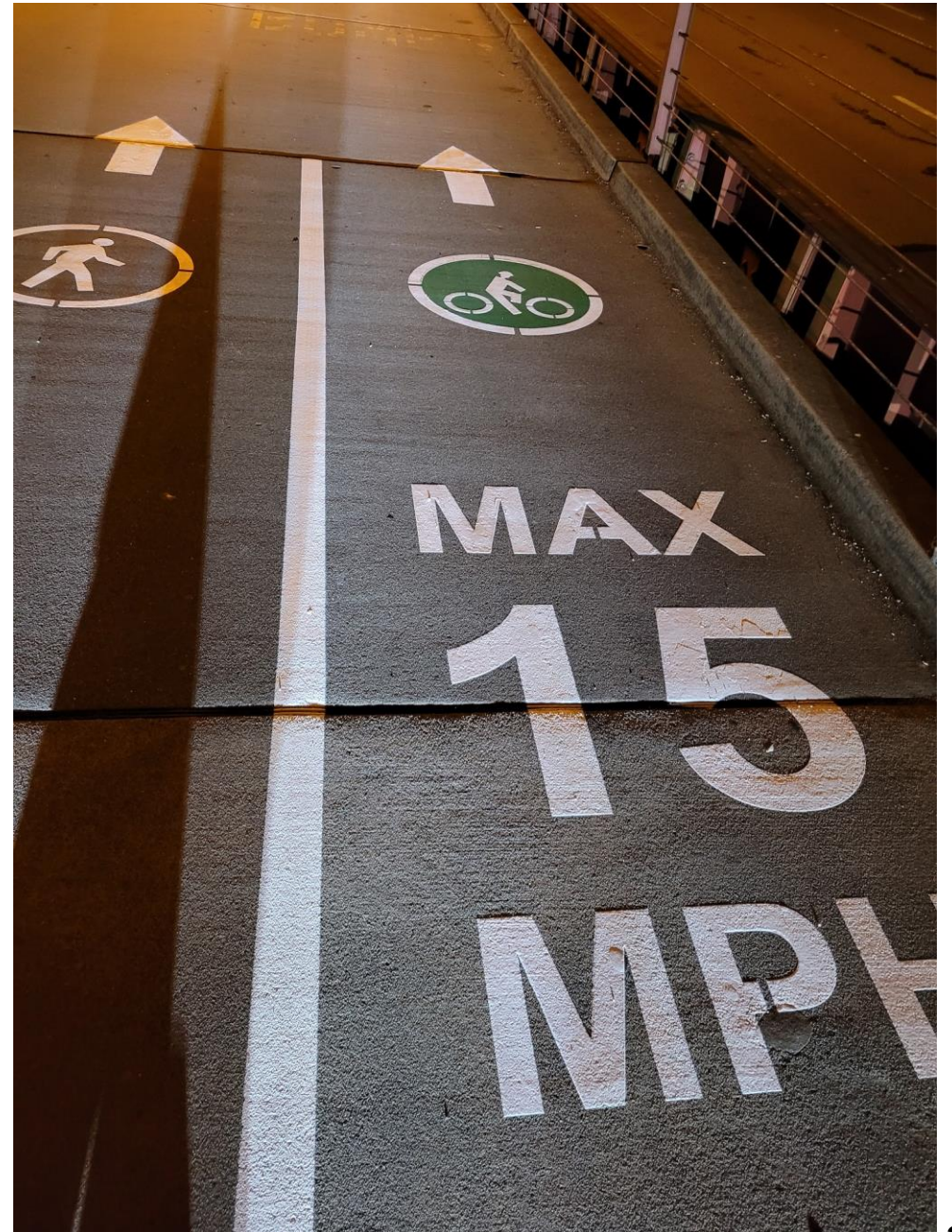
Narrow Southern Access Point with Bicycles



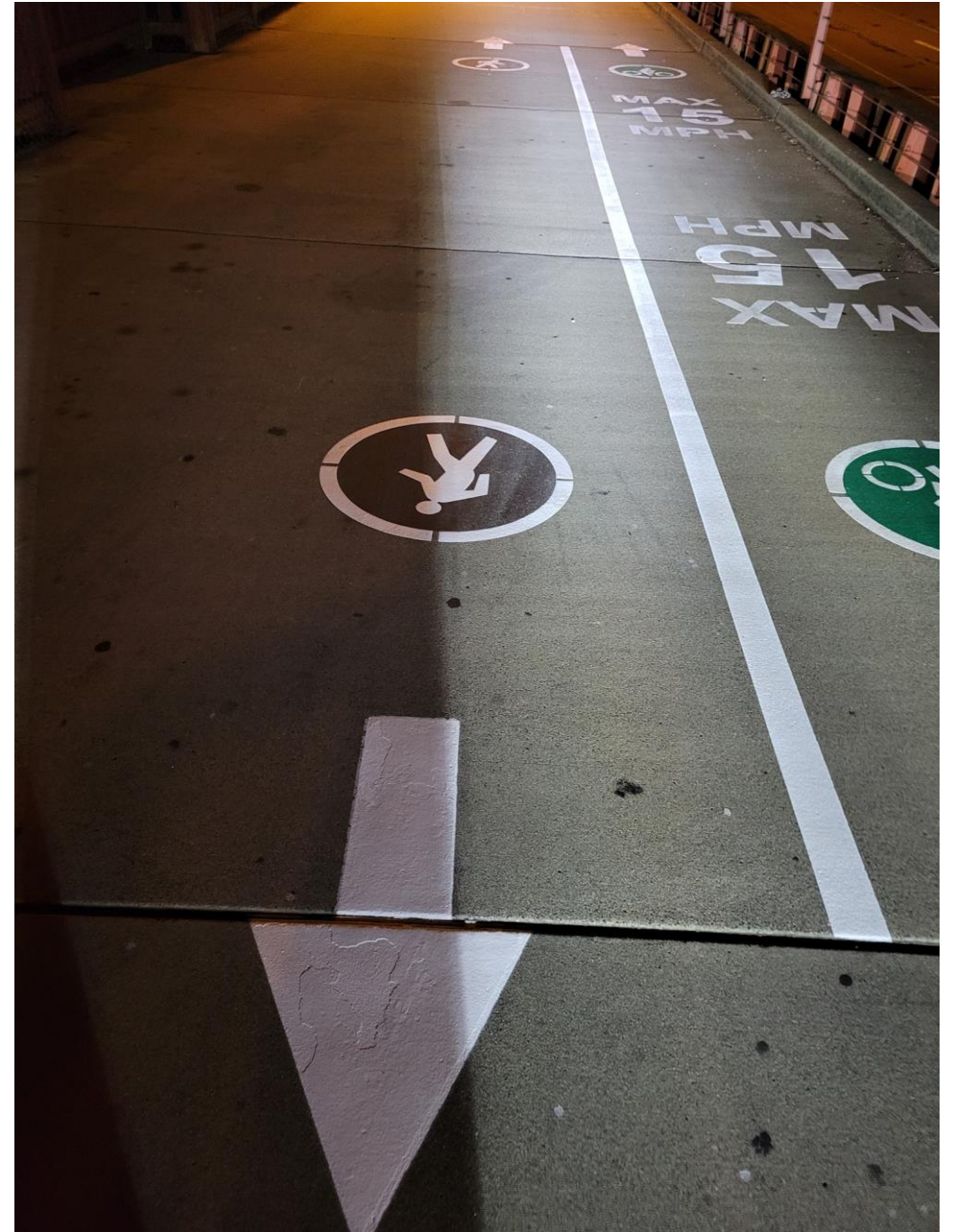
East Sidewalk Markings 1



East Sidewalk Markings 2



East Sidewalk Markings 3



East Sidewalk Markings 4

