



April 28, 2015

Phil Ginsburg
General Manager
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department
McLaren Lodge-Golden Gate Park
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department Commissioners
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Subject: Parking Spaces/Driving Lane on the Bay Trail at Marina Green

Dear Mr. Ginsburg, Commissioners:

The Bay Trail Project and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition have been advocating for the removal of a driving lane and parking on the Marina Green Bay Trail between Scott and Baker Streets since 2005—a *full decade*. While some important improvements have been made in the intervening ten years—re-paving, removal of trail hazards—cars still mix with pedestrians, cyclists, runners, roller bladers, wheelchair users, strollers, etc. on one of the most heavily used segments of Bay Trail in the 500-mile region-wide system. In no other place are trail users expected to find cars driving, backing, parking, and opening doors onto their shoreline multi-use path.

The formal public process to discuss safety issues on the Marina Green Bay Trail between Scott and Baker was conducted between 2012 and 2014. The Department held no less than four public meetings on proposed plans for this segment of Bay Trail and provided the opportunity for robust public discourse. The result of this good work was the attached plan calling for the removal of the driving lane and the relocation of boater parking to the west harbor lots. This plan is supported by ABAG's Bay Trail Project, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, National Park Service, California Coastal Conservancy, the Fort Mason Center, Walk SF, Livable City and hundreds of residents who took the time to attend these public meetings, submit their comments online in response to the survey, or by e-mail to Rec Park staff.

However, in November, 2014, after the conclusion of the above-referenced multi-year effort, we were informed that the Recreation and Parks Department was considering a new option suggested by slip owners. This new option would provide several cut-outs on the bayside of Marina Boulevard allowing for a drop-off, loading/unloading zone, and a small number of handicapped and public parking spaces.

The Bay Trail Project and the Bicycle Coalition are not opposed to the Department's evaluation of the concept of a cut-out on Marina Boulevard for these purposes. However, due to the need for coordination with the National Park Service (including potential historic preservation issues) regarding track removal, the need for City legislation to reduce sidewalk width, coordination with BCDC, coordination with the various City departments with jurisdiction in this area, and the need to identify specific funds (estimated at \$450,000), the timeline for implementation of this solution is several years out.

For this reason, the Bay Trail Project and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition urge the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department in the strongest of terms to move forward with the current plan to remove the parking and driving lane from the Bay Trail between Scott and Baker Streets immediately. We believe that a proposal to provide a drop-off, loading/unloading zone with limited parking may have merit and should be pursued. However, the thousands of walkers, joggers, cyclists, families, roller-bladers and wheelchair riders who make up 98% of the users of the Marina Green Bay Trail **cannot continue to wait for safety in this area.**

Please adhere to the plans you have invested significant time and effort into to date, and remove the parking and driving lane from the Marina Green Bay Trail immediately.

Please let us know how we can be of assistance in moving this important change for safety forward. I am attaching the above referenced plan and a sampling of support letters for your review.

Sincerely,



Maureen Gaffney
Senior Bay Trail Planner
San Francisco Bay Trail Project



Tyler Frisbee
Policy Director
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Cc: Christine Lehnertz, National Park Service
Andrea Lucas, National Park Service
Sam Schuchat, State Coastal Conservancy
Ann Halsted, SF BCDC
Ellen Miramontes, SF BCDC
Mark Farrell, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Catherine Stefani, Legislative Aide to Mark Farrell
Margaux Kelly, Legislative Aide to Mark Farrell
Mary Hobson, Recreation and Parks Department
Sarah Ballard, Recreation and Parks Department
Noah Budnick, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
Janice Li, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
Rich Hillis, Fort Mason Center
Tom Radoulavich, Livable City
Nicole Schneider, Walk SF