



**TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**EDITH STONE ROOM—RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
1249 MARIN AVENUE
Sept 25, 2008**

1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Lubov Mazur, Chair.

2 Roll Call

Members present: Ray Anderson, Lubov Mazur and Marsha Atkinson.

Absent: Nancy Peterson, Commissioner Madson said he would be arriving late

5-1 Buchanan Bicycle/Pedestrian Path

Chaney provided background on this issue.

Mazur said that she would like to see how would the path under the over-crossing look like because she feels it is a safer alternative.

Madson asked if in event USDA decided to extend the building they would reduce the buffer that presently exists between the public and their premises.

Chaney said that in fact they would reduce the buffer.

Michael Mejia said that it seems USDA made a distinction between the storage building and the front building. The front building seems less sensitive than the storage building.

Atkinson asked if it would cost more money to study the third option. Chaney said that in order to do it right, the City would have to come up with the money to do it.

Chavez said that the consultant would do the schematic under the same budget, but if an engineering drawing were required, it would have to be under a separate budget because the consultant would have to conduct another topographic survey.

Atkinson said that the third option would not serve pedestrians since they are not likely to walk under the over crossing and then up onto Buchanan. They need a crosswalk on Buchanan.

Chavez said that when staff and the consultant met with the stakeholders to discuss the idea of the third option, she had suggested that if the third option was the best one, it could be possible to include the signal at Taylor or Pierce in the project description and seek funding for it. Mazur opened the discussion to the public.

Sherrie Reineman said that she supports having a crossing at Taylor regardless of the inclusion of the third option in the study.

Barbara Wilson, resident of Buchanan St. mentioned that she had seen people walking on the bridge to go to Target. Mazur said that pedestrians could go under the bridge and come up at Petco. She said that there might be lack of signage directing pedestrians.

Ken McCroskey said that he and a group of interested citizens did their own walking audit the Saturday before the Traffic and Safety meeting. He said that he did not believe the USDA fence was very strong. He wondered what USDA had stored under the bridge, and what would happen in the event of an earthquake. He encouraged the Commission to pursue the study of the third option.

Michael Mejia said that it is important to keep the second phase of the Marin/Buchanan alive. He also said that all of the big corporations whose property is impacted by the Bay Trail are being reluctant to allow construction of the trail inside their campus. He encouraged the Commission to pursue the third option.

Preston Jordan clarified that AS&R is not pushing the third option because they want to eliminate the signal proposal. The AS&R is supporting this option because it has regional implications and bicycle organizations in the Bay Area are interested in it. He also said that the third option was not presented under the TY Lin study. The third option is the reason why DMJM Harris consultants were awarded the project. Another argument is that this property owner happens to be our government. As a property owner, USDA is not serving its community because it had not even provided a sidewalk along the south side of Buchanan. He also expressed that he had a problem understanding USDA's concern of pedestrian and bicycle circulation near its storage building when there is currently a bus stop adjacent to it. Jordan mentioned that he had spoken with Barbara Lee staff and they had asked about the City's position on this issue. Jordan presented a resolution he drafted for the Traffic and Safety Commission to adopt a position on this issue. In this way, the City would take an official position in order to invite USDA to come to the table in good faith and discuss the third option.

Mazur said this was an example of citizens asking to thoroughly study all the options available for a proposal. Anderson said that he would like to have more time to read the resolution. He said he supported the traffic signal at Taylor or Pierce and the third option eliminates the signal on Buchanan. Chaney said that the third option eliminates the need for the signal, but it does not mean that a signal could not be installed in the future using City funds, but not likely bicycle grant funds.

Atkinson said that the Commission already made the decision on this issue. She does not think it is the Commission's jurisdiction to go back to the City Council and revisit the issue.

The Commission decided to continue discussions on the issue and to evaluate and vote on Jordan's resolution at the next month's meeting.