



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

Date: September 2, 2015

To: Capital Committee
Recreation and Park Commission

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Dawn Kamalanathan, Director of Planning and Capital Management

From: Marvin Yee, Project Manager

Subject: Golden Gate Park Panhandle

Agenda Wording:

Discussion and possible action to approve a concept plan for pedestrian safety improvements in the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park.

Background:

The Golden Gate Park Panhandle (the “Panhandle”) is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, stretching from Stanyan to Baker Streets; and situated between Fell and Oak Streets. The Panhandle contains asphalt paths, basketball court, playground, restroom building, large expanses of lawn, and a monument to past President McKinley at its east end.

The multi-use pathway on the north side of the Panhandle is a popular route for bicyclists traversing across the City. Although it is designated a multi-use pathway intended for bicyclists and pedestrians, conflicts arise due to heavy use and particularly when pedestrians are crossing the pathway to/from street intersections.

The pathway alongside Oak Street to the south is pedestrian-only. The pavement is uneven due to upheaving tree roots and asphalt deterioration.

To improve shared use of the north pathway, the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA) independently initiated a planning process in 2014. Plans were developed by NOPNA Board Member/Architect Dera-Jill Pozner through feedback gathered through eight community meetings. In addition to outreach to the NOPNA membership, presentations were made to HANC and other neighborhood organizations. Through Supervisor Breed, funding was secured to implement improvements in phases.



To validate the community's support for the concept plan, the Recreation and Park Department held a similar "open house" in the Panhandle. Over 40 people signed in and provided comments. Many comments pertained to the roadways and crosswalks bordering the Panhandle, which is outside of the Recreation and Park Commission's jurisdiction. Regardless the proposed concept plan describes a comprehensive set of improvements envisioned for the Panhandle and its surroundings through coordination with SFDPW and SFMTA. The Recreation and Park Commission action would pertain only to those items proposed for park property.

As shown on the concept plan, improvements proposed for park property to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety are:

- Retrofit of existing light poles with LED lamps (construction in progress);
- Restriping the centerline of the multi-use pathway;
- New diagonal, continental striping on the multi-use pathway near street intersections;
- New symbol stencils (sharrow, bicycle and pedestrian) on the multi-use pathway;
- Additional site furnishings (benches, trash receptacles and bike racks);
- Additional wayfinding signage;
- Additional park identification poles and signs;
- New water bottle filler;
- New landscaping; and
- Repaving with minor realignment of the pedestrian-only (south) path.

Although many perspectives were shared on the proposed park improvements, the proposed plan focuses on improvements that could be implemented for immediate benefit without altering park use.

Budget and Timeline:

\$500,000 is available in total from FY14/15 (\$250K) and FY15/16 (\$250K) from the General Fund for the LED lighting retrofit project and north pathway improvements (pathway markings and signage) and site furnishings (benches, trash receptacles, bike racks and water bottle filler).

The LED lighting retrofit project is underway for completion by October 2015. Construction of the north pathway improvements would begin in summer 2016 and completed in fall of 2016.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that this commission does approve a concept plan for pedestrian safety improvements in the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park.

Supported By:

Supervisor London Breed
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association
City College, John Adams Center
Divisadero Merchants Association
Episcopal Senior Communities
Haight Ashbury Merchant Association
Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC)
North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA)
Panhandle Park Stewards
Panhandle Residents Organization / Stanyan Fulton (PROSF)
Safety Awareness For Everyone (SAFE)
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and Center
SF Bicycle Coalition
San Francisco Day School
SF Police Department
Walk SF
Numerous park users and neighbors

Opposed By:

None known

Attachments:

- A. Concept plan of proposed improvements
- B. Letters of Support