

Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee

Action Minutes August 23, 2004

Meeting started at 5:35 pm

Present: Members: Shirley Bierly; Helen Quan; Jeanne Lynch; Ancel Martinez; Sharon Priest; Pi Ra; and Howard Strassner

Staff: Frank Markowitz, Adam Gubser, Eileen Ross and Joern Kroll, DPT.

1. Minutes: Approved July Minutes

2. Walk to School Day: Adam Gubser presented: Most SF schools have lots of parents dropping off because many kids are required to come from a distance in order to maintain the desired diversity index. In Marin they found that 60% of accidents were caused by parents there to drop off kids. There are 230 public, private and parochial schools in SF. Some parochial schools have a high proportion of kids walking. DPT has a grant from the State Office of Traffic Safety to encourage schools to develop Walk to School Day programs and are working with seven schools. There is only one DPT person to work on long term improvements for walking. DPT is working with agreeable schools and neighborhoods to promote walking to school as a health benefit. DPT is trying to move some drop off zones a block or so from school to help diminish the drop-off mess. SFPD also works to promote safety. The Walk to Schools is planned for the first Wednesday in October and this seems to be too early in the school year because teachers and principals are busy starting the new year.

3. Public Comment: There was none.

4. Pedestrian Master Plan Resolution: Emily Drennen Presented for Walk SF: We reviewed a draft copy of a proposed resolution for the SFC Transportation Authority to award a two year contract for public outreach, to help develop the SF PMP, to a non profit ped safety organization. The proposed amount, \$125,000 is probably a reasonable proportion of the \$300,000 available from the 0.5% sales tax reauthorization - and other funds may be available. Frank Markowitz: DPT expects to take the lead in the project - has problems with the objectivity of advocacy groups and wants PSAC to be involved. There is time for a full City bidding process though the SFCTA may not be subject to all requirements. Bob Planthold pointed out that the agenda did not include this as a action item. PSAC decided to send the issue to our Working Committee to prepare a recommendation for action next month.

5. Accessible Ped Signal: Joern Kroll and Frank Markowitz presented: APS can consist of various methods to improve crossing safety for blind and other disabled people at intersections. DPT has a grant and they are working with Lighthouse for the Blind, who was considering a suit because SF now has only two of these signals. There are many signals in use around the country and study is necessary to see which ones are most suitable for SF. There is about \$390,000 available from the sales tax plus \$50,000 from Caltrans. Kathleen Anderson from Lighthouse was supportive. DPT distributed various lists of test sites being considered. DPT expects to have an initial test for twelve locations and various equipment to be followed by 28 more locations with more focused APS methods. Frank Gallagher, Vice Commodore of Bay Area Disabled Sailors said that they need APS to cross Embarcadero at Brannan. Jeanne Lynch pointed that APS is necessary to cross Geary at at least two locations. PSAC decided to continue this item to next month and develop criteria for test site selection.

6. Supervisor Ma Ped Safety Ordinance Update: Ordinance copies were distributed. Ordinance was introduced to Land Use Committee - no hearing date yet. DPT has problems with: definition of crossing time; high cost of 66% of intersections requiring ladder cross walks and reduced safety of marked cross walks at uncontrolled intersections. PSAC decided to send this issue to the Working Committee.

7. Adjournment: At 7:10 PM