



April 12, 2006

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SUICIDE DETERRENT STUDY FUNDING UPDATE

MTC's Program and Allocations Committee approves \$250,000 for Suicide Barrier Study, MTC Commission votes on April 26, 2006

On Wednesday, April 12, 2006, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Program and Allocations Committee allocated an additional \$250,000 to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District's (District) \$2 million two-phase Golden Gate Bridge Suicide Deterrent Study (Study). This matter will now go to the full MTC Commission for concurrence at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 26, 2006.

MTC committed \$1.6 million to the Study last April. This commitment required 20% in local matching funds (\$400,000). Of this amount, \$153,700 has been identified as follows:

- \$25,000 from the County of Marin
- \$100,000 from the City and County of San Francisco
- \$18,700 from various donors through private citizens and the Psychiatric Foundation of Northern California, San Francisco
- \$10,000 has been pledged from other private sources

This leaves \$246,300 still required for full funding. The MTC allocation is rounded up \$250,000 to sufficiently cover the remaining amount.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

On Friday, March 24, 2006, the Board of Directors took action to allow for one consultant contract that would be carried out in two phases. The two phases of the comprehensive Study will include:

- Phase 1: Screening of Wind Excitation Associated with Generic Suicide Deterrent Design Concepts. Cost = \$625,000.
- Phase 2: Full Preliminary Engineering/ Environmental and Historical Preservation studies including development of cost estimate for construction of project. Cost = \$1,375,000.

Phase 1 will take approximately 6 months to complete once contract is awarded and notice to proceed is issued to the selected consultant. Approximately 4 months is needed to undertake procurement of consultant services.

Phase 1 will include a review of suicide deterrent studies done previously by the District and identify/review any studies that have been done for barriers on other long-span suspension bridges. Phase 1 will identify generic design concepts for use in analyzing wind excitation impacts, through wind tunnel testing, on structure movement, stability, and integrity, assuming both presence of median

barrier and no median barrier. Generic design concepts are expected to fall within the following three categories: (1) net under the Bridge, (2) fence structure added to the existing railing, and (3) replacement of the existing railing with new structure. Phase 1 will include a report identifying generic design concepts to take through wind tunnel testing and a report identifying design concepts that prove to negatively impact wind excitation and concepts that should be studied further in the full engineering and environmental analysis process to be undertaken in Phase 2.

On Friday, March 10, 2006, the District Board of Directors adopted a resolution (by a 17 to 1 vote, one member absent) to move forward with a \$2 million Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study for a Suicide Deterrent System for the Golden Gate Bridge, with the understanding that the funds would come from non-District sources.