



Golden Gate Bridge

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

Project Purpose

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District has investigated both physical and non-physical measures to stop people from committing suicide by jumping off the Bridge and currently utilizes several nonphysical suicide deterrent systems.

The District has commissioned the project to consider the installation of a physical suicide deterrent system on the east and west sides of the Bridge.

Project Need

The need for the project stems from the following key factors:

- The Bridge's sidewalks are open to the public and the existing outside railing along the sidewalks is four feet high
- Individuals of varying heights, weights, ages and sexes, who were not using the Bridge sidewalks for their intended purpose, have climbed over the existing railing and jumped to their death
- There is no other physical barrier preventing an individual from jumping, once the railing has been scaled
- It is estimated that approximately 1,300 individuals have committed suicide by jumping off the Bridge

Project Criteria

The District Board of Directors adopted the following criteria. A potential physical suicide deterrent system for the Bridge must:

- Impede the ability of an individual to jump off the Bridge
- Not cause safety or nuisance hazards to sidewalk users including pedestrians, bicyclists, District staff, and District contractors or security partners
- Must be able to be maintained as a routine part of the District's ongoing Bridge maintenance program and without undue risk of injury to District employees
- Not diminish ability to provide adequate security of the Bridge
- Continue to allow access to the underside of the Bridge for emergency response and maintenance activities
- Not have a negative impact on the wind stability of the Bridge
- Satisfy requirements of state and federal historic preservation laws
- Have minimal visual and aesthetic impacts on the Bridge
- Be cost effective to construct and maintain
- Not in and of itself create undue risk of injury to anyone who comes in contact with the suicide deterrent system
- Not prevent construction of a moveable median barrier on the Bridge

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Non-Physical Suicide Deterrent Measures Currently In Use Prevent Approximately 2/3 of Suicide Attempts

Crisis Phones

Eleven emergency and crisis counseling telephones are located on the Bridge sidewalks.

Bridge security staff can connect callers, at their request, to suicide prevention counselors at the San Francisco Suicide Prevention's crisis line.

Bridge Patrols

Bridge patrol officers and California Highway Patrol officers trained in suicide intervention are deployed on the Bridge.

Bridge Workers

All Bridge workers who have volunteered to assist in suicide intervention and rescue activities have received special training.

Cameras

A network of closed-circuit cameras that have the primary purpose of preserving the security of the Bridge are also available to aid in directing intervention personnel.

