



Golden Gate Bridge

Physical Suicide Deterrent System Project

Summary of Environmental Impact Analysis

Visual/Aesthetics

Visual / Aesthetics analysis assesses the visual impacts from 14 representative viewpoints and considers impacts to:

- existing visual conditions and on visual resources;
- viewer response considering vividness and intactness of views, unity of views, overall visual quality.

Cultural Resources/ Historic Preservation

Cultural Resources / Historic Preservation analysis reports on historic resources in the vicinity, along with addressing pertinent governing federal, state and local regulations.

Land Use

Land Use analysis identifies existing land use and transportation plans and policies that apply to the project area, describes changes that would occur as a result, evaluates the consistency of the alternatives with local and regional planning policies.

Parks & Recreation

Park & Recreational Facilities analysis describes potential impacts and benefits to park and recreational facilities in the vicinity. Impacts can be physical in nature or can be related to the users' enjoyment of the facility.

Biological Resources

Biological Resources analysis describes the regulatory setting and the existing plant and wildlife species in the project area. The location of the wildlife and potential effects that result from the alternatives are evaluated.

The following environmental issues were considered but no adverse impacts were identified: growth, farmlands/timberlands, community impacts, utilities/emergency services, traffic and transportation/pedestrian and bicycle facilities, hydrology and floodplain, water quality and storm water run-off, geology/soils/seismic/topography, paleontology, hazardous waste/materials, air quality, noise, energy, natural communities, wetlands and other waters.



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Summary of Findings

Visual/Aesthetics

- Impacts to views TOWARD the Bridge are negligible to minimally adverse with one exception - view impact is adverse from Vista Point toward the Bridge.
- For the four railing alternatives (Alts. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B), impacts to views FROM the Bridge are adverse to strongly adverse.
- For the net alternative (Alt. 3), impacts to views FROM the Bridge are negligible with one exception of adverse at two main towers

Cultural Resources/ Historic Preservation

As the Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, any of the Build Alternatives would cause direct adverse effects because each of the Build Alternatives would alter the historic property.

Land Use

The Build Alternatives are consistent with local and regional plans and policies. Since the Build Alternatives would be constructed entirely on the Bridge, there would be no impact to the existing land use of the Bridge or the properties or recreational facilities surrounding the Bridge.

Parks & Recreation

The Build Alternatives would impact the recreational experience of users on the Bridge sidewalks. Also, should a Build Alternative go to construction, the parking lot on Merchant Road would potentially be impacted during construction if used as a staging area.

Biological Resources

The Build Alternatives would not impact any federal or state listed species or sensitive biological resources and they would not include the development or direct disturbance of plant communities or aquatic habitats.

As focused studies have not been conducted to determine if bird collisions would be likely at the transparent panels in Alternatives 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B or in the netting in Alternative 3, it is assumed that the use of the panels or netting may adversely affect various bird species.

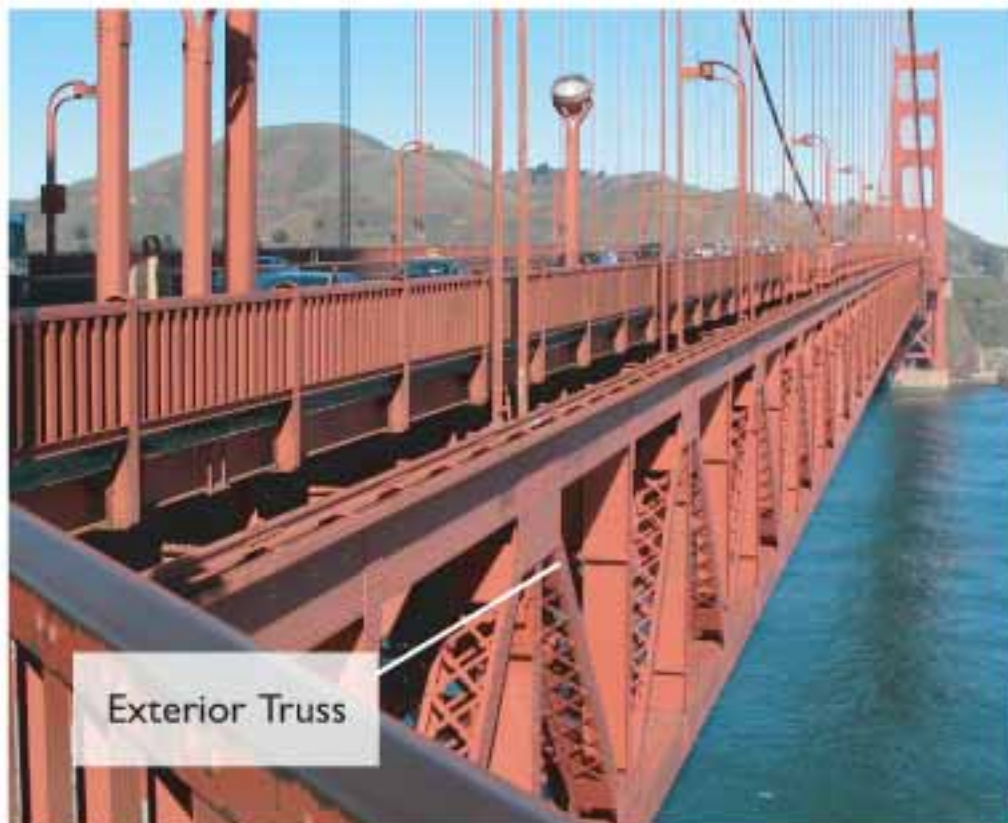
The Bridge provides potentially suitable nesting habitat for the peregrine falcon, and should an active nest of the species be present, construction related activities may result in the abandonment of the nest.

If a Build Alternative is selected, the District would retain the services of a qualified avian biologist to further evaluate the potential of birds to nest and/or collide with the transparent panels and netting. Further, should it be found that the use of the transparent panels or netting pose a substantial collision risk to birds, appropriate design measures would be implemented.

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Cultural Resources / Historic Preservation Analysis Findings



As the Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, any of the Build Alternatives would cause direct adverse effects because each of the Build Alternatives would alter the historic property.

Direct Adverse Effects

Complete or partial removal and/or alteration of character-defining features of the Bridge, specifically the 4-foot-tall outside handrail and the exterior truss.

Indirect Adverse Effects

- Introduction of visual elements out of character with the original design of the historic property.
- Change in the character of its use as a historic property by changing the original design of the 4-foot-tall outside handrail which allows pedestrians and bicyclists to lean over and experience the views.
- Addition of barrier systems where none existed originally.
- Use of non-historic materials (transparent panels, winglets, metal rods, cable netting).
- Alteration of the pedestrian, bicyclist and vehicle occupant experience on the Bridge.



Visual Impacts - View From Boat to Northwest

Alternative 1A: Add vertical system to handrail - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2A: Replace handrail with vertical system - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 3: Add net - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 1B: Add horizontal system to handrail - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2B: Replace handrail with horizontal system - *minimally adverse visual impact*



No Build Alternative: No visual impact



Visual Impacts - View From Vista Point to South

Alternative 1A: Add vertical system to handrail - *adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2A: Replace handrail with vertical system - *adverse visual impact*



Alternative 3: Add net - *adverse visual impact*



Alternative 1B: Add horizontal system to handrail - *adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2B: Replace handrail with horizontal system - *adverse visual impact*



No Build Alternative: No visual impact



Visual Analysis - View From Fort Point to Northwest

Alternative 1A: Add vertical system to handrail - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2A: Replace handrail with vertical system - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 3: Add net - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 1B: Add horizontal system to handrail - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2B: Replace handrail with horizontal system - *minimally adverse visual impact*



No Build Alternative: No visual impact



Visual Impacts - View From North Fishing Pier to Southwest

Alternative 1A: Add vertical system to handrail - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2A: Replace handrail with vertical system - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 3: Add net - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 1B: Add horizontal system to handrail - *minimally adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2B: Replace handrail with horizontal system - *minimally adverse visual impact*



No Build Alternative: No visual impact



Visual Impacts - View North on Roadway

Alternative 1A: Add vertical system to handrail - *adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2A: Replace handrail with vertical system - *adverse visual impact*



Alternative 3: Add net - *negligible visual impact*



Alternative 1B: Add horizontal system to handrail - *adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2B: Replace handrail with horizontal system - *adverse visual impact*



No Build Alternative: *No visual impact*



Visual Impacts - View East From Roadway

Alternative 1A: Add vertical system to handrail - *strongly adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2A: Replace handrail with vertical system - *strongly adverse visual impact*



Alternative 3: Add net - *negligible visual impact*



Alternative 1B: Add horizontal system to handrail - *strongly adverse visual impact*



Alternative 2B: Replace handrail with horizontal system - *strongly adverse visual impact*



No Build Alternative: No visual impact

