

Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee

Action Minutes November 13, 2007

Meeting started at 5:30 PM

Present: Members: Shirley Bierly; Andrew Bley; Dan Brook; John Erlich; Katy Liddell; John Lowell; Pi Ra; Richard Rothman; Raymon Smith and Howard Strassner. There are currently 11 appointed members. **Staff:** Cristina Olea, DPT

1. Minutes: PSAC approved the October minutes. **John:** Questioned why Van Ness was getting countdown signals before Nineteenth. Van Ness used SF Prop 'K' funds for easier changes to accident intersections. On Nineteenth the State will pay about half and the existing signals are older and need more work. Priority was determined by accidents and location for contracting. All of the intersections are scheduled for countdowns by 2009. Cristina will send out the State laws that apply.

2. Public Comment: Lieutenant (Missed name) of the SFPD Traffic Detail presented. Detail has only 8 people, down from 14 a few years ago. The Detail also works on gang incidents and VIPs. It takes three man hours for every accident. This does not leave much time for enforcement. He will send Pi the typical monthly enforcement hours and quarterly accident reports. Two officers in each district are supposed to do enforcement but this is not controlled by the Detail. SF needs more education for drivers. Only 10% of moving violations go to driving school. They do some education in the schools and use State Office of Traffic Safety grants to enforce specific areas and check points. He can come back next month and **PSAC** will email him questions in advance and have enforcement as an action item next month. **Michael Radetsky, DPH:** DPH works with SFPD. Enforcement can be a key part of education because too many people get away with speeding and reckless driving.

3. Safe Routes to School: Jessica Manzi, Manager Schools Safety Program, presented: SF is applying for State Grants, available for infrastructure costs: The proposal for Marina Middle School includes: corner bulbs, cross walks, refuge island, curb ramps and count down signals. The proposal for Clarendon Elementary includes: A new signal with push button to cross; flashing warning lights and cross walk painting. DPW will provide some new sidewalks. Ten new countdowns are proposed for high collision intersections near schools. **PSAC Comments:** SOMA needs more safe routes to schools provisions. Better warning signs will be useful. Response: Bessie Carmichael has had improvements. Melo Roos funds are available from Redevelopment. **PSAC** voted to endorse these three applications. **Pi** will prepare a letter.

4. Better Streets Program: Heath Maddox, DPT presented: Pros and cons for no right turn on red: Gives pedestrians their full time to cross but can delay transit and traffic. Right turns on red are prohibited at 14% of SFs 1200 signalized intersection. Only 0.8% Of collisions occur during right turns on red. Each intersection is a special case. High Visibility cross walks in SF are the continental type with the wide bars and no ladder sides. It is not known whether these induce more compliance over the older stop line. SF has a grant to study the effects of yellow cross walks. **PSAC** comments: We need more objective criteria for when to prohibit or allow right turns on red. Signals that give pedestrians a head start to cross before allowing turns work well. Advance stops

lines are useful to provide space for bikes. **Pi** and **Howard** will prepare a list of Better Streets proposals for PSAC

5. Report Sub-Committee: John, Raymon, Pi and **Andrew** agreed to serve. **Shirley** will edit. They will decide on their meeting schedule. Pi will ensure public notification.

6. Adjournment: At 7:20 PM. Next meeting December 11. Closing Comments: PSAC members should select which stakeholder groups they will work with and email Pi. We may need to meet more frequently.