



Bridge Rail Foundation Newsletter

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Raise the Rail—Stop the Suicides

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Two Critical GGB meetings this month:

This week--**October 10, 2008, at 10 am**, the GGB Board will hear a staff report with the following:

- A summary of comments received on the Suicide Deterrent Draft Environmental Impact Report
- The impact of the five build alternatives on bridge operations and maintenance
- Next steps in the decision making process—(they plan no decisions at this meeting)



As you may know, much of second point above--the 5 build alternatives "impact on operations" -- was shared with the press last week. The thrust of this information is that the net alternative is cheaper to maintain and less risky for GGB maintenance staff.

The staff report and related documents are available now from GGB – [Click here](#) for the link.

Decision Time-- October 24 at 10 am

This is the first real critical decision of the process—The GGB Board is to select the suicide deterrent approach it favors (if any). At this meeting the Board can designate any one of the five "build alternatives", do nothing and allow the suicides to continue, or delay action to a future meeting. The meeting on the 10th is important, but the meeting on the 24th is absolutely critical—**We will need our supporters there in force.** If you cannot make it—write or email GGB to clearly state they must act to stop suicides from the bridge. Contact information is below.

Contact GGB

Written comments can be mailed to:
Golden Gate Bridge District
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129-0601

[Click here](#) to email comments directly to GGB.

After the 24th---

Lots more decisions—months more "process"

We are working to make sure GGB selects an option on the 24th—if it does so, it's designated the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

This LPA is then the basis for completing the EIR process and initiating the funding process. The EIR itself should be complete in the spring of '09, and critical decisions will still reside with the GGB board, CalTrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The state Landmarks organization may also be involved at this point.

We still have a long way to go after October 24th, but we must win there first!

"Whose Shoes?" Project—

On September 24th--spread out in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge--were over 1,300 shoes representing the toll of suicide deaths allowed by 70+ years of inaction at the bridge district.

Shoes on display were from every walk of life—including carpenters, bankers, dancers, doctors, teachers and students. Donated shoes were collected from throughout the Bay Area, many from family and friends of persons who jumped from the bridge.

A pair of WWI soldier's boots represented the first known bridge suicide in 1937. Children's shoes commemorated the three youngsters known to have died as a result of bridge jumps.

The BRF presentation was part of the "Walk Out of Darkness" an annual fundraiser for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Bridge Rail volunteer Joanie Boyle, who lost a nephew to a bridge suicide, coordinated the project—pulling the entire event together in less than two weeks. She was supported by many other survivor family members and BRF board members.

Local media coverage was extensive and the story was released over two national wire services. More photos are—or soon will be—on our web site. [Click here](#) for the link.

Photos in this issue of the BRF newsletter are from the exhibit.



Help Us Fight to Raise the Rail

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