

Alexander Avenue/Danes Drive Intersection Improvement Project

Environmental Assessment/Initial Study

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate
National Recreation Area

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway
and Transportation District



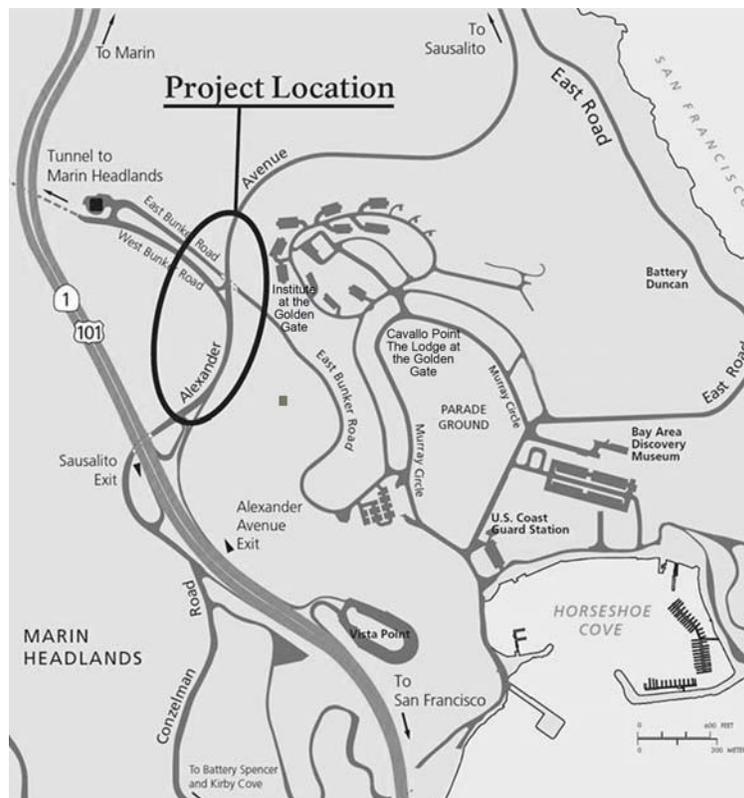
In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Park Service (NPS) and the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) have prepared an Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) for the Alexander Avenue/Danes Drive Intersection Improvement Project and are soliciting public comments on the EA/IS.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to correct existing deficiencies and substandard roadway conditions at the Alexander Avenue left-turn lane to Danes Drive. The project would also help to reduce offsite transportation impacts associated with intensified operation of Fort Baker by improving the Alexander Avenue/Danes Drive intersection functionality and enhancing multi-modal use opportunities along Alexander Avenue. The project identifies actions within the project area that address a number of deficient multi-modal transportation conditions including: inadequate roadside shoulder width to handle shared bicycle, pedestrian, and automobile use; and skewed intersection geometry.

Preferred Alternative

All of the action alternatives would result in the reconfiguration of the Alexander Avenue/Danes Drive intersection, lengthening of the left-turn lane along Alexander Avenue, and widening of the shoulders along both sides of Alexander Avenue within the project limits. The Agency Preferred Alternative is the 8-Foot Rockfall Catchment Alternative (Alternative D). With this alternative the east side slope of Alexander Avenue would be cut to accommodate an 8-foot rockfall catchment ditch along the east side of Alexander Avenue and a temporary concrete barrier would be installed along the east side of Alexander Avenue to prevent rockfall from entering the travel lanes. Alternative D would allow for two 12-foot-wide vehicle lanes, a 12-foot-wide left turn lane, and a 5-foot-wide combined shoulder and bicycle lane on both sides of Alexander Avenue.



Other Alternatives Considered

The other action alternatives, the 16-Foot Rockfall Catchment Alternative (Alternative B), and the 5-Foot Rockfall Catchment Alternative (Alternative C) vary from the Preferred Alternative in the extent of excavation required for the improvements to Alexander Avenue and the method for reducing rockfall hazards associated with the cut slope along the east-side of Alexander Avenue.

Public Review Period

The public review period will begin on December 23, 2011 and end on January 27, 2012. The EA/IS is available for review and comment online at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Alex_Danes_Improvements, and at San Francisco Libraries (Main, Marina, Anza, Presidio and Sunset Branches), and Belvedere-Tiburon, Corte Madera County, Marin City, Mill Valley and Sausalito Public Libraries. Comments can be submitted online (preferred) or mailed to:

Superintendent
Attn: Alexander Avenue/Danes Drive EA
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123 – 1307

What Happens Next

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, NPS and GGBHTD may: (1) give environmental approval to the project (a Finding of No Significant Impact (NEPA)/Negative Declaration (CEQA) will be released), (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, NPS and/or GGBHTD could design and construct all or part of the project.

If you have questions on the project or the review process, please contact goga_planning@nps.gov.



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Fort Mason, Building 201
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**Release of the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the
Alexander Avenue/Danes Drive Intersection Improvements Project**

If you recently joined our email list please note you may receive some paper mail until the end of January as we complete this transition.