



## GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PLAZA 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY VISITOR IMPROVEMENTS

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway Transportation District (GGBHTD) is partnering with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and National Park Service to improve the visitor experience and visitor facilities on the southeast side of the Golden Gate Bridge, in preparation for the Bridge's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2012.

### Background

In anticipation of the May 2012 anniversary of the Bridge, the goals of this project are to improve the visitor experience on the east side of the Bridge by augmenting visitor services, improving orientation/wayfinding; improving traffic flow, visitor access and site circulation; improving site accessibility; addressing parking and visitor safety issues; and enhancing historic, natural, and recreational resources in the area. The proposed improvements are consistent with the 1994 NPS General Management Plan Amendment for the Presidio, the approved Presidio Trails and Bikeways Plan and the Presidio Vegetation Management Plan.

### Project Details

The southeast plaza at the Bridge will be revitalized to provide an improved visitor experience for visitors. Specific site improvements will:

- Construct a new, interim 3,500 square foot facility, to be known as the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pavilion, to provide interpretive exhibits and visitor services, including retail currently housed in the Round House. The Pavilion will occupy the northern portion of the existing parking lot, across the plaza from the Bridge Café. The one-story structure will be approximately 40 feet wide, 88 feet long and 22 feet high at its tallest point, and built of prefabricated components. Its design and siting will conform to design guidelines developed by the park to guide improvements in this historic area. It will meet environmental certification standards and be fully accessible in accordance with the American Disabilities Act.
- Extend utility service to the new Pavilion, including electric, natural gas, phone and data, sanitary sewer, storm drain and domestic water. Connections will be made to existing utility lines within the Bridge District site.
- Renovate the historic Round House's interior. The Round House will become a site for visitor programs, staging for educational tours, special events, and grab-and-go food service, including takeout coffee.
- Expand the visitor plaza to provide more usable space for visitors to gather, become oriented, and enjoy views. Seating and bike parking will be added, while the statue and cable section will remain.

- Restore historic views of the Bridge, San Francisco Bay, and skyline from the visitor plaza by trimming vegetation and removing some of the ornamental trees.
- Reconfigure the parking lot to improve pedestrian safety, improve parking efficiency, and clarify auto and tour bus movement. The improvements will help to reduce the loss of parking spaces on the Pavilion site. Transit service will be unchanged.
- Upgrade the existing Bridge Café.
- Improve site accessibility.
- Upgrade signage to improve wayfinding, interpretation and visitor information.

(See Attachment 1 for the location and orientation of the site improvements. See Attachment 2 for the site improvements in context of the plaza and visitor access.)

Construction will begin in June 2011 and be substantially complete by April 2012. Work will be closely coordinated with nearby concurrent projects such as trail improvements, including those to the Battery East Bay Trail, Battery East parking lot/trailhead, and the Golden Gate Overlook, as well as GGBHTD interpretive exhibits, lead remediation at Battery East, and intersection improvements at Lincoln Blvd / Highway 101 ramps.

Pedestrians, visitors with disabilities, cyclists, and private vehicles will continue to be able to access the Bridge plaza and Bridge sidewalks through construction. Wherever possible, work in public roads and paths will be completed in off-peak visitor months. When detours are required, they will be appropriately signed, flagged and protected. Project Information Coordinators will be available on site to answer questions from the public at key points in the work.

### **Open House / Review and Comment**

Comments on the proposed improvements may be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/GGBridge75th>. Comments must be submitted by May 16, 2011.

You are also encouraged to attend the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's public Open House on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 to be held at National Park Service Headquarters in San Francisco, Fort Mason Building 201 from 4:30-6:30 pm, where information about this project will be distributed and discussed.

Updates about site improvements and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary program will be posted at [www.goldengatebridge75.org](http://www.goldengatebridge75.org) as they become available.

Battery East Road

Bay Trail

Relocated tour bus parking / dropoff

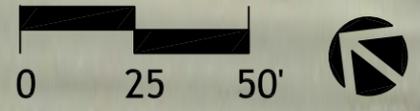
75th Anniversary  
Visitor Pavilion

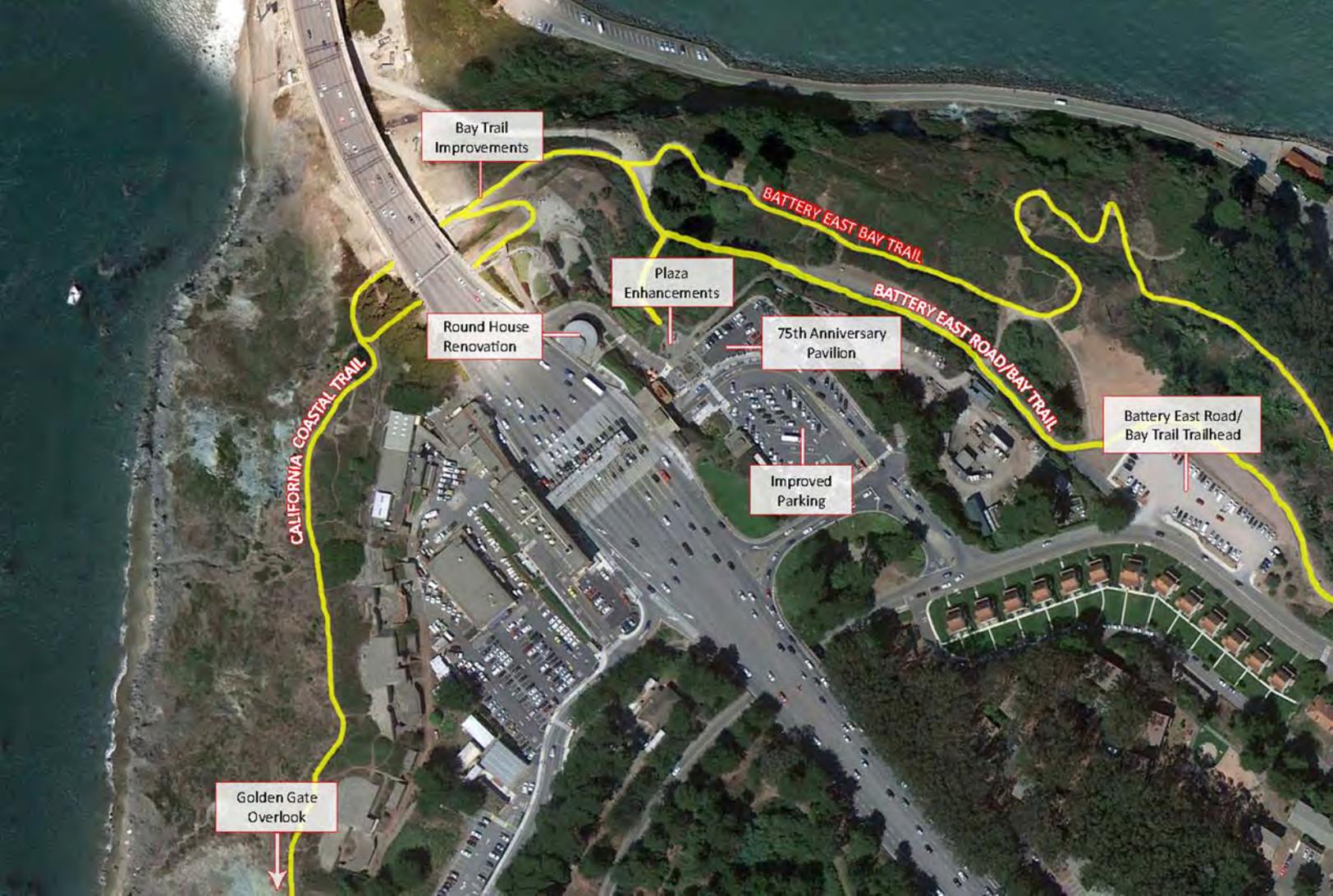
Expanded plaza

Visitor parking

Round House maintenance  
and renovation

# Golden Gate Bridge 75th Anniversary Visitor Improvements





Bay Trail  
Improvements

CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL

Golden Gate  
Overlook

Round House  
Renovation

Plaza  
Enhancements

75th Anniversary  
Pavilion

Improved  
Parking

BATTERY EAST ROAD/BAY TRAIL

BATTERY EAST ROAD/BAY TRAIL

Battery East Road/  
Bay Trail Trailhead