

Subject: Re: Highway Crossing at Devil's Slide South Portal

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2010 2:41 PM

From: Len Erickson <len.erickson@earthlink.net>

To: "Helena \"Lenka\" Culik-Caro" <helena_lenka_culik-caro@dot.ca.gov>, Skip Sowko <skip_sowko@dot.ca.gov>

Cc: David Holland <dholland@co.sanmateo.ca.us>, Don Horsley <donhorsley@sbcglobal.net>, Teresa McNamara <teresa_mcnamara@dot.ca.gov>

Helena,

Thank you for your response to my concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing at the south portal of the Devil's Slide tunnel.

I shared this concern and your response with the Midcoast Parks and Recreation Committee. This is a regular meeting (every other month) convened by Dave Holland, San Mateo County Director of Parks. In earlier emails I provided an overview of the background and experience of this committee. Also in attendance at the meeting was Don Horsley. Don is a former sheriff of San Mateo County and the supervisor elect for the 3rd District.

The citizens in attendance re-iterated their concerns about the crossing. Dave Holland and Don Horsley, whose credentials should give weight to their assessment of your safety concerns about a "below grade" crossing, also joined in supporting the views of the local citizens.

Your response concerning the at grade crossing did not address my focal concern about pedestrians crossing without benefit of safety island(s). Further, even with safety island(s) it is unclear how a handicapped person or a group with young children could safely make the crossing.

All interested parties understand that the physical constraints on a the design of a highway crossing are severe. I request that as a best next step, that Dave Holland and I, Don Horsley if his schedule permits, and other interested parties as appropriate, attend a review of this matter at your offices in Oakland. I believe this location would afford you the best opportunity to review your considerations and to explore and understand other options with us.

I hope this meeting can be scheduled in December. If you believe some other form of follow up would be more appropriate, please let me know.

Regards,

Len Erickson
Midcoast Park and Recreation Committee
Coordinator for Volunteer Projects

Signing in support
Dave Holland
San Mateo County Parks Director

El Granada, CA
Mobile: (650) 400-3175
WEB: <http://mprc.sanmateo.org>

> From: "Helena \"Lenka\" Culik-Caro" <helena_lenka_culik-caro@dot.ca.gov>

> Date: Thu, 4 Nov 2010 16:58:30 -0700

> To: Len Erickson <len.erickson@earthlink.net>

> Subject: Re: Highway Crossing at Devil's Slide South Portal

>

> Dear Mr. Erickson,

> Thank you for sharing your concerns with me. I discussed your concerns with

> my staff and below is our response regarding the at grade crossing located

> 150 yards from the south portal of the Devil's Slide Tunnel on State Route

> 1.

>

> The Department did consider three possible alternatives for the crossing:

> at grade, below grade, and above grade. An above grade crossing across the

> top of the portal was eliminated for safety reasons (rock fall) and visual

> concerns. The below grade was also eliminated for personal safety reasons
> because a tunnel would not afford the user a reasonable level of safety
> from assault being out of sight of passing motorists. When considering the
> benefits and costs of remaining option, the concerns you expressed for the
> safety of people crossing at grade were also identified and investigated.
> Based on information GGNRA and the County provided that projected potential
> visitor use of the area coupled with traffic projections, it was determined
> that a signal was not warranted at this time. However, the site will be
> prepared for a signal in the future should the situation change. In the
> mean time, the following safety measures will be in place. In road
> lighting outlining the edge of the crossing will be installed which will be
> activated by pedestrians in addition to activating the flashing beacons on
> the warning signs alerting oncoming traffic of the presence of pedestrians
> in the crossing. In the southbound direction, there is 580 feet from the
> crosswalk to the flashing beacon warning light. In the northbound
> direction, there is 650 feet.

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>
> The project's design speed is 45 mph. The actual line of sight from the
> southbound portal opening and the crosswalk is 472 feet. Per the State's
> Highway Design Manual, the minimum stopping for a vehicle traveling 45 mph
> is 360 feet. Drivers making a right hand turn into the south portal
> parking lot will have an 8-ft wide shoulder in addition to the 12-ft wide
> traffic lane.

>
>
> I noticed in your presentation, you utilized the display as the basis for
> calculating many of your distances. During the final design phase
> revisions have been made and they do not appear to be necessarily reflected
> on the model which was prepared earlier.

>
>
> As you are aware, the proposed crossing was included in the Department's
> design plans that were publicly reviewed. That review process included
> reviews by San Mateo County, California Coastal Commission, the Devil's
> Slide Tunnel Public Access Task Force, and the Tunnel Aesthetic Committee.
> In addition, the crossing was included in project presentations made to the
> Pacific City Council, Half Moon Bay City Council, and the Midcoast
> Community Council. Finally, the general public also had an opportunity to
> review and comment on the plans at one of several public meetings held
> prior to the start of the project.

>
>
> Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

>
>
> Helena "Lenka" Culik-Caro
> Deputy District 4 Director, Design
> (510) 286-5905

>
>
> Len Erickson
> <len.erickson@ea
> rthlink.net> To
> Helena Lenka Culik-Caro
> 10/28/2010 05:06 <helena_lenka_culik-caro@dot.ca.gov>
> PM cc

>
>
> Subject

>>>
>>> Helena "Lenka" Culik-Caro
>>> Deputy District 4 Director, Design
>>> (510) 286-5905
>>>
>>>
>>> Len Erickson
>>> <len.erickson@earthlink.net>
>>>
> To
>>> Helena Culik-Caro
>>> 10/06/2010 05:24 PM <helena_culik-caro@dot.ca.gov>
>>>
> cc
>>>
>>>
> Subject
>>> FW: Highway Crossing at Devil's
>>> Slide South Portal
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>>> Helena,
>>>
>>> I transcribed your name/address incorrectly on my first send. Sorry for
>>> the error.
>>>
>>> Regards,
>>>
>>> Len Erickson
>>> Mobile: 650 400-3175
>>>
>>>
>>> ----- Forwarded Message
>>> From: Len Erickson <len.erickson@earthlink.net>
>>> Date: Wed, 06 Oct 2010 17:04:42 -0700
>>> To: Skip Sowko <skip_sowko@dot.ca.gov>, Helena Culik-Sofa <
>>> helena_culik-sofa@dot.ca.gov>, Teresa McNamara
>>> <teresa_mcnamara@dot.ca.gov>
>>> Cc: David Holland <dholland@co.sanmateo.ca.us>
>>> Conversation: Highway Crossing at Devil's Slide South Portal
>>> Subject: Highway Crossing at Devil's Slide South Portal
>>>
>>> Skip Sowko
>>> Helena Culik-Caro
>>> Teresa McNamara
>>> CC: Dave Holland
>>>
>>> Skip, Helena, Teresa,
>>>
>>> This email addresses concerns I have about the highway crossing at the
>>> south portal which are covered in the attachment. The reason I am

> sending
>>> this to you is as follows:
>>>
>>> In discussing the issue with Dave Holland, he asked that I direct
> my
>>> concerns to Skip Sowko.
>>> I spoke with Helena at the Punch Through about these concerns.
>>> I have previously corresponded with Teresa about this topic.
>>>
>>> I think this is an important issue to raise publicly. I know the issue
> was
>>> reviewed several years ago when the current approach was adopted. I
> feel
>>> that the current project status and available information support
> raising
>>> this consideration. By next Monday, I hope to have a phone call with
> Skip
>>> or Helena to correct any errors in the attachment and gain other
>>> background information that is available. From this connection, I hope
> to
>>> learn if there is an existing study addressing these questions that can
> be
>>> made available to the public and whether there are plans for further
> review
>>> which I should take into account.
>>>
>>> After Monday, my intention is to forward this document to others:
>>>
>>> Elected Officials:
>>> Rich Gordon
>>> Jackie Speier
>>> Leland Yee
>>> Jerry Hill
>>>
>>> Other:
>>> Coastal Conservancy - Tim Duff
>>> Coast Commission - Linda Locklin
>>> San Mateo DPW
>>>
>>> Thanks for your consideration.
>>>
>>> As I note in the attachment I think the tunnel in design and execution
> is
>>> great! As a professional project manager I do not find it surprising
> that
>>> related features of the overall project should come into clearer focus
> and
>>> deserve further detailed review at this stage.
>>>
>>>
>>> Regards,
>>>
>>> Len Erickson
>>> PO Box 2905
>>> El Granada, CA 94018
>>> (Mobile: 650 400-3175)
>>>
>>>
>>> ----- End of Forwarded Message(See attached file: DST South Portal -
>>> LErickson.pdf)
>

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