



SUJA LOWENTHAL
VICE MAYOR
CITY OF LONG BEACH

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Richard Steinke, Executive Director
Port of Long Beach
925 Harbor Plaza
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Dear Richard,

I appreciated the last Port briefing for Councilmember Garcia and me on the Gerald Desmond Bridge project. It was encouraging to see that firms would be required to include the separated bike and pedestrian lanes in their Request for Proposals.

As you recall, in September our City Council approved the EIR for the Gerald Desmond Bridge project and made what I thought was a rather clear request to include separated bicycle and pedestrian paths on the new bridge. Subsequently, the Port staff estimated the cost of those bicycle and pedestrian facilities at \$48,000,000, approximately 5% on a project with a budget of \$950,000,000. My understanding based on your staff's recent briefing and other information provided by my staff is that CalTrans and Federal sources combined are providing approximately \$800,000,000 in funding; the Port's contribution commitment is \$114,000,000. In the event the budget exceeds the projected \$950,000,000, the Port would be responsible for cost overruns. Given the Port's planned capital improvements totaling \$4,000,000,000 and the 2009 Port of Long Beach reported current assets of approximately \$1,005,000,000, I am confident that the Port will be able to find funds to complete bicycle and pedestrian facilities if the project cannot be brought within the initial budget.

I spoke with Mark Bixby and Allan Crawford last Tuesday after their teleconference with your staff and the CalTrans representatives. Mark and Allan said the Port had taken a step forward; that Eric Shen expressed a new commitment to make the bicycle and pedestrian paths mandatory, items that cannot be eliminated from the project for any reason, budget in particular. If so, I am very pleased.

The bicycle and pedestrian path should be world class on this bridge similar to the Anzac Bridge in Sydney Harbor or the new San Francisco Bay Bridge, where pedestrians and cyclists can enjoy the views. I recommend there be observation deck locations along the pathway on the south side of the bridge so that tourists, visitors, runners, walkers and cyclists can enjoy the best view of our Port, Palos Verdes, Downtown Long Beach and the coastline. I would like to ask that this be included in the Request for Proposals as an item that bidders consider for inclusion.



Given the many years Mark, Allan and Martin Howard and their BIKEable Communities group have invested in bicycle advocacy on behalf of the City of Long Beach, and their efforts over the last six months to raise awareness of this issue and ensure that bicycle and pedestrian rights are protected on this project, it is my wish to see the Port of Long Beach commitment for mandatory inclusion of separated bicycle and pedestrian access formalized in writing as soon as possible. I believe this would give BIKEable Communities and City Council offices the assurance necessary to get fully behind the project and focus on what matters most – the completion of the bridge in service to the residents, businesses and visitors of Long Beach.

Your staff has also requested that I write a letter to the California Coastal Commission to endorse the project. I will be happy to do so as soon as I receive a letter clarifying the Port's position as discussed above.

Warmly,



Dr. Suja Lowenthal
Vice Mayor
City of Long Beach

C: Bob Foster
Patrick West
Mark Bixby
Allan Crawford
Martin Howard
Allan Crawford