
Mayor's Disability Council



Patricia Arack
Joanne Azulay, PhD
Co-Chairs

Eli Gelardin
Director

Phil Ginsburg
RPD General Manager
RE: Safety issues at Sunset Dunes Park

July 10, 2025

Dear RPD General Manager Ginsburg:

The Mayor's Disability Council would like to thank Brian Stokle and Lucas Tobin who presented plans for the development of Sunset Dunes as it aligns with disability needs to the council and members of the public on May 16.

It is our sincere belief that this will be a beautiful addition to the many parks in SF, but as several council members stated in the meeting, we do have concerns about the safety of disabled pedestrians in the park. There is, as of now, not a designated lane that would protect walkers, including people with disabilities and seniors, from the cyclists and users of other types of micro mobility devices. Conversely, bikers need to be able to ride their bikes safely without the hazard of pedestrians blocking their way.

This safety issue came into sharp relief on Tuesday, July 1, unfortunately, when a cyclist accidentally ran into an elderly woman walking with her husband at around 9:30 in the morning. The woman was thrown to the ground, injured and was taken away in an ambulance. This accident is exactly what we wish to avoid, and the council agrees that RPD could, with shared cooperation from disability organizations such as the MDC, and as quickly as possible, devise and implement a plan to separate the bikers, skateboards, and scooters from the pedestrian visitors. This will create safer conditions for all users and will increase the usage of the park by many vulnerable pedestrians who have been afraid to visit and use the park because of their fear of speeding bicycles on all four lanes. New safety plans for bikers and pedestrians will allow this new park to be even more successful than it is already.

We would like to work with you to create the plans for safety improvements, as we all have the same goal—to provide safe enjoyable park environments. To that end, we have several suggestions for safety improvements for all at Sunset Dunes:

- Physically separate pedestrians from cyclists, using the existing median. Pedestrians in the west 2 lanes, bikers et.al. in the east 2 lanes.
- Install signage at Lincoln and Sloat entrances which explicitly state bikes and other micro mobility devices to the east of median, pedestrians to the west of the median.
- Install signage at several locations along the route so those entering the park from various points on the Lower Great Highway will also be informed of the designated lanes for bikes/peds.
- No bikes west of the median.
- Crosswalks and other safety measures so members of the public crossing from the east side of the park to the beach can safely navigate the four lanes and can also return from the beach safely at the various beach access points along the road.

- Devise an educational plan for the public including press releases, media announcements, flyers, in person press conferences, including Chinese language versions of literature as to the new designated lanes for bikers/peds.

We are hopeful that we can work with you to create a welcoming and fun park for all visitors, where everyone feels secure in their safety. We see an opportunity for a working relationship where you will be able to devise a park plan for usage that will alleviate some of the concerns of the disabled and general walking public. Please consider meeting with members of the Council to discuss your plans to create a safer park for everyone. We want to assist you in making this change a welcome one for all.

Sincerely,

THE MAYOR'S DISABILITY COUNCIL

CC: Brian Stokle, RPD
Eli Gelardin, ODA