Traffic Light at Intersection of 19th Street and Castro Street

A letter from Bond M. Yee, the MTA (Municipal Transportation Agency) Acting Director, was sent to Supervisor Dufty discussing adding a traffic light at the intersection of 19th Street and Castro Street. The EVPA membership needs to discuss this controversial topic at the upcoming general meeting. The following are excerpts from the letter:

Chronology
1. In fiscal 1995-1996 DPT applied for funds to install a traffic signal at this intersection. The signal had originally been requested by the Eureka Valley Promotion Association in 1989.
2. Upon learning that the City planned to install a traffic signal, both the Eureka Valley Promotion Association and Castro Area Planning and Action wrote letters to DPT in June of 1996 objecting the signal on various grounds. DPT agreed to the requests and a traffic signal was not installed.
3. In February 23, March 22, and April 26, 2004, DPT attended pedestrian safety meetings convened by the supervisor’s office at 501 Castro Street. The issue of signalization was discussed in detail. Some residents were clearly in favor of a signal but others were against. DPT noted that due to the previous controversy, a consensus was required first before the City would apply for signal funds again.
4. DPT repainted the yellow crosswalks to the zebra pattern in 2004.

(Continued on page 2)

Notice of Annual EVPA Officer and Board Member Elections

The following are the announced candidates for the upcoming EVPA Officer and Board Members.

President: Frank Weiss
Secretary: Gustavo Serina
Treasurer: David Weiss
Board Member: Mike Babbitt
Board Member: Demian Quesnel

EVPA’s Thank You to Castro Street Fair Volunteers

I would like to thank all of the 2006 Castro Street Fair volunteers for with out them and their outstanding help EVPA could not do the wonderful work it does for Eureka Valley.

The 2006 Castro Street Fair had a record number of EVPA volunteers. For that I am filled with gratitude. Thank you to one and all for making the 2006 Castro Street Fair so much fun and for raising the most money the fair has ever raised. Without the volunteers, we could not have had such an amazing fair.

Thank you again!
Joe Caruso

List of Volunteers

Amanda Lee-Low  Hazel Aragon  Mike Anderson
Amy Li  Heide Chipp (Treasurer)  Mike Delsilva
Annie Lu  Isaac Dana  Natalie Chu
Bob Melbourne  Jarrett Hornbostel  Nymaya Osman
Bob Jorgansen  Jenna Mariano  Patti Carlisi
Bobby Pike  Jimmer Cassiol  Phelan Guan
Carlos Delmarco  Joe Caruso  Rachanna Kann
Diane Nutting  Joe Simon  Richard McRee
Doug Bullard  John Russo  Rick Singer
Doug Williams  Judy McRee  Robin Brown
Ed Chin  Kelsen Chan  Stephanie Zhong
Eric Billings  Lancy Lin  Steve Sullivan
Eric Chu  Leslie Yeung  Steve Torres
Eric Diep  Lili Yip  Sue Johnes
Eric Singer  Lion Barnett (Treasurer)  Tinny Tan
Francis Johnson  Mack Qin  Todd Bennett
Frank Weiss  Marco Chin  Tom Davis
Geff Williams  Matthew Hoac
Gustavo Serina  Micheal Perry
5. Since the letters of opposition written in 1996 there have been no formal requests from an area neighborhood association to install a traffic signal at this location. The organizations in question have not formally reversed their stands.

**Issues with Installing a Traffic Signal**

The intersection of 19th and Castro Street is currently controlled by an all-way STOP. This is typically one of the safest forms of controls for locations with moderate traffic volumes. All vehicles are required to come to a STOP and yield to opposing traffic and pedestrians. Left turns can be easily made, as oncoming traffic always has to stop. Pedestrians do not have to wait for a WALK indication and thus delay for them is reduced. The intersection has had no reported collisions in the past three years and observations indicate it is operating satisfactorily. There are currently other candidate locations with higher collision totals where a signal may be more beneficial from a safety standpoint.

Part of the reason a traffic signal is controversial is because the fears that some people have are not easy to mitigate. One of the main concerns with installing a traffic signal is that this device would speed up traffic approaching and leaving the intersection, concerns that are magnified by the downhill south of the intersection. Other concerns include the inherent conflicts between pedestrians crossing parallel to vehicles that have a green light. Both 1996 letters in opposition also cite concerns about traffic signals changing the character of the corner. Currently the residential area of Castro Street between 19th and Elizabeth Streets is controlled with STOP signs, and the worry is that a traffic signal may serve to highlight the area’s commercial side.

Proponents of signalization are concerned with the amount of traffic in the area and think that a traffic signal will help pedestrians by providing long periods when cross traffic is stopped. They believe that the stop and go nature of the all-way STOP leads to problems if vehicles do not watch for pedestrians. A traffic signal could be used to provide additional green time for Castro Street, thereby reducing some of the peak hour congestion on this approach.

Given the uncertain local support, we recommend reaching a consensus first whether a traffic signal would be beneficial and that any agreements by neighborhood associations be put in writing. Without such consensus our recommendation is to retain the existing all-way STOP operation. If the consensus is for a traffic signal to be installed at this location, it could be added to our candidate list for potential funding. The current cost of installing a traffic signal is approximately $350,000.

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**Upcoming EVPA Meetings**

EVPA meetings are back in the Eureka Valley Recreation Center Auditorium, 100 Collingwood (behind Cala Foods). See you there!

December 21, January 18, February 15
Meeting Minutes October 2006

1.) Upon motion made and seconded, membership approved spending up to $1000 to create a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

2.) Upon motion made and seconded, membership voted to oppose the parking elements within the Market/Octavia Boulevard Plan.

3.) Upon motion made and seconded, membership voted to recommend the following community benefit requests from developers building within Eureka Valley under the guidelines proposed by the Market/Octavia Boulevard Plan:
   - Planting more trees on Castro Street between Market and 19th Streets
   - Installing and maintaining flower boxes between the palm trees along Market Street
   - Hiring more Special Patrol Officers to increase safety
   - Hiring more staff at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center

For any EVPA members or member referrals—5% of my commission donated to EVPA.

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Supervisor Bevan Dufty’s Office  554-6968
bevan.dufty@sfgov.org
CBD Hotline  559-6968

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www.EVPA.org        www.PinkTrianglePark.org

2006 EVPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
President: Frank Weiss
Secretary: Gustavo Serina
Treasurer: David Weiss
At-Large Board Members: Mike Babbitt, Adam Hagen, Joe Foster, Rick Gable

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General Membership Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2006 7:30pm
Eureka Valley Recreation Center
100 Collingwood St.

AGENDA
Traffic Light for 19th Street and Castro Street Intersection