

City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors
Member, District 6

MATT DORSEY

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Dear Director Kirshbaum and SFMTA staff,

On Friday February 27th, tragedy struck Mission Bay when a 2 year old child was tragically killed in a vehicle crash at the intersection of 4th and Channel in Mission Bay. First and foremost, I want to express how deeply sorry we are for the loss of this young child. No family should ever have to endure this kind of pain, and no community should have to carry this level of grief. Our hearts are truly with the family and with all Mission Bay residents who are feeling shaken and saddened by this tragedy.

In the time since, I have heard from many of my constituents in Mission Bay who witnessed this horrific incident and who live in the neighborhood. Mission Bay has quickly grown into a neighborhood filled with children and families. A daycare, park, veteranian, and neighborhood grocery store are all within 500 feet of where this incident took place. The density of vulnerable pedestrians make safety at this intersection, and more broadly in this neighborhood, a top priority. The city must act to improve street safety in Mission Bay.

I am asking the SFMTA to evaluate and implement all feasible options proposed by Mission Bay residents to improve safety at this intersection and throughout the neighborhood. Our response to this tragic loss of life should aim to prevent future deaths like this. I am also asking that implementation of the most appropriate measures be as swift as possible.

Community requested changes

Short-term requests at 4th and Channel:

1. Installation of bulbouts and/or bike corrals
2. Retention of community installed hit posts or commensurate replacement with city infrastructure
3. Consider banning right turns on red and u turns from all approaches

4. Evaluation of a pedestrian head-start signal or a scramble signal change
5. Colorize the existing southbound transit lane along 4th Street between Berry and Channel

Medium-term requests for consideration for Channel St between 4th and the traffic circle:

1. Consider reduction of vehicular lanes to one lane each way
2. Evaluate angled parking on the south side of Channel, leaving daylighting just east of the traffic circle and room for the driveway from block 12W
3. Pilot a bi-directional bike lane on the north side of Channel

Collectively these requests would calm traffic and improve pedestrian and bike safety with potential for a slight increase in street parking for a part of the high injury network.

Medium-term requests for consideration for 4th Street between Channel St and Nelson Rising:

1. Install raised crosswalks
2. Painted or concrete bulb-outs for pedestrians to reduce the crossing widths
3. Green striping for the existing bike lanes including through intersections

Collectively these requests would calm traffic and improve pedestrian and bike safety with no reduction to street parking for the commercial heart of Mission Bay.

Medium-term requests for consideration for Long Bridge between 4th Street and Mission Bay Blvd North and the intersection of China Basin & Merrimac:

1. Consider traffic signal at Long Bridge or other traffic control improvements to improve pedestrian safety crossing 4th Street
2. Install a pedestrian flashing beacon on 4th Street at Mission Rock
3. Paint a "No Stopping" (Fire Zone) directly in front of the Arden building garage entrances for Emergency Vehicle access and allowing the cars out of the Arden garage to exit
4. Restripe the end of Long Bridge where it meets Nelson Rising to make the right part of the lane wider so cars can take a right while other cars line up to go straight towards the school

These stretches surround the very highly used Mission Bay Children's Park.

Long-term requests for consideration at 4th and Channel:

1. Evaluate existing traffic flow on the 4th street bridge

Requests for neighborhoodwide street safety improvements:

1. Implementation of the Daylighting law - AB 413 - with hardening
2. Installation of raised crosswalks and hardened centerlines
3. Quick installation of the recently approved quick build project for the Mission Bay Elementary School
4. Implement pedestrian-safety upgrades while keeping Biking and Rolling plan implementation in mind
5. Installation of a jug handle at the 7th street entrance to Mission Bay
6. Addition of flashing beacons at key intersections with high pedestrian volume
7. Reduction of speed limits in accordance with state law
8. Addition of red light cameras throughout the high injury network, in particular on 3rd and 4th Streets
9. Expansion of speed cameras and prioritized installation once permitted by state law
10. Strategies and enforcement to address “blocking the box”

I am requesting a written status report on both the feasibility and possible implementation of these short-term and medium-term measures as soon as possible. This list is inclusive of community requested improvements, but MTA staff is welcome to propose their own measures that have not yet been raised. For measures that can be implemented immediately, please proceed and provide updates on installation on a rolling basis. Please be prepared to discuss these at our April 9th townhall meeting.

I will also be working with our partners at SFPD to improve enforcement of traffic laws and targeted operations.

Thank you for your department’s work to make progress on the City’s Street Safety Initiative. I look forward to hearing about the work you will do to implement much needed safety improvements in Mission Bay.



Matt Dorsey, District 6 Supervisor