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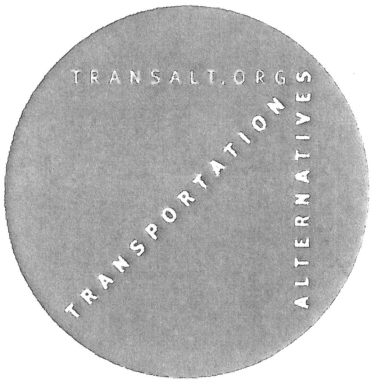

Your advocate for bicycling, walking and public transit

MEMO

To: Crista Carmody, Parks Manager, Riverside Park

From: Peter Goldwasser

Date: Fall 2008

Re: Riverside Park pedestrian and cyclist safety *DRAFT* recommendations

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Crista,

Following up on our site visit, please find a fuller listing of some of the ideas that we discussed. For sake of brevity and clarity, I have presented the recommendations in an informal list format.

All the best,

Peter

1) The creation of chicanes on the portion of the path where the Boat Basin Café by placing metal barricades. Affix slow/caution signs to the barricades.
2) The long steep hill near the tunnel. A few ideas:
    a. The possible placement of soft, flexible bollards on a portion of the path should be last on the list. There is a concern that the bollards could actually lead to potential conflicts with walkers being "trapped" on one side with cyclists coming up or down. Rather, one could start with the following actions which all should be relatively inexpensive and fairly easy to put down:
        i. Repaint the center line dividing the path so it is bright.
        ii. Repaint the pedestrian and cyclist images.
        iii. Install lighting in the tunnel.
        iv. Place the police barricade at the top of the hill like we talked about with a bright yellow slow/caution sign.
        v. DO NOT place the barricade at the bottom of the hill in the area to the right of the steps as we discussed. There is a concern that users could potentially crash into a barricade in that position after coming down the hill.
        vi. Place a caution/slow sign for users before entering the tunnel heading north.
3) The area near the ballpark with the picnic bench:

a. One suggestion which has proven successful in other parks: placing in the middle of the path, about half way down the hill/up the hill a life size freestanding "kid sign." They are often used around schools. They are 3-4 feet tall, with the kid usually wearing a safety hat and holding a "slow, caution" sign. They are excellent at getting one's attention and will also have the benefit of indicating that kids are in the area.
b. As you indicated, this area appears to be too short to do a successful chicane barricade type setup.
c. Another suggestion would be to try and place bushes or some type of larger physical separator between the bench and the woodchips and the path. Right now, I believe, they sort of flow together, with very little physical indicator to stop kids from crossing the path, especially to go climb and hang out on the rocks with the flag post.
d. Speed table/speed bump. This could potentially work as well. It is also my initial understanding that a speed table/speed hump would not violate ADA provisions.

4) The area outside the restaurant under the highway:
   a. As discussed, the goal is not to have cyclists come to a complete stop, but rather have riders decrease speeds while raising awareness that pedestrians may be entering the path from the east. At present, I believe cyclists are often not aware that pedestrians will be crossing the path/entering the path to go to the restaurant or travel north or south on the path.
   b. A yield sign at this area would be very useful.
   c. A bright painted crosswalk, indicating to users that this is an "intersection" and that they should expect to see other users. Right now I believe there is no paint on the path.
   d. While more labor intensive and most likely more expensive, one could put down some sort of different material like cobble stones, to again, indicate that this is a crossing.