



San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
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PROMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSPORTATION

January 24, 2018

Supervisor Malia Cohen
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Navigation Center at 125 Bayshore Blvd.

To Supervisor Malia Cohen:

On behalf of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, I am writing to express our support for the Navigation Center proposed at 125 Bayshore Boulevard.

As the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, our mission is to promote the bicycle for everyday transportation and we have 10,000 members supporting our cause. Biking does not occur in a vacuum, however, and how our movement intersects with other needs and issues facing San Francisco residents is an important consideration in our work.

This has been most clearly demonstrated at "The Hairball," a series of complicated bicycle and pedestrian paths where Potrero Avenue, Cesar Chavez Street and Bayshore Boulevard meet beneath Highway 101. Despite being hard to navigate, the Hairball is a critical connection to join surrounding neighborhoods and also is the home to many who are experiencing homelessness. In 2017, we supported the temporary Navigation Center at 1515 South Van Ness while building dialogue amongst our constituents, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (DHS) and homeless advocates through a Bike Talks event focused on homelessness. More Navigation Centers in the immediate vicinity of the Hairball will improve the experience for people biking in the Hairball, while temporarily housing those living on the paths and providing them with services to transition into permanent housing.

City officials estimate that on any given night, there are at least 7,500 people without a home, many of whom take shelter at the Hairball and surrounding areas. At its worst, the Hairball was home to as many as sixty people living in encampments. Though those numbers have gone down significantly since the November resolution date of the encampment, many people still remain, including those who have relocated to nearby streets. The Navigation Center at 125 Bayshore Boulevard is immediately south of the Hairball and will provide essential transitional housing and supportive services that people living nearby so desperately need.

We thank Supervisor Malia Cohen for her leadership in finding real solutions and believe that the Navigation Center will open opportunities to improve safe passage for biking and walking at the Hairball while directly addressing homelessness. We look forward to continuing our work with advocates, DHS and our elected officials on the intersection of these two issues, homelessness and transportation, at the Hairball and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Deffarges". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal tail extending to the right.

Charles Deffarges
Community Organizer
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

cc: Sophia Kittler, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Cohen
Emily Cohen, Manager of Policy and Special Projects, DSHS
Linda Wong, Clerk, Budget and Finance Committee