Pet Cemetery Closed & Protected During Bridge Construction

September 22, 2010 – Late 2011

The Presidio Parkway project is taking special care to protect the beloved pet cemetery established by military families stationed in the Presidio in the 1950s.

Nestled next to one of the columns of the existing Doyle Drive high viaduct bridge, the pet cemetery is situated directly below the new, southbound bridge currently under construction. In order to protect graves like those of Willie the hamster and Buddy the bird, falsework (temporary structure used to build the new bridge) will span the entire length of the pet cemetery. To support the long span, 105-foot-long beams will be placed across the cemetery and will be covered to prevent any debris from entering.

During this construction period the pet cemetery will be closed to the public. The closure will be in effect from September 22, 2010 through late 2011.

The pet cemetery is expected to reopen in late 2011.

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ABOUT THE DOYLE DRIVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The replacement of Doyle Drive with the Presidio Parkway is a collaborative effort led by the California Department of Transportation, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Doyle Drive is structurally and seismically deficient and must be replaced. The roadway is facing the same problem that threatens other crucial components of the nation’s infrastructure – the ravages of time and continual use. Originally built in 1936, Doyle Drive has reached the end of its useful life. The Presidio Parkway is based on a world-class design that will improve the seismic, structural and traffic safety of the roadway. It also will be more sensitive to community needs and to the national park setting, reducing impacts on biological, cultural, historical and natural resources and on the surrounding neighborhoods.

Highlights of the new design include:

- A parkway with two sets of short tunnels, a wide landscaped median, traffic calming transitions to city streets and the inclusion of safety shoulders
- A spectacular regional gateway that respects the natural contours of the surrounding area and complements the unique environment of San Francisco and the Presidio, a national park
- New direct access to the Presidio and enhanced views
- A more centralized location for transit connections
- Enhanced pedestrian connections within the Presidio to the Main Post, Crissy Marsh, the National Cemetery and historic batteries
- Reduced light and noise intrusion at Crissy Field.

CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Construction of the Doyle Drive replacement, the Presidio Parkway, began in December 2009, more than a year ahead of schedule, due to $122 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Construction of the new roadway will take approximately four years to complete and has been planned in two major phases in order to keep traffic flowing during the replacement. Seismic safety will be achieved in late 2011 after the completion of the first phase.

Construction is expected to be complete in 2014 and will be followed by an extensive landscaping program. An ongoing series of advisories will update the public about what to expect as work progresses.

CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES

- Major Construction Began: December 2009
  Traffic remains on existing Doyle Drive until 2011
- Seismic Safety Achieved: 2011
  Traffic is transferred onto a portion of the new southbound roadway and a temporary bypass adjacent to the existing Doyle Drive
- Project Complete: 2014
  Construction and final landscaping are complete
- Substantial Construction Complete: 2014
  Traffic is transferred onto the final Presidio Parkway

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