November 24, 2014

Mayor Edwin M. Lee  
City and County of San Francisco  
San Francisco City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Bike Parking and Access at Golden State Warriors Mission Bay Arena

Dear Mayor Lee,

We are writing to express our interest in the planning and development of the Golden State Warriors’ arena project in Mission Bay, its potential impacts on transportation, and the potential for the site to lead the way in making our iconic waterfront an even better place to live, work, and visit.

The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition has been working for many months with the Golden State Warriors and their arena development team, along with City staff and our thousands of members in Districts 6 and 10, to encourage the project to be the most bicycle-friendly sports arena in the country. Making the arena site safe and attractive to bike to and from is consistent with San Francisco’s goal of significantly increasing bicycle mode share and reducing carbon emissions to less than 60% of 1990 levels, and also helps address neighborhood concerns about the transportation and quality of life impacts the new stadium may have.

In order to minimize potential transportation congestion impacts and ensure that the stadium benefits the neighborhood, we have urged the Warriors Arena project team to take the steps listed below, and we hope to receive the City’s support in encouraging them to commit to these important San Francisco Transit-First priorities.

Expanded Bicycle Parking
We would like to see the Warriors commit to providing robust permanent and event-based bike parking at the arena site. San Francisco Bicycle Coalition bicycle valet already regularly turns away fans that want to park their bikes at SF Giants home games, a service we provide at every home game. The demand is there.

The Warriors arena presents an even bigger opportunity to encourage more people to ride their bikes to events and games. The site also proposes major commercial office and retail development, making secure on and off street bicycle parking essential for the site’s daytime and non-event uses.

The Mission Bay design guidelines, approved in 2004, did not take into account the tremendous growth in biking over the last ten years and expected growth into the future. Fortunately, both we and the Warriors agree that the arena site should far exceed those outdated guidelines while striving to achieve the bicycle parking requirements in the existing planning code. By providing ample bike parking and safe connections to the arena, the Warriors will be meeting current and future needs for the growing number of people choosing to get around the City by bicycle while helping to improve the safety and comfort of the surrounding neighborhood.
The Warriors have been very responsive to our requests to increase their proposed bike parking, and we look forward to continued partnership to expand their bike parking. We also look forward to the City’s support in making sure the project provides a minimum of 400 attended bike parking spaces with clear and safe access at every game and full capacity event. We would also like the project to meet existing planning code requirements, updated in 2013, for permanent on-street and secure off-street bike parking for their commercial spaces. With the proposed 500,000 square feet of commercial office space and upwards of 55,000 feet of retail space, this would mean providing a minimum of 108 secure off-street spaces and ample on-street spaces available to the public, in addition to valet required for the arena events. We hope the Warriors will commit to exceeding these goals.

**Improved Bicycle Access**

Improving bicycle connections is also critically important to making the arena site accessible to all San Franciscans. In order to meet the City’s goals to significantly increase bicycle trips by 2018, it is essential to invest in great connections to this iconic waterfront site. The arena is located in an area that is already underserved by our bicycle network, underscoring the need for improvements throughout the neighborhood, and in particular to and from the arena.

To facilitate safe, appealing, and efficient travel by bicycle to and from the Warriors arena, as well as from the downtown corridor to the Mission Bay neighborhood, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition would like to see:

- Completion of the proposed Terry Francois Boulevard two-way protected bicycle lane;
- Protected connections to the arena along 16th between Terry Francois Boulevard and 3rd Streets along with stronger East-West bicycle route connections on 17th and Mariposa Streets;
- Intersection design and management around the arena to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. In particular, we would like to see strong bicycle safety improvements to the intersections at Terry Francois Boulevard and 16th Street and 16th Street and Illinois Street, and;
- Support for removing dangerous rail tracks and resurfacing Illinois from 22nd to 16th Streets.

These improvements are necessary and critical to ensuring the success of the project.

We are pleased thus far with the Warriors’ willingness to work with us on improving these connections and are encouraged by their early street design proposals. We have yet to see the project’s full transportation management plan, but we look forward to seeing bicycle circulation and safety be a key component of the plan, along with the City’s continued support for improved bicycle connections to the arena.

**Encouragement and Transportation Demand Management**

All of the above will help the arena project mitigate the transportation impacts from games, events and the proposed 700+ parking spaces at the arena site. But without a proactive strategy to encourage people to use the facilities and programs provided, we won’t achieve our City goals and will see little overall benefit to the transportation system.

We have proposed that the Warriors work with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition to promote and market their arena and organization as one of the most bicycle-friendly in the nation. This could be accomplished through marketing campaigns, clear bicycle directions on all marketing materials,
programs like “Bike to the Game” nights, hosting Bay Area Bike Share stations, and raffles for people who park their bike with Warriors bike valet, among other program opportunities.

These efforts will help further the reputations of our City and business community as leaders in promoting sustainability, innovative business practices, and community responsiveness. We look forward to working with the City and Warriors to make the arena project a leader among sport facilities and a terrific place to get around on foot, bike, or transit.

Thank you for your support in making the Warriors arena project, Mission Bay, and the City of San Francisco a safer and more equitable place to get around. We look forward to working with all parties involved to make this a reality. If you have any further questions, please contact Paolo Cosulich-Schwartz (paolo@sfbike.org, or (415) 3431-2453 x312) on our team.

Sincerely,

Leah Shahum
Executive Director
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

cc: Supervisor Jane Kim
Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure
San Francisco Planning Commission
Catherine Reilly, Project Manager, OCII