Joint Statement from Senior & Disability Action and Walk San Francisco on the death of Lurilla Harris and the need for quick action to ensure that Vision Zero addresses the needs of seniors and people with disabilities

San Francisco - Jessica Lehman, Executive Director of Senior & Disability Action and Nicole Ferrara, Executive Director of Walk San Francisco release the following statement following last Thursday’s death of Lurilla Harris, Senior & Disability Action member, by a paratransit vehicle at the intersection of Geary Boulevard and Franklin Street:

We are heartbroken and horrified by last Thursday’s lethal crash that took the life of 86-year-old Lurilla Harris, one of our community members.

This crash never should have happened. One tool that could prevent future tragedies is technology. Technology such as telematics, also known as “black boxes,” and blind-spot detectors are available; the City has the ability to require their use, and should do so immediately. We call on the Board of Supervisors to adopt telematics legislation that will require this technology’s use on City vehicles at today’s board meeting.

To achieve Vision Zero, the City must focus on addressing the specific and unique needs of seniors and people with disabilities. We will continue working together to push the City to use all possible tools to ensure that Vision Zero moves forward aggressively.

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Senior and Disability Action: SDA works for rights and justice for seniors and people with all disabilities. We strive to make San Francisco a safe, healthy, walkable city, where all seniors and people with disabilities can travel easily and play an active role in our community.

Walk San Francisco: Walk SF and its members are making San Francisco a safe, more walkable city and reclaiming streets as shared public space for everyone to enjoy. www.walksf.org

Vision Zero – Zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2024. No loss of life on city roadways is acceptable when serious and fatal traffic collisions can be prevented. By engineering inherently safer streets, enforcing traffic laws more effectively, and targeting traffic-safety education, cities that adopt Vision Zero policies can eliminate ALL serious and fatal traffic-related injuries, including motorist, bicyclist, and pedestrian collisions.