

FILE NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

1 [Urging the SFPUC, DPW, MTA and Planning to Ensure the Coordination of Street, Transit
2 and Utility Infrastructure]

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4 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the**
5 **Department of Public Works (DPW), the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA), and**
6 **the Planning Department to develop a clear policy for reviewing street improvement**
7 **projects that overlap the jurisdiction of various agencies and for those agencies to**
8 **expeditiously modernize codes, standards, regulations, and other guidelines to ensure**
9 **that the city's collective public policy interests are advanced.**

10
11 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a Transit First City with various polices, initiatives, and
12 implementation projects aimed at enhancing the City's transportation system including
13 pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

14 WHEREAS, The Better Streets Plan establishes guidelines and standards to ensure
15 that new streets and redesigned streets approved by the City provide universal access that,
16 among other things, advance pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

17 WHEREAS, MTA, DPW, and the SFPUC have geographically overlapping jurisdiction
18 over the right of way and portions thereof; and

19 WHEREAS, Improvements aimed at enhancing transit efficiency, pedestrian and
20 bicycle safety, storm drainage control, sewage collection, water distribution and other related
21 activities often overlap, and at times may affect or conflict with another department's facilities;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Working collaboratively to develop projects located within public rights of
24 way to achieve multiple purposes will assist in meeting the objectives and fulfilling the mission
25 of each department and the City; and

1 WHEREAS, The essence of meaningful interdepartmental collaboration involves
2 effective communication between the departments regarding plans for and implementation of
3 their responsibilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Project level coordination and communication frequently provides the
5 means for effectively resolving spatial conflicts and identifying potential policy agreements;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Collaboration between the departments on the development of important
8 public facilities located in public rights of way would be enhanced by the promulgation and
9 consistent application of publically accessible state of the art specifications for the
10 construction and operation of utility systems, drainage controls, transit facilities, streets, curbs,
11 sidewalks, bikeways, pedestrian safety features and other such infrastructure located in public
12 rights of way and that the greatest need for new specifications relates to situations where
13 conflicts, or potential conflicts, between departments may arise; and

14 WHEREAS, Specifically, the Subdivision Code and its regulations can unnecessarily
15 inhibit the development of important pedestrian and bicycle safety projects and there is lack of
16 clarity as to when the subdivision code applies; and

17 WHEREAS, Specifically, the placement of sidewalk furniture and sidewalk utility
18 infrastructure such as telecommunication boxes, traffic signal boxes, transit shelters, and
19 news racks narrow the usable sidewalk area for pedestrians and in some cases produce
20 pedestrian visibility concerns; and

21 WHEREAS, Specifically, pedestrian safety bulbouts are sometimes made prohibitively
22 expensive when requirements to relocate subsurface infrastructure is mandated, whether or
23 not that relocation is critical; now, therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the General Manager of the SFPUC,
25 the Transportation Director of the MTA, the Director of DPW and the Director of the Planning

1 Department to develop and execute a suitable agreement within 60 days memorializing their
2 commitment to collaboratively develop high performing facilities in public rights of way that
3 accommodate all of the important and essential interests of the public, including pedestrian
4 and bicycle safety, in the successful implementation and operation of such facilities with the
5 explicit understanding that long standing practices, standards and other inter-departmental
6 review procedures may need to be modified; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFPUC, MTA, DPW
8 and Planning Department to develop and document, within 6 months, publically accessible
9 specifications or standards for the construction and operation of each department's facilities
10 located in public rights of way that have the potential to overlap or conflict with other
11 department facilities, such as, but not limited to, sidewalk widening, bulb outs, medians and
12 traffic circles with the explicit understanding that a principal goal shall be to ensure that the
13 City's policy interests regarding pedestrian and bike safety and delivery and conveyance of
14 essential services such as water and wastewater are met; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFPUC, MTA, DPW,
16 and Planning Department to develop a straight-forward and expeditious approach for the
17 review of proposals that seek a variance from any standards, policies, or other regulatory
18 provisions; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SFPUC apply the subdivision regulations and any
20 specifications contained within such regulations only to streets contained entirely within a
21 subdivision; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the MTA, DPW, and Planning Department coordinate the
23 placement of sidewalk furniture and sidewalk utility infrastructure to ensure minimal disruption
24 of pedestrian circulation and visibility; and be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SFPUC develop a clear and comprehensive policy
2 regarding the need to relocate subsurface infrastructure when a bulbout or sidewalk widening
3 project is proposed with the understanding that the goal is to minimize the requirement for
4 relocation; and be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Departments named herein shall report quarterly to
6 the Board of Supervisors on their progress.

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