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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Working collaboratively to develop projects located within public rights of way to achieve multiple purposes will assist in meeting the objectives and fulfilling the mission of each department and the City; and
WHEREAS, The essence of meaningful interdepartmental collaboration involves effective communication between the departments regarding plans for and implementation of their responsibilities; and

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the General Manager of the SFPUC, the Transportation Director of the MTA, the Director of DPW and the Director of the Planning...
Department to develop and execute a suitable agreement within 60 days memorializing their commitment to collaboratively develop high performing facilities in public rights of way that accommodate all of the important and essential interests of the public, including pedestrian and bicycle safety, in the successful implementation and operation of such facilities with the explicit understanding that long standing practices, standards and other inter-departmental review procedures may need to be modified; and be it

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

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the MTA, DPW, and Planning Department coordinate the placement of sidewalk furniture and sidewalk utility infrastructure to ensure minimal disruption of pedestrian circulation and visibility; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the SFPUC develop a clear and comprehensive policy regarding the need to relocate subsurface infrastructure when a bulbout or sidewalk widening project is proposed with the understanding that the goal is to minimize the requirement for relocation; and be it

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