

SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. 210105-005

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, issued a Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency within the City in response to the pandemic (COVID-19 Emergency), and,

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, San Francisco's Health Officer issued a Public Health Order in response to the COVID-19 Emergency, requiring that residents shelter in place, with the only exception being for essential needs which significantly impacted San Francisco's transit system and required the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to reduce transit service, including closing the Muni Metro rail service to minimize risk to front-line staff and the community and redirect custodial resources to other facilities; and,

WHEREAS, On May 28, 2020, Mayor London Breed released a plan and timeline, informed by the Economic Recovery Task Force, to safely reopen San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, in response to the COVID-19 Emergency and the City's reopening timeline, developed a Transportation Recovery Plan (TRP) that serves as a framework for temporary improvements to the multimodal transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, On June 30, 2020, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved an initial nine-corridor phase of the Temporary Emergency Transit Lanes (TETL) project, a component of the TRP, which creates limited and temporary transit-only lanes in order to prevent essential Muni trips from being delayed due to congestion and avoid gridlock for transit service as the City reopens; and delegated authority to the City Traffic Engineer to designate additional TETLs pursuant to Division II, Section 602(b) of the Transportation Code; and,

WHEREAS, The 4th Street Bridge Temporary Emergency Transit Lanes (TETL) project, a component of the TRP, would provide temporary transit, bicycle and taxi only lanes, which would serve to reduce travel times on the Muni T Third Street line and make transit service and essential trips safer and more reliable; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is committed to making San Francisco a Transit First city; and,

WHEREAS, Transportation Code Division II, Section 602(b) delegates authority to the City Traffic Engineer to designate additional TETLs on corridors based upon a determination of public convenience and necessity, including meeting the following criteria and after a public hearing:

1. the corridor is running transit service, or is reasonably expected to run transit service within 45 days of the determination;

2. the corridor will be a Temporary Transit-Only Area 24 hours a day/seven days a week if approved;
3. the corridor is delineated in the color red on the map referenced in Appendix A of Section 602(b) of the Transportation Code and is within the boundaries of the City and County of San Francisco as described in said map; and either
4. the corridor runs bus transit service and
  - a. there has been more than a 12% time travel savings for the bus transit service functioning on the corridor between the time preceding the COVID-19 Emergency (February 2020) and during the COVID-19 Emergency (April 2020); and
  - b. the proposed Transit-only Area will not remove more than one traffic lane in each direction and will preserve one traffic lane in each direction for uses otherwise authorized; or
5. the corridor has a Municipal Railway line; and,

WHEREAS, SFMTA staff have determined that the proposed 4th Street Bridge TETLs satisfy criteria 1, 2, 3, and 5 of Section 602(b) such that the City Traffic Engineer can exercise his delegated authority to approve based on a determination of public convenience and necessity; and,

WHEREAS, SFMTA staff has calendared this hearing before the SFMTA Board of Directors in accordance with the request the SFMTA Board made at its June 30, 2020 meeting to consider TETL proposals that are potentially controversial; and,

WHEREAS, At the close of the public hearing, the SFMTA Board of Directors is asked to consider whether the MTA Board agrees with staff's recommendation that the 4th Street Bridge Corridor meets the criteria in Section 602(b) described above for designation of temporary transit-only lanes; and, if the SFMTA Board so agrees, to provide direction to the City Traffic Engineer whether to establish temporary transit only lanes on the 4th Street Bridge (northbound and southbound directions) pursuant to the SFMTA Board's delegation under Section 602(b) until 120 days after the termination or expiration of the COVID-19 Local Emergency Proclamation; and,

WHEREAS, Pursuant to California Vehicle Code section 21101(c), local authorities can prohibit the use of particular highways by certain vehicles, except as otherwise provided by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 1031) of Chapter 5 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code; and,

WHEREAS, Consistent with state law, SFMTA staff have determined that temporarily prohibiting the use of northbound 4th Street between Berry and Channel Streets by all vehicles other than transit, buses, bicycles, taxis, and emergency vehicles will reduce transit travel times and crowding to allow for social distancing as outlined in the Public Health Order; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency has proposed the installation of temporary traffic modifications as a part of the 4th Street Bridge TETL project as follows:

- A. ESTABLISH - RESTRICTING VEHICULAR TRAFFIC EXCEPT TRANSIT, BUSES, TAXIS, BICYCLES, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES - 4th Street, northbound, between Channel Street and Berry Street
- B. ESTABLISH - ONE-WAY STREET EXCEPT FOR TRANSIT, BUSES, TAXIS, BICYCLES, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES - 4th Street, southbound, between Berry Street and Channel Street
- C. RESCIND - NO LEFT TURN AFTER BALLPARK EVENTS AND ESTABLISH - NO LEFT TURN EXCEPT FOR TRANSIT, BUSES, TAXIS, BICYCLES, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES - Channel Street, eastbound, at 4th Street
- D. RESCIND - NO RIGHT TURN AFTER BALLPARK EVENTS EXCEPT BUSES AND TAXIS, AND ESTABLISH - NO RIGHT TURN EXCEPT FOR TRANSIT, BUSES, TAXIS, BICYCLES, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES - Channel Street, westbound, at 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- E. RESCIND - NO THROUGH TRAFFIC AFTER BALLPARK EVENTS EXCEPT BUSES AND TAXIS, AND ESTABLISH - NO THROUGH TRAFFIC EXCEPT FOR TRANSIT, BUSES, TAXIS, BICYCLES, AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES - 4th Street, northbound, at Channel Street
- F. ESTABLISH - NO LEFT TURN - 4th Street, northbound, at Berry Street; and,

WHEREAS, The temporary improvements of the 4th Street Bridge TETL project shall include a thorough and transparent evaluation process to determine the effectiveness of the changes, including soliciting stakeholder feedback, collecting and analyzing safety and performance data, and posting evaluation results on the SFMTA website; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed traffic modifications will be temporary in nature and will expire 120 days after the termination or expiration of the COVID-19 Local Emergency Proclamation; and,

WHEREAS, The 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge TETL project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); CEQA provides a statutory exemption from environmental review for emergency projects pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15269; CEQA provides a categorical exemption for operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities, including transit improvements such as bus lanes, pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15301; and,

WHEREAS, On June 10, 2020, the Planning Department determined (Case Number 2020-005472ENV) that the 4th Street Bridge TETL project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15269 and categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15301; and,

WHEREAS, On December 10, 2020, the Planning Department determined that the proposed modifications to the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge TETL project did not constitute a substantial modification and no further environmental review is necessary; and,

WHEREAS, A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and may be found in the records of the Planning Department at 49 South Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco, and is incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, The public has been notified about the proposed improvements and has been given the opportunity to comment on those improvements through the public hearing process; and, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Pursuant to California Vehicle Code section 21101(c), the SFMTA Board of Directors approves temporarily prohibiting the use of northbound 4th Street between Berry and Channel Streets by all vehicles other than transit, buses, bicycles, taxis, and emergency vehicles; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the SFMTA Board of Directors directs the City Traffic Engineer to establish temporary transit-only lanes on 4th Street between Berry and Channel Streets in the northbound and southbound directions as a part of the 4th Street Bridge Temporary Emergency Transit Lanes (TETL) project, pursuant to the SFMTA Board of Directors' delegation under Division II, Section 602(b) of the Transportation Code, to be in effect until 120 days after the termination or expiration of the COVID-19 Local Emergency Proclamation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the SFMTA Board of Directors approves the temporary traffic modifications, as set forth in Items A through F above, as a part of the 4th Street Bridge TETL project; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all actions and traffic modifications approved herein are to be in effect temporarily during the COVID-19 emergency referenced in the Proclamation of the Mayor Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency dated February 25, 2020 and shall expire 120 days after the termination or expiration of such proclamation.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of January 5, 2021.

*Caroline Celaya*

---

Secretary to the Board of Directors  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency