

**THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO. : 12**

**SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

**DIVISION:** Sustainable Streets

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

Approving various parking and traffic modifications necessary to install pedestrian and transit bulbouts at three intersections along Columbus Avenue: Stockton Street and Green Street; Vallejo Street; and Grant Avenue.

**SUMMARY:**

- This project will install pedestrian and transit bulbouts at three intersections along Columbus Avenue: Stockton/Green Streets, Vallejo Street, and Grant Avenue.
- These bulbouts will shorten pedestrian crossing distances and improve pedestrian visibility at these three intersections, improving pedestrian safety, and increasing transit reliability.
- The proposed improvements are being coordinated with a Department of Public Works repaving project.
- A public hearing to discuss the proposed improvements was held on 8/15/14.
- The project will result in the net removal of three general metered parking spaces and one green metered parking space.

**ENCLOSURES:**

1. SFMTAB Resolution

**APPROVALS:**

**DATE**

DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_

11/4/14

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

11/4/14

**ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE:** November 18, 2014

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### **PURPOSE**

Approve various parking and traffic modifications necessary to install pedestrian and transit bulbouts at three intersections along Columbus Avenue: Stockton Street and Green Street; Vallejo Street; and Grant Avenue.

### **GOAL**

This action supports the following SFMTA Strategic Plan Goal and Objectives:

- Goal 1- Create a safer transportation experience for everyone, and
  - Objective 1.3: Improve the safety of the transportation system.
- Goal 2- Make transit, walking, bicycling, taxi, ridesharing and carsharing the preferred means of travel.
  - Objective 2.1: Improve customer service and communications.
  - Objective 2.2: Improve transit performance.
  - Objective 2.3: Increase use of all non-private auto modes.

### **DESCRIPTION**

The WalkFirst process, which reviews collision and pedestrian accident history, identified the intersections of Columbus Avenue and Stockton/Green Streets, Vallejo Street, and Grant Avenue as high-priority locations for pedestrian safety improvements. Between April 2006 and April 2011, there have been 16 reported collisions, of which six involved pedestrians, at these three intersections.

This project will install pedestrian and transit bulbouts to shorten pedestrian crossing distances and improve visibility at these three intersections, improving pedestrian safety, and increasing transit reliability. In addition to shortening crossing distances for pedestrians, the transit bulbs provide additional safety benefits for pedestrians by allowing operators to more easily align buses with the curb to prevent customers from stepping into the street while boarding and alighting.

The proposed pedestrian improvements are being coordinated with the Department of Public Works' paving schedule. The project will result in the net removal of three general metered parking spaces and one green metered parking space.

The project requires the following parking and traffic modifications:

- A. ESTABLISH – NO PARKING ANYTIME – Columbus Avenue, west side, from Vallejo Street to 20 feet northerly (6-foot wide bulb); Columbus Avenue, west side, from Vallejo Street to 26 feet southerly (6-foot wide bulb); Vallejo Street, south side, from Columbus Avenue to 29 feet westerly (6-foot wide bulb)
- B. ESTABLISH – YELLOW METERED SIX-WHEELED COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LOADING ZONE, 9 AM TO 1 PM, MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY – Columbus

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Avenue, west side, from 76 feet to 98 feet south of Vallejo Street (converts general meter #331 to a yellow 6-W meter)

- C. ESTABLISH – NO PARKING ANYTIME – Columbus Avenue, east side, from Grant Avenue to 27 feet southerly (6-foot wide bulb); Grant Avenue, east side, from Columbus Avenue to 41 feet northerly
- D. ESTABLISH – 30-MINUTE GREEN METERED ZONE – Grant Avenue, east side, from 40 feet to 58 feet south of Vallejo Street (converting general meter #1212)
- E. ESTABLISH – WHITE LOADING ZONE – Grant Avenue, east side, from 41 feet to 62 feet north of Columbus Avenue (converting existing meter 1206-G)
- F. ESTABLISH – NO PARKING ANYTIME – Columbus Avenue, west side, from Green Street to 30 feet northerly (6-foot wide bulb); Columbus Avenue, east side, from Stockton Street to 20 feet northerly (6-foot wide bulb); Stockton Street, west side, from Columbus Avenue to 5 feet northerly; Stockton Street, east side, from Columbus Avenue to 37 feet northerly; Green Street, north side, from Columbus Avenue to 26 feet easterly (6-foot wide bulb); Green Street, south side, from Columbus Avenue to 21 feet easterly (6-foot wide bulb); Columbus Avenue, east side, from Green Street to 83 feet southerly (6-foot wide bus bulb); Columbus Avenue, west side, from Stockton Street to 84 feet southerly (6-foot wide bus bulb)
- G. ESTABLISH – BLUE ZONE – Green Street, north side, from Columbus Avenue to 18 feet westerly; Stockton Street, west side, from 23 feet to 41 feet south of Union Street (converts general meter #1521)
- H. RESCIND – BLUE ZONE – Green Street, north side, from 18 feet to 38 feet west of Columbus Avenue (converts blue zone to meter #602)
- I. RESCIND – BUS ZONE – Columbus Avenue, east side, from 83 feet to 121 feet south of Green Street (Bus zone would be shortened by 38 feet with installation of new bus bulb, resulting in a gain of two metered parking spaces)
- J. RECIND – PART-TIME BUS STOP, 5 AM TO 9 AM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY – Columbus Avenue, west side, from 84 feet to 105 feet southerly (bus bulb negates need for part-time extension).

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Pre-development public outreach included meeting with the following community groups between September and November, 2013: Chinatown Transportation Research and Improvement Project (part of the Chinatown Community Development Center), North Beach Merchants, North Beach Neighbors, RenewSF, and Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Based in part on input from these groups, staff developed a draft project, and a public open house was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at the Joe DiMaggio Clubhouse in North Beach to solicit community feedback. Representatives from the SFMTA, Department of Public Works, Planning Department, and San Francisco County Transportation Authority were present and members of the public, including the above listed neighborhood and merchant groups, were invited.

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Community feedback from the open house was largely supportive of the proposed bulbouts at intersections; however, some members of the public advocated for the project to include additional elements. Chiefly, these included requests for sidewalk widening at mid-block locations between Union Street and Grant Avenue to provide additional space for café seating and pedestrian space, as well as a trial travel lane reduction to provide space for trial bicycle lanes. These elements are not part of this calendar item due to budgetary and scheduling reasons but may be pursued independently on a parallel track. The proposed bulbouts do not preclude future sidewalk widening or trial bike lanes. Additional direct outreach was conducted regarding the relocation of green and white parking zones on Grant Avenue to ensure that the proposed changes were satisfactory with nearby merchants.

A public hearing for the project was held on August 15, 2014. Members of the public representing Russian Hill Neighbors, WalkSF, Telegraph Hill Dwellers and RenewSF spoke in favor of the proposed bulbouts, though some members reiterated support for sidewalk widening and other pedestrian spaces along Columbus Avenue. A member of the North Beach Business Association and a member of North Beach Neighbors voiced concerns about the project and related construction impacts, including reference to the on-going Central Subway project. The Chairman of the SF Tour Guide Guild Ad Hoc Committee on Transportation voiced concern about the bulbouts causing delays for tour buses.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- An earlier version of the project included a temporary bulbout at the northeast corner of Grant and Columbus Avenues. Additional funding became available, so this bulb is being implemented as a permanent bulbout.
- Inclusion of mid-block sidewalk widening, beyond the scope of the proposed bulbouts, is not included in this project because of funding limitations and because safety improvements at the intersections are being prioritized in coordination with repaving project.
- A no-build option was not considered because of the status of these locations as high-priority intersections for improvements.

Staff concluded that the recommendation to implement pedestrian improvements is the best way to proceed.

**FUNDING IMPACT**

This project is fully funded. The funding is comprised of the following sources:

A. SFMTA TSIP FY14	\$100,000
B. Streetsbond (Prop B)	\$800,000
C. MTA TEP (Prop K)	\$250,000
D. SFMTA – Bond (A) FY13	\$500,000

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**OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED**

On October 28, 2014, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the proposed parking and traffic modifications listed in items A-J were within the scope of the Better Streets Plan Programmatic Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted on September 17, 2010, and that the proposed parking and traffic modifications would not require the preparation of a subsequent negative declaration under CEQA Guidelines section 15162 and 15168.

The Planning Department's determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

SFMTA is preparing a request for a General Plan referral to submit to the Planning Department by December 1, 2014. A General Plan referral is necessary for the sidewalk widening to construct the sidewalk bulb-outs and sidewalk widening included in the Columbus Avenue Street Safety Project.

The City Attorney has reviewed this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

SFMTA staff recommend that the SFMTA Board of Directors approve the parking and traffic modifications listed in items A-J above necessary to install pedestrian and transit bulbouts at three intersections along Columbus Avenue: Stockton Street and Green Street; Vallejo Street; and Grant Avenue.

SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) staff have proposed the following parking and traffic modifications to install pedestrian and transit bulbouts at the intersections of Columbus Avenue and Stockton/Green Streets, Vallejo Street, and Grant Avenue:

- A. ESTABLISH – NO PARKING ANYTIME – Columbus Avenue, west side, from Vallejo Street to 20 feet northerly (6-foot wide bulb); Columbus Avenue, west side, from Vallejo Street to 26 feet southerly (6-foot wide bulb); Vallejo Street, south side, from Columbus Avenue to 29 feet westerly (6-foot wide bulb)
- B. ESTABLISH – YELLOW METERED SIX-WHEELED COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LOADING ZONE, 9 AM TO 1 PM, MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY – Columbus Avenue, west side, from 76 feet to 98 feet south of Vallejo Street (converts general meter #331 to a yellow 6-W meter)
- C. ESTABLISH – NO PARKING ANYTIME – Columbus Avenue, east side, from Grant Avenue to 27 feet southerly (6-foot wide bulb); Grant Avenue, east side, from Columbus Avenue to 41 feet northerly
- D. ESTABLISH – 30-MINUTE GREEN METERED ZONE – Grant Avenue, east side, from 40 feet to 58 feet south of Vallejo Street (converting general meter #1212)
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- J. RECIND – PART-TIME BUS STOP, 5 AM TO 9 AM, MONDAY THROUGH

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FRIDAY – Columbus Avenue, west side, from 84 feet to 105 feet southerly (bus bulb negates need for part-time extension).

WHEREAS, On October 28, 2014, the San Francisco Planning Department determined that the proposed parking and traffic modifications listed in items A-J were within the scope of the Better Streets Plan Programmatic Mitigated Negative Declaration approved on September 17, 2010, incorporated herein by reference, and that the parking and traffic modifications would not require the preparation of a subsequent negative declaration under CEQA Guidelines section 15162 and 15168. The SFMTA has reviewed and concurs with the Planning Department's determinations; and,

WHEREAS, A copy of the San Francisco Planning Department's determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and is incorporated herein by reference; and,

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

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors approves the parking and traffic modifications listed in items A-J above necessary to install pedestrian and transit bulbouts at three intersections along Columbus Avenue: Stockton Street and Green Street; Vallejo Street; and Grant Avenue.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of November 18, 2014.

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Secretary to the Board of Directors  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency