

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO.: 13

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

DIVISION: Sustainable Streets

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Endorsing the Planning Department's 2014 Update to the conceptual pedestrian safety project for the Rincon Hill Area.

SUMMARY:

- The Rincon Hill Plan 2014 Update is a Planning Department project that adds streetscape improvements to the previously MTAB- approved 2006 Rincon Hill Plan
- The project was designed to improve pedestrian and local trip access as well as improve public space in the pedestrian realm
- The project will also improve access to transit and preserve transit and emergency vehicle access
- Final implementation of some measures will require further public hearings, Transportation Advisory Staff Committee approval, and SFMTA Board approval.

ENCLOSURES:

1. SFMTAB Resolution
2. Overview of 2014 Update to the 2006 Rincon Hill Plan

APPROVALS:

DATE

DIRECTOR _____ 2/23/15

SECRETARY _____ 2/23/15

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: March 3, 2015

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PURPOSE

Endorsing the Planning Department's Planning Department's 2014 Update to the conceptual pedestrian safety project for the Rincon Hill Area.

GOAL

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

- Goal 1: Create a safer transportation experience for everyone
 - Objective 1.1: Improve security for transportation system users.
 - 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 2.3: Increase use of all non-private auto modes.
- Goal 3: Improve the environment and quality of life in San Francisco
 - Objective 3.2: Increase the transportation system's positive impact to the economy.

DESCRIPTION

The Rincon Hill Plan 2014 Update (http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/Citywide/Rincon_Hill/Rincon_Hill_Streetscape_Master_Plan_2011_Update_cs5.pdf) is a Planning Department project that adds streetscape improvements to the previously MTAB- approved 2006 Rincon Hill Plan. The streetscape improvements in the 2014 Update consist of sidewalk bulb-outs at selected corners and mid-block bulb-outs on Main and Beale streets between Harrison and Folsom streets that will support signalized mid-block crosswalks on each block. The proposed sidewalk widening, corner bulbs and crosswalk changes are expected to improve pedestrian safety and comfort by reducing street crossing distances, providing direct pedestrian access from proposed interior mid-block walkways connecting Spear, Main, and Beale streets, improving pedestrian visibility and reducing vehicle speeds. The project was designed to improve pedestrian and local trip access as well as improve public space in the pedestrian realm, as new residential development commences in Rincon Hill. The project will improve access to transit and preserve transit and emergency vehicle access along with the movement of goods into and out of the area. Bulb-outs will be designed for SU-30 vehicles (30 foot long trucks) and accommodate Fire Department vehicles, and WB-40 trucks.

To this end, Planning Department staff developed a conceptual pedestrian safety project for the Rincon Hill Area. Some measures will require further public hearings, and approval by the Transportation Advisory Staff Committee (TASC) and the SFMTA Board of Directors. Approval of this conceptual project will familiarize the SFMTA Board with the project as a whole. Then, when staff brings the specific items within the project for later approval for implementation, the SFMTA Board will be already cognizant of the plan and can review and approve the items in that context.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED/PUBLIC OUTREACH

The 2014 Update to the Rincon Hill Plan constitutes design alternatives from the scope of the previously MTAB-approved 2006 Rincon Hill Plan. Specifically, the new improvements are proposed for Harrison, Main and Beale streets, where transit changes that will remove the 12 Folsom bus line from Harrison Street now make sidewalk bulb-outs on Harrison Street possible.

Bulb-out dimensions will be reviewed with staff from the San Francisco Fire Department to ensure that SFFD vehicles are accommodated. Where appropriate, sidewalk corner bulb-out radii will be designed for Muni buses. This has the co-benefit of maintaining better access for commercial vehicles moving goods into the area as well.

FUNDING IMPACT

Rincon Hill development impact fees have been the primary source of revenue for implementation of the Rincon Hill Streetscape Plan. Approximately \$28 million in impact fees will fund these improvements (parts of which have already been expended). An additional \$20 million from other funding sources will be necessary for complete implementation of this Plan. The City continues to work towards full implementation of the Plan.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE SFMTA BOARD APPROVAL

Bulb-outs – Sidewalk bulbs physically change the roadway by moving the curb farther towards the middle of the street. They are used to narrow the roadway and to create shorter pedestrian crossings. They also improve sight distance and influence driver behavior by changing the appearance of the street. Sidewalk corner and mid-block bulb-outs are proposed on Harrison between The Embarcadero and First Street, and on Main and Beale streets between Folsom and Harrison streets. Bulbs will be designed for SU-30s and to accommodate WB-40s and Fire Vehicles. The mid-block bulb-outs proposed on Main and Beale streets will require full traffic signal implementation for the new crosswalks proposed at each location. Following additional public hearings and TASC approval, staff will bring back specific bulb out proposals for SFMTA Board approval. At that time, the SFMTA Board will also need to make and adopt environmental findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Rincon Hill Plan and the 2014 Update are the culmination of extensive public planning that began in 2003, with more than 30 workshops, hearings and walking tours, input of the existing residents and businesses, advocates and other public agencies, including the SFMTA and that resulted in a plan that balances Rincon Hill's potential to provide much-needed housing with the design requirements of a livable neighborhood.

The 2014 Update to the Rincon Hill Plan was discussed at SFMTA public hearings held on September 19, 2014 and on January 30, 2015, where no objections by the public were raised.

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OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed this calendar item.

RECOMMENDATION

The SFMTA recommends endorsing the Planning Department's 2014 Update to the conceptual pedestrian safety project for the Rincon Hill Area.

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The City adopted the Rincon Hill Plan in August 2005; and,

WHEREAS, The Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors adopted the Rincon Hill Plan as a concept on May 30, 2006; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Planning Department developed the 2014 Update to the Rincon Hill Plan in order to capitalize on emerging opportunities resulting from MUNI transit changes that will remove the 12 Folsom bus line from Harrison Street, and,

WHEREAS, The Rincon Hill Plan and the 2014 Update are the culmination of extensive public planning that began in 2003, with more than 30 workshops, hearings and walking tours, input of the existing residents and businesses, advocates and other public agencies, including the SFMTA and that resulted in a plan that balances Rincon Hill's potential to provide much-needed housing with the design requirements of a livable neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, The 2014 Update to the Rincon Hill Plan was discussed at SFMTA public hearings held on September 19, 2014 and on January 30, 2015, where no objections by the public were raised; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors endorses the Planning Department's 2014 Update to the conceptual pedestrian safety project for the Rincon Hill Area.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of March 3, 2015.

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Rincon Hill Streetscape Plan

Proposed Bulb-out Locations

