



TO: Ricardo Olea
Transportation Engineering

FROM: Kate Toran *Kate Toran*
Taxis and Accessible Services

DATE: June 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Taxi Task Force Recommendations from the June 10, 2015 Meeting

Background:

The SFMTA Taxi Task Force (TTF) has been established as a one-year pilot to advise the Director of Transportation on taxi-related matters. The TTF is comprised of taxi industry representatives, paratransit customers, general public customers and other stakeholders (roster attached). The TTF meets monthly and held its first meeting on February 25, 2015.

At the June 10, 2015 meeting, the TTF approved a set of recommendations regarding left hand turn exceptions and other traffic rules for taxis. In addition, at the June 16, Municipal Transportation Agency Board meeting, Director Heinicke requested a comprehensive review of all intersections with left hand turn restrictions that allow Muni to turn but not taxis.

I will set up a meeting with you to discuss next steps.

Taxi Task Force Recommendations (in priority order):

- 1. Left turn onto Sutter from Powell Street**
- 2. Make the block on 4th between Townsend and Brannon two-way, with the easternmost lane a taxi/bus lane only.**
- 3. Left turn onto Kearny Street from Market Street (eastbound towards Ferry Building)**
The idea for this turn is to allow taxis better access to North Beach/Fisherman's Wharf area after picking up passengers on Market Street, from the Four Seasons Hotel or from Westfield Mall area. The only current allowable routes are circuitous, involving looping around a block, or continuing along Market Street, to Main Street.

4. Left turn onto Market Street from 2nd Street

Although there is now a red-carpet on 3rd Street and it is useful, it is still on the far right. Taxis wanting to turn left onto Market Street from SOMA should be able to do so from 2nd Street as it tends to be less congested than 3rd Street.

5. Left turn from eastbound Market Street onto westbound Sutter Street

6. Left turn onto 11th Street from Market (westbound towards Van Ness Ave.)

This left turn is made from a red-carpet Bus and taxi only lane. But the sign says only Muni can turn left here. Because taxis can use the red-carpet lane here, it makes sense to let taxis turn left here too.

6A. Left turn onto westbound Market Street from northbound 11th Street

7. Left turn onto 19th Avenue from eastbound Lincoln Way

There is a new red-carpet bus lane here from left turns but does not include taxis in the signage. This should include taxis to allow routes other than Lincoln Way/Oak Street when trying to get passengers from the Sunset District to downtown during rush hour.

8. Left turn onto 9th Street from Mission Street (eastbound towards Ferry Building)

Taxis have left turn exemptions all along eastbound Mission Street heading towards the Ferry Building. Taxis in that direction can turn left onto 7th, 6th, 5th, 3rd, 2nd, and Fremont, but not onto 9th.

9. Left turn onto Howard Street from Main Street

Main Street is a northbound one-way street here. Since taxis can usually share bus lanes, it would be helpful to allow taxis to turn left onto Howard Street from the bus lane to allow for faster response times to dispatch or app calls in the SOMA area.

10. Westbound onto Broadway from Stockton Street

11. Left turn onto Geary from Powell (perhaps starting at 7pm after Stockton Street opens up but all times until then).

cc: Ed Reiskin, Director of Transportation