



# **DRAFT: Dolores/Guerrero Median Parking Advisory Committee**

## **Notes from the meeting on December 17, 2015**

The fifth Median Parking Policy Advisory Committee meeting took place from 1 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on December 17, 2015 in the Civic Center conference room of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's office at 1 South Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco.

### **Attendees**

#### **Committee members**

William Ortiz-Cartagena, Gus Preston, Kyung Kim, Gideon Kramer, Craig Wong, Gustavo Torres, Agnieszka Bernstein, Elizabeth Zitrin

#### **Absent**

David Auerbach

#### **Facilitators**

Julia Salinas, Todd Kennedy

#### **Staff to committee**

John Knox White, Juliet Wilson (SFMTA)

**Stated meeting outcome: Committee members to discuss, determine and seek group consensus on a final suite of recommendations for addressing median parking along Dolores and Guerrero Streets.**

### **1. Meeting opening and agenda review**

The meeting facilitators and SFMTA staff provided an overview of the meeting's agenda. Meeting facilitators stated that the meeting's agenda was primarily structured to provide ample time for committee members to discuss and determine consensus on a final suite of recommendations for addressing median parking along Dolores and Guerrero Streets. Meeting facilitators likewise specified that a designated period for public comment would be reserved at the conclusion of the meeting, given the number of non-committee members seeking to make public comment at the meeting. Committee members reviewed previously determined community agreements and committed to using a Round Robin model for voicing comments and concerns.

## 2. Approval of previous meeting notes

SFMTA staff stated that they would distribute notes summarizing the 12/3/15 Median Parking Committee meeting for review by Committee members by the end of Friday, 12/18/15.

## 3. Clarifying questions on committee processes

Committee members voiced a handful of questions relating to meeting attendance, voting, determining committee consensus, and communicating information to the public; questions were particularly focused on whether committee members need be present at meetings to vote on issues under consideration by the committee. Some committee members voiced concerns about the process that was used to determine the final suite of recommendations under consideration by the committee. Committee members agreed to postpone voting for or against the proposed recommendations in favor of discussing said recommendations at further length. Committee members ultimately voted in favor of holding an additional meeting in January or February 2016 to address the postponed recommendation items.

## 4. Discussion and review of previously determined committee recommendations

SFMTA staff provided a brief overview of the seven previously committee-determined recommendations for addressing median parking along Dolores and Guerrero. Following that overview, committee members considered each recommendation item individually and voted on whether or not to accept it as is or discuss it at further length. Committee members' responses to each of the recommendation items are as follows:

1. **Reaffirm that City policy is to provide equal access to all public resources**
  - Committee members voted unanimously to support this recommendation as-is
2. **Reaffirm that City policy is to provide equal access to all public resources**
  - Committee members voted unanimously to support this recommendation as-is
3. **Prohibit parking between medians and within/near intersections**
  - Committee members voted unanimously to support this recommendation as-is
4. **SFMTA will provide information about the rules for parking along medians on its website.**
  - Committee members voted unanimously to support this recommendation as-is
5. **Pilot formalizing median parking along Dolores in locations where parking has been occurring over multiple years and increase parking enforcement during no parking times.**

- Committee members voiced some confusion as to whether or not they were being asked to vote on whether to formalize median parking on Dolores and Guerrero Streets separately. SFMTA staff confirmed that they were.
- Committee members rearticulated the need to determine the hours during and the locations at which median parking would be permitted along Dolores. SFMTA staff proposed that said points be determined at the January/February 2016 meeting.
- Various committee members stated they would not support any hours or locations privileging the activities of faith-based institutions
- Committee members voted on their levels of support for permitting median parking along Dolores on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday (hours/locations were not determined):
  - Friday evenings: 2 committee members were strongly supportive; 2 committee members were neutral; 2 committee members were somewhat unsupportive
  - Saturday: 3 committee members were strongly supportive; 1 committee member was somewhat supportive; 1 committee member was neutral; 1 committee member was somewhat unsupportive
  - Sunday: 4 committee members were strongly supportive; 1 committee member was neutral; 1 committee member was somewhat unsupportive

#### **6. Pilot formalizing parking along Guerrero and create strategies that ensure the health of Guerrero median plantings**

- SFMTA staff proposed that parking could be formalized along Guerrero in locations where a pilot could be implemented to ensure the health of median vegetation. SFMTA staff communicated the findings of conversations held with staff representative from the Department of Public Work's Bureau of Urban Forestry: one DPW representative stated that there was no way to make the parking and health of vegetation compatible; another stated they were likely incompatible, but that it might not be impossible to reconcile them.
  - A committee member that the second response was influenced by political motivations
- Various committee members stated that while they considered the health of median vegetation to be important, they were likewise strongly in favor of continuing with median parking along Guerrero
- Various committee members stated that plants simply were not surviving in locations where median parking occurred; that the median parking issue pitted faith based institutions against the interests of the neighborhood and the city of San Francisco; and that faith based institutions prohibit anyone other than their members from parking along Guerrero medians.
- Some committee members proposed measures for mitigating harm to median vegetation; e.g. stepping stones
- A committee member stated that the condition of median vegetation varies along Guerrero medians; that there are "dead spots" along medians where parking does not

- occur; and that it is not "unilaterally true" that blocks along which median parking occurs harbor worst conditions than blocks along which median parking does not.
- 2 committee members were strongly supportive of formalizing median parking along Guerrero; 1 committee member was neutral; and 3 committee members stated they would block the proposal if they could
    - SFMTA staff stated that the committee can deadlock on issues

SFMTA staff stated that the committee would reconvene in January or February 2016 to discuss and finalize the committee's recommendations specifically for Dolores and Guerrero Streets.

## 5. Public Comment

Public comments are summarized as follows:

- "It feels to me that you're almost ignoring the comments from the survey; it seems weird that you're focused on formalizing when such a high percentage of neighborhood residents were against formalizing the parking. Any reasonable proposal should include expanding it to areas where it is popular; also, some of the proposals you're voting on are fuzzy, should clarify."
- "We started the Greening Guerrero project not as a beautification project -- we did this as a traffic calming project. We cannot have community on Guerrero because we are a primary arterial. Traffic calming measures -- particularly Greening Guerrero -- are important in a very unlivable, unfriendly community. We want to be able to meet our neighbors! I can't believe we're having a discussion about putting up ornamental fencing -- do you know how much that costs? Or how much people donated?"

Media representatives in the audience asked a few clarifying questions about how the results of the survey would be used; SFMTA staff stated that they would be considered alongside the committee's final recommendation but would not be the deciding factor in determining the future of median parking.

The meeting concluded shortly thereafter.