

File No. 160993

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

Board Item No. 34

## COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: September 20, 2016

#### Cmte Board

- |                          |                                     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Motion                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Resolution                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ordinance                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Legislative Digest                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Budget and Legislative Analyst Report        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Youth Commission Report                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MOU  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Grant Information Form                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Grant Budget                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Subcontract Budget                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Contract/Agreement                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Form 126 – Ethics Commission                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Award Letter                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Application                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public Correspondence                        |

#### OTHER

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Prepared by: Brent Jalipa

Date: September 15, 2016

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to Preserve the Historic  
2 Character of the Van Ness Corridor]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to make all**  
4 **efforts to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor through reuse as**  
5 **well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue historic streetlamps.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, The 259 historic trolley poles and streetlamps that run the length of Van  
8 Ness Avenue were constructed in preparation for the 1915 Panama Pacific International  
9 Exposition and moved in 1936 for a Works Progress Administration (WPA) road-widening  
10 project to inaugurate the Golden Gate Bridge; and

11 WHEREAS, The graceful ironwork brackets and lamps that have lined Van Ness  
12 Avenue since the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge are known as the "Ribbon of Light" and  
13 the "geographic marker" that defines the two miles of Highway 101 from Market Street to Bay  
14 Street; and

15 WHEREAS, 33 of the trolley poles and streetlamps are located on streets within the  
16 Article 10 Civic Center Historic District (Fell Street to Golden Gate Avenue) and 16 of these  
17 are located within the Civic Center National Historic Landmark District (between Grove and  
18 McAllister); and

19 WHEREAS, An architectural survey conducted by San Francisco Heritage in 1982  
20 rated the Van Ness Avenue trolley poles and streetlamps "level B (major importance)"; and

21 WHEREAS, In conjunction with the proposed Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)  
22 Project, a 2009 study by the San Francisco Department of Public Works (Public Works)  
23 concluded that the 1914 Beaux Arts trolley poles and streetlamps are not eligible historic  
24 resources primarily because the concrete poles lacked sufficient historical and structural  
25 integrity; and

1           WHEREAS, Despite the 2009 Public Works report's conclusion that the trolley poles  
2 and streetlamps are not historic, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission added  
3 the "Van Ness Avenue Trolley Poles and Light Standards" to the Planning Department's  
4 Landmark Designation Work Program for future consideration as a San Francisco City  
5 Landmark on March 29, 2011, with nearly all research having been completed for the  
6 nomination; and

7           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)  
8 presentations in public outreach materials and at public information meetings for the Van  
9 Ness BRT Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement  
10 (EIS), did not sufficiently indicate plans for destruction of the trolley poles, lamps, and  
11 brackets; and

12           WHEREAS, The feasibility of reusing the cast iron light standards and bases with  
13 compatible replacement poles has not been evaluated as part of the environmental review  
14 process for the Van Ness BRT Project; and

15           WHEREAS, SFMTA is currently developing a treatment plan for retention as well as  
16 replication of four of the historic trolley poles, lamps, and brackets situated within the Civic  
17 Center National Historic Landmark District, the remaining 255 lamps on the 22 blocks of Van  
18 Ness Avenue outside of the Civic Center are slated for removal as early as Fall 2016; and

19           WHEREAS, A group of civic leaders, neighborhood associations, and preservationists,  
20 including San Francisco Beautiful, San Francisco Heritage, and the Victorian Alliance of San  
21 Francisco have formed the Coalition to Save the Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness Avenue  
22 ("Coalition"); and

23           WHEREAS, The Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps have been nominated to the  
24 National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2016 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic  
25 Places" to be nationally announced in October 2016; and

1           WHEREAS, Reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps  
2 would provide the architectural framework and historical continuity for new development along  
3 the entire Van Ness Corridor, and celebrate civic pride to unite old and new San Francisco;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The City has a policy and practice of retaining or replicating historic  
6 streetlamps where appropriate, including examples on Market Street, the Golden Triangle,  
7 Octavia Boulevard, Divisadero Street, Dolores Street, Lower Fillmore, and The Embarcadero;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, The SFMTA Van Ness Improvement staff is currently conducting a  
10 reassessment of whether reusing existing components on new poles is feasible, with  
11 consideration of project standards and specifications, due to be complete in September 2016;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, On August 16, 2016, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved a contract  
14 with Walsh Construction for Phase 2 of the Van Ness Corridor project that could include  
15 demolition or other work that might preclude or impede the reuse of the streetlamps and  
16 fittings; now, therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins the Coalition in calling  
18 for SFMTA to make all efforts to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor  
19 through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps; and, be it

20           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls on SFMTA  
21 to fully explore the costs and technical feasibility of reuse as well as replication of the Van  
22 Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps, including feasibility of retaining the cast iron fittings and  
23 lamps mounted on compatible replacement poles; and, be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calls on SFMTA to halt any actions that would endanger the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps before any requisite studies and reviews have been completed; and, be it

FUTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit this resolution to the SFMTA Board of Directors and SFMTA upon final passage.



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

September 13, 2016

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco City Hall  
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl #244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: SUPPORT - Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps

Dear Members of Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I write to express our strong support of Supervisor Aaron Peskin's proposed resolution calling on SFMTA to fully explore the feasibility of reusing and/or replicating the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately funded nonprofit organization that works to save America's historic places. We advocate with governments to save America's heritage, and we strive to create a cultural legacy that is as diverse as the nation itself so all of us can take pride in our part of the American story.

Based on the threatened destruction of the historic streetlamps, a coalition comprised of San Francisco Beautiful, San Francisco Heritage, the Victorian Alliance of San Francisco, the Pacific Heights Residents Association, and other organizations have nominated the streetlamps for the National Trust's 2016 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places," which garners national attention and builds momentum to save places facing a grave and urgent threat of demolition or irreparable damage.

The National Trust supports the Coalition to Save the Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness and calls on SFMTA to make every effort to avoid their removal, and encourage all members of the Board of Supervisors to lend your support as well. Retention and reuse of the historic streetlamps would provide the urban design framework and historical continuity for new development along the entire Van Ness corridor, and celebrate civic pride to unite old and new San Francisco.

We strongly support the preservation and continued use of these historic streetlamps as we continue to revitalize this important architectural and transportation corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Veerkamp".

Anthony Veerkamp  
Field Director

**San Francisco Field Office**

The Hearst Building, 5 Third Street, Suite 707 San Francisco, CA 94103  
E info@savingplaces.org P 415.947.0692 F 415.947.0699 www.PreservationNation.org

**Carroll, John (BOS)**

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 1:09 PM  
**To:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: SUPPORT - Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps

**Categories:** 160993

**From:** marycmcf@comcast.net [mailto:marycmcf@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 11:09 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Mar, Eric (BOS) <eric.mar@sfgov.org>; Farrell, Mark (BOS) <mark.farrell@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Tang, Katy (BOS) <katy.tang@sfgov.org>; Breed, London (BOS) <london.breed@sfgov.org>; Kim, Jane (BOS) <jane.kim@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Campos, David (BOS) <david.campos@sfgov.org>; Wiener, Scott <scott.wiener@sfgov.org>; Avalos, John (BOS) <john.avalos@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Malia (BOS) <malia.cohen@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** SUPPORT - Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps

September 13, 2016

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I write to express my strong support of Supervisor Aaron Peskin's proposed resolution, introduced on September 13, 2016, calling on SFMTA to fully explore the feasibility of reusing and/or replicating the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps.

The SFMTA should not remove 259 Beaux Arts trolley poles, lamps, and brackets that have lined Van Ness Avenue since the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. Replacing them with what will surely be quickly dated streetlight designs, designs which also have the less expensive but less effective LED or halogen lights, is at once insulting to the history of San Francisco, but mistakes bland, pseudo-modernist design for progress.

Despite their significance to the character and identity of San Francisco, SFMTA has failed to consider the feasibility of reusing and/or replicating the streetlamps as part of the BRT Project. Retaining a mere four historic streetlamps located within the Civic Center National Historic Landmark District is pretending historic districts are anything but a political theater to assuage genuine concerns about civic responsibility. Destroying 255 lamps is wasteful. The most environmentally sound practice is re-use, not replacement.

The Coalition to Save the Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness, is calling on SFMTA to make every effort to avoid their removal. With the installation of new landscaping and BRT stations, retention and reuse of the "Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness" would provide the architectural framework and historical continuity for new development along the entire Van Ness corridor, and celebrate civic pride to unite old and new San Francisco.

I strongly support the preservation and continued use of these historic streetlamps as we continue to revitalize this important architectural and transportation corridor.

Sincerely,  
Mary McFadden  
3993 24<sup>th</sup> street D  
San Francisco, CA 94114



## Carroll, John (BOS)

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 1:09 PM  
**To:** BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness corridor  
**Attachments:** Support\_20160913.pdf; Final Streetlamps June 2016.pdf

**Categories:** 160993

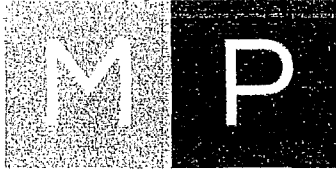
**From:** suzanne@middlepolk.org [mailto:suzanne@middlepolk.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 11:51 AM  
**To:** Avalos, John (BOS) <john.avalos@sfgov.org>; Breed, London (BOS) <london.breed@sfgov.org>; Campos, David (BOS) <david.campos@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Malia (BOS) <malia.cohen@sfgov.org>; Farrell, Mark (BOS) <mark.farrell@sfgov.org>; Kim, Jane (BOS) <jane.kim@sfgov.org>; Mar, Eric (BOS) <eric.mar@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Tang, Katy (BOS) <katy.tang@sfgov.org>; Wiener, Scott <scott.wiener@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** moe@middlepolk.org; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; MTABoard@sfmta.com; mbuhler@sfheritage.org; darcy@sfbeautiful.org; jim\_lazarus@sbcglobal.net; cyannet@wlbinsitute.org; jimwarshell@yahoo.com; Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>; marlayne16@gmail.com; lynnnewhousesegal@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Support for Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness corridor

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and MTA Board,

Please see the attached communications of support from the Middle Polk Neighborhood Association for the Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness corridor through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps.

Kind regards,

Suzanne Markel-Fox  
MPNA



Middle Polk Neighborhood Association

12 September 2016

RE: **SUPPORT - Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps**

Dear Members of Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of Middle Polk Neighborhood Association, I write to express our strong support of Supervisor Aaron Peskin's proposed resolution, introduced on September 13, 2016, calling on SFMTA to fully explore the feasibility of reusing and/or replicating the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps. Founded in 2006, MPNA is a well-established organization of residents and local merchants concerned about quality of life issues in our neighborhood.

In conjunction with the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, we are dismayed that SFMTA is planning to remove the vast majority of the 259 Beaux Arts trolley poles, lamps, and brackets that have lined Van Ness Avenue since the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. Despite their significance to the character and identity of San Francisco, SFMTA has failed to consider the feasibility of reusing and/or replicating the streetlamps as part of the BRT Project. Although SFMTA has agreed to retain four historic streetlamps located within the Civic Center National Historic Landmark District, the remaining 255 lamps on the twenty-two blocks of Van Ness Avenue outside of the Civic Center are slated for imminent demolition.

We urge you to join with the Coalition to Save the Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness in calling on SFMTA to make every effort to avoid their removal. With the installation of new landscaping and BRT stations, retention and reuse of the "Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness" would provide the architectural framework and historical continuity for new development along the entire Van Ness corridor, and celebrate civic pride to unite old and new San Francisco.

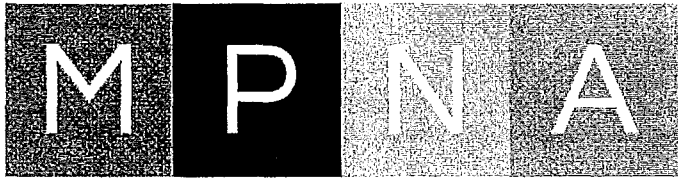
We strongly support the preservation and continued use of these historic streetlamps as we continue to revitalize this important architectural and transportation corridor.

Sincerely,

  
Moe Jamil  
Chair, Middle Polk Neighborhood Association

Att: MPNA letter to SF Beautiful

PO Box 640918  
San Francisco, CA 94164-0918  
<http://www.middlepolk.org>



## Middle Polk Neighborhood Association

June 2016

The firebreak that saved the West of the City from the great fire of 1906, Van Ness Avenue has served the city well over the decades since. From stately residential neighborhood to central thoroughfare to bustling commercial boulevard, Van Ness Avenue is the artery that carries travelers from the heart of the Civic Center to the iconic expanse of the Golden Gate Bridge. Over the years, the Avenue has accommodated various means of motorized travel, from the Panama-Pacific Exposition streetcar service in 1915, to the MUNI buses and trolleys that run its length, and soon the Bus Rapid Transit that will course the median of the Avenue.

Whereas streamlining and updating the transportation system along Van Ness Avenue is welcome, the plans for BRT unfortunately include sacrificing the more than 250 early 20<sup>th</sup> century streetlamps that have graced the streetscape and lit the way for residents and visitors since the early days of motor vehicles. The beauty of the teardrop-shaped streetlamps—many of which are hidden from the street by foliage—has been marred by benign neglect, but the lamps can be re-used and do not deserve being relegated to the trash heap. As stewards of the historical streetscape of San Francisco, we now have the opportunity to preserve these reminders of our past.

Moe Jamil  
Middle Polk Neighborhood Association Chair

Suzanne Markel-Fox  
Middle Polk Neighborhood Association Vice-Chair

## **Carroll, John (BOS)**

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**From:** Chan, Connie (BOS)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 2:10 PM  
**To:** Gosiengfiao, Rachel (BOS); BOS Legislation, (BOS)  
**Subject:** FYI: Support Letter for Historic Van Ness Streetlamps Resolution  
**Attachments:** Support Letter for Peskin Resolution to Preserve Van Ness Historic Street Lamps.pdf  
**Categories:** 160993

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**From:** Carol Ann Rogers [mailto:carolannrogers@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 1:25 PM  
**To:** Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support Letter for Historic Van Ness Streetlamps Resolution

Hello Connie,

Attached please find my letter of support for Supervisor Peskin's resolution regarding the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps. I have also just emailed a similar letter stating my support to Supervisors Mar, Farrell, Tang, Breed, Kim, Yee, Campos, Wiener, Avalos and Cohen. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help support this important resolution.

Carol Ann Rogers

CAROL ANN ROGERS

September 13, 2016

**RE: SUPPORT - Resolution to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps**

Dear Supervisor Peskin:

My purpose in writing is to express strong support for your proposed resolution, introduced today, calling on SFMTA to fully explore the feasibility of reusing and/or replicating the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps. I strongly support the preservation and continued use of these historic streetlamps as we continue to revitalize this important architectural and transportation corridor.

I recently learned that, in conjunction with the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, the SFMTA is planning to remove the vast majority of the 259 Beaux Arts trolley poles, lamps, and brackets that have lined Van Ness Avenue since the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. Although SFMTA has agreed to retain four historic streetlamps located within the Civic Center National Historic Landmark District, the remaining 255 lamps on the twenty-two blocks of Van Ness Avenue outside of the Civic Center are slated for demolition.

I join with the *Coalition to Save the Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness* in calling on SFMTA to make every effort to avoid their removal. Retention and reuse of the "Historic Streetlamps of Van Ness" would provide the architectural framework and historical continuity for new development along the entire Van Ness corridor.

Thank you Supervisor Peskin for your efforts to protect and preserve the historic fabric of our city which enriches the cityscape for both the present and for future generations.

Sincerely,

  
Carol Ann Rogers

Print Form

# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

RECEIVED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SAN FRANCISCO  
2016 SEP 13 PM 12:10  
Time stamp  
or meeting date AK

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion, or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor [ ] inquires"
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call File No. [ ] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. [ ]
- 9. Reactivate File No. [ ]
- 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on [ ]

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission     Youth Commission     Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission     Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

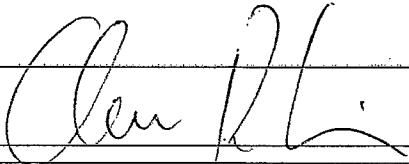
Aaron Peskin

Subject:

Calling SFMTA to make all efforts to preserve the historic character of the Van Ness Corridor through reuse as well as replication of the Van Ness Avenue Historic Streetlamps.

The text is listed below or attached:

See attached

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: 

For Clerk's Use Only: