

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Sidewalk Width Changes - Establishing a Streamlined Process for Certain Changes]

Ordinance: 1) amending Ordinance No. 1061 to grant authorization to the Director of the Public Works Department to approve certain changes to official sidewalk widths, as specified herein, that would streamline reviews and approvals for such changes and ensure consistency with the General Plan; 2) establishing fees for processing administrative sidewalk width changes; 3) adopting environmental findings; and 4) authorizing official acts in connection with this Ordinance.

Existing Law

The Department of Public Works (DPW) administers the process to establish or change sidewalk widths. Each sidewalk width establishment or change requires Board of Supervisors approval and amendment to Board of Supervisors Ordinance No. 1061, entitled "Regulating the Width of Sidewalks," a copy of which is in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Book of General Ordinances, in effect May 11, 1910. Other City departments play a role in the review and approval process, including the City Planning Department for General Plan consistency purposes and Municipal Transportation Agency. Once a sidewalk width is established or changed, DPW records the change in its list of Official City Sidewalks Widths.

Amendments to Current Law

This Ordinance would alter the process for certain minor sidewalk width changes so that DPW could administratively change these sidewalk widths without Board of Supervisors action. The minor sidewalk width changes subject to this streamlined administrative approval would be for widened sidewalk bulbs, corner bulbs, and sidewalk widening not in excess of one linear block. The legislation would delineate a process to streamline Planning Department General Plan consistency determinations as well as involve approval and authorization from all other affected City agencies, such as the Municipal Transportation Agency. The Ordinance also would require DPW to record administratively-approved sidewalk width changes in its list of Official City Sidewalk Widths. The legislation would amend Public Works Code 2.1.1 to adopt a fee for review of all sidewalk width change applications, and part of this fee will be allocated to the Planning Department to cover the costs associated with its review.

Background Information

The purpose of this legislation is to streamline the review and approval process for those type of minor sidewalk width changes that have been embraced in the City's Better Streets Plan, approved neighborhood streetscape plans, or other Planning Department or Planning Commission approvals associated with a project or plan that addressed the sidewalk width change.