



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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May 14, 2002

Mark Rudnicki
San Francisco Municipal Railway
1145 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Case Number 96.281R

Dear Mr. Rudnicki:

We are in receipt of your request for a determination of conformance with the General Plan for vacation of the following "paper" streets: Louisiana Street from the south side of 25th Street to 161 feet north of Cesar Chavez Street, and 26th Street from the west side of Louisiana Street to the west side of Maryland Street. (See diagram attached.) These streets would be vacated in connection with construction of the Muni Metro East Light Rail Vehicle Maintenance and Operations Facility.

On September 7, 1999 we completed a General Plan Referral on the Third Street Light Rail Project (case no. 96.281R). This referral covered most aspects of the Metro East facility, but did not cover required street vacations. At Muni's request, on September 13, 2000, we issued a follow-up to the original referral which covered street vacations necessary for the original 13-acre Metro East site. Subsequently, Muni and the Port agreed to increase the size of the Metro East Facility from 13 to 17 acres, necessitating the additional street vacations that are the subject of this letter.

An Environmental Impact Report for the Third Street Light Rail Project was certified on December 3, 1998. Pursuant to CEQA guidelines, section 15162, this street vacation would not require any additional environmental review.

The following analysis, from the September 13, 2000 follow-up to the Third Street Light Rail referral, applies to these additional street vacations:

The following General Plan policies are relevant to this street vacation proposal:

URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT POLICY 2.8

Maintain a strong presumption against the giving up of street areas for private ownership or use, or for construction of public buildings.

URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT POLICY 2.9

Review proposals for the giving up of street areas in terms of all the public values that streets afford.

URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT POLICY 2.10

Permit release of street areas, where such release is warranted, only in the least extensive and least permanent manner appropriate to each case.

TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OBJECTIVE 11

[Transit First] Maintain public transit as the primary mode of transportation in San Francisco and as a means through which to guide future development and improve regional mobility and air quality.

TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT POLICY 22.1

Ensure the maintenance and efficient operation of the fleet of transit vehicles.

The operation of the Third Street Light Rail Line will require Muni to purchase and maintain additional light rail vehicles which cannot be accommodated at its existing, already-overcrowded maintenance facilities. Thus it is necessary to construct a new maintenance facility for light rail vehicles. Through the Transit First objective and a host of associated policies, the General Plan promotes use of transit as the City's priority transportation mode as well as continued improvement of transit services in the City.

The streets proposed for vacation are not currently improved as usable streets; they are paper streets. Vacation of these streets will not result in degradation of the level of service for automobiles in the area.

Based on this analysis, we find the proposed street vacations in conformance with the General Plan.

Sincerely,



Gerald G. Green
Director of Planning