

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[General Plan Amendments - Implementing the City's Vision Zero Policy Regarding Pedestrian Safety]

Ordinance amending the Transportation and Urban Design Elements of the General Plan to implement the City's Vision Zero policy regarding pedestrian safety; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

General plans are broad policy documents to guide development. State law requires that general plans include discussion of seven issues: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety. These issues are often included in different chapters, or elements, of a general plan. In addition, local jurisdictions have discretion to include other issues in their general plans. The San Francisco General Plan includes ten elements: the Housing Element, the Commerce and Industry Element, the Recreation and Open Space Element, the Transportation Element, the Urban Design Element, the Environmental Protection Element, the Community Facilities Element, the Community Safety Element, the Arts Element, and the Air Quality Element, and a Land Use Index. In addition, the San Francisco General Plan contains a series of Area Plans, such as Downtown, East and West Soma, Glen Park, Market and Octavia, and Mission, adopted to tailor the General Plan policies to the specific realities of the City's diverse neighborhoods.

The Transportation Element of the General Plan contains several sections, each of which dealing with an important component of the local and regional transportation system. These sections are (1) General, (2) Regional Transportation, (3) Congestion Management, (4) Vehicle Circulation, (5) Transit (6) Pedestrians, (7) Bicycles, (8) Citywide Parking and (9) Goods Movement. Each section consists of objectives and policies regarding a particular segment of the master transportation system and related maps which describe key physical aspects.

Amendments to Current Law

This Ordinance would amend the Transportation and Urban Design Elements of the General Plan to implement the Vision Zero Policy, which was adopted by the City in 2014. This policy commits the City to build better and safer streets, educate the public on traffic safety, enforce traffic laws, and adopt changes to city policies, with the overall objective to eliminate all traffic deaths by 2024. As currently written, the Transportation and Urban Design Elements do not directly reference the City's Vision Zero Policy. Moreover, several policies and objectives are

inconsistent with this policy. The Ordinance would add several policies and objectives to the Transportation and Urban Design Elements to reflect the City's Vision Zero policy. It would also amend several existing policies and objectives, to make them consistent with such policy.

Background Information

In 2014, the City adopted a Vision Zero Policy to eliminate all traffic fatalities by 2024 and called on City departments to identify specific actions which could help the City to achieve Vision Zero. In response, the Planning Commission passed Resolution 19174, which outlined specific actions the Department could take to achieve Vision Zero, including updating the policies and objectives of the General Plan. This Ordinance includes changes to the Transportation Element and the Urban Design Element to reflect the City's Vision Zero Policy.

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