

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative, Public Works Codes - Electric Vehicle Curbside Charging]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to authorize the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to establish a curbside electric vehicle charging station permit program for the installation and operation of curbside electric vehicle charging stations on City sidewalks and provide that permittees are not required to obtain a sidewalk encroachment permit from the Department of Public Works; amending the Public Works Code to reflect the authority of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to issue permits for the curbside electric vehicle charging station program; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

In order to install an electric vehicle charging station within the public right-of-way for use by a curbside electric vehicle, permission would need to be granted by the Department of Public Works for use and occupation of the sidewalk. Depending on the specifications of the charging station and the terms of the charging operations, such installations and operations may require an encroachment permit pursuant to Sections 786 or 723.2 of the Public Works Code.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would amend the Administrative Code to create a curbside electric vehicle charging permit program administered by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (“SFMTA”). The SFMTA would have the authority to issue permits for the operation of curbside electric vehicle charging stations within the public right-of-way pursuant to the Transportation Code and other City standards and requirements in lieu of an encroachment permit issued by the Department of Public Works. A permittee would still be required to obtain all other applicable permits, including excavation permits from the Department of Public Works. The Public Works Code would include amendments to conform with this addition to the Administrative Code.

Background Information

This legislation would streamline the permitting of curbside electric vehicle charging stations by providing SFMTA with the authority to issue permits required for installation and operation of a charging station in the public right-of-way, including City sidewalks. The creation of a curbside electric vehicle charging program supports San Francisco’s local climate, equity, and public health goals, including having 25 percent of all registered private vehicles electric by 2030 and 100 percent by 2040.

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