

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Wagner, City Controller  
Carla Short, Director, Public Works

FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: July 31, 2025

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Engardio on July 22, 2025.

**File No. 250784**

Resolution urging the Controller's City Services Auditor and the Department of Public Works to develop objective streetscape and landscape maintenance standards; and finding that well-maintained streetscapes and landscape assets are integral to support small businesses and economic development on commercial corridors.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: [john.carroll@sfgov.org](mailto:john.carroll@sfgov.org).

cc:

Offices of Chair Melgar and Supervisor Engardio  
ChiaYu Ma, Office of the Controller  
Ayesha Hossain, Office of the Controller  
Claire Stone, Office of the Controller  
Mark dela Rosa, Office of the Controller  
David Steinberg, Public Works  
Ian Schneider, Public Works  
Jason Wong, Public Works

1 [Urging the City Develop Streetscape and Landscape Maintenance Standards]

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3 **Resolution urging the Controller’s City Services Auditor and the Department of Public**  
4 **Works to develop objective streetscape and landscape maintenance standards; and**  
5 **finding that well-maintained streetscapes and landscape assets are integral to support**  
6 **small businesses and economic development on commercial corridors.**

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8 WHEREAS, San Francisco Public Works (“Public Works”) is one of the city’s largest  
9 and most complex municipal operations, with a workforce of nearly 1,800 employees and an  
10 annual operating budget of \$453 million, the department manages a capital project portfolio  
11 valued at over \$3 billion, as one of San Francisco’s oldest City departments, it remains among  
12 the most forward-thinking; and

13 WHEREAS, Public Works serves every neighborhood in San Francisco, and one of  
14 their core responsibilities is to maintain and green the public right-of-way; and

15 WHEREAS, In November 2003, San Francisco voters approved Proposition C, which  
16 created the role of a City Services Auditor within the Office of the Controller; and

17 WHEREAS, Proposition C tasked the City Services Auditor to collect data and measure  
18 the condition of streets, sidewalks, the urban environment, and landscape, as well as parks  
19 and recreational facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor is responsible for assessing the need for city  
21 services, monitoring performance of city services, and helping city departments make  
22 transparent, data-driven decisions in policy development and operational management; and

23 WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor, in collaboration with Public Works, developed  
24 objective measures of the cleanliness and condition of city streets and sidewalks maintained  
25 by Public Works, which were last updated in 2018; and

1           WHEREAS, The scope of the city’s street and sidewalk maintenance standards  
2 includes Public Works’ responsiveness to 311 service requests, and evaluating specific  
3 instances of street and sidewalk litter, dumping, graffiti, feces, needles, odors, as well as other  
4 health hazards and sidewalk cleanliness issues;

5           WHEREAS, In November 2016, San Francisco voters passed Proposition E, to ensure  
6 Public Works received dedicated funding to help maintain San Francisco’s street trees and  
7 urban forest; and

8           WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor and Public Works have not formally defined or  
9 established benchmark maintenance standards for trees, landscaping and planting areas,  
10 irrigation infrastructure, street furniture, seating, and decorative elements that are planned and  
11 incorporated in any major streetscape improvement project; and

12           WHEREAS, Public Works is also responsible for managing hundreds of acres of open  
13 spaces, naturalized areas, landscaped medians, and pocket parks; and

14           WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor and Public Works have not formally defined or  
15 established benchmark maintenance standards for existing open spaces, naturalized areas,  
16 landscaped medians, and pocket parks; and

17           WHEREAS, Well-maintained streetscapes enhance the vibrancy and economic vitality  
18 of San Francisco’s commercial corridors, while promoting neighborhood identity and pride;  
19 now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors finds well-maintained  
21 streetscapes and landscape assets are integral to support small businesses and economic  
22 development on commercial corridors; and, be it,

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges Public Works and the City  
24 Services Auditor to develop objective streetscape and landscape maintenance standards to  
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1 support data-driven operational decisions and help align availability resources to maximize  
2 efficiency and impact.

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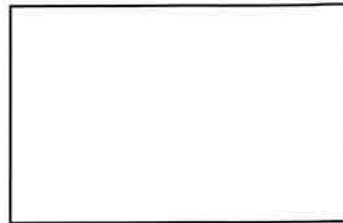
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## Introduction Form

*(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)*



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

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)  
*(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)*
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No. \_\_\_\_\_ from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Reactivate File No. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on \_\_\_\_\_

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission     Youth Commission     Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission     Building Inspection Commission     Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes                       No

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

Sponsor(s):

Engardio

Subject:

Resolution Urging the City to Develop Streetscape and Landscape Maintenance Standards

Long Title or text listed:

Resolution urging the Controller's City Services Auditor and San Francisco Public Works develop objective Streetscape and Landscape Maintenance Standards.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: