

1 [Conditionally Reversing the Statutory Exemption Determination - Proposed MTA Mid-
2 Valencia Curbside Protected Bikeway Project]

3 **Motion conditionally reversing the determination by the Planning Department that the**
4 **proposed Mid-Valencia Curbside Protected Bikeway project is statutorily exempt from**
5 **environmental review, subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board of**
6 **Supervisors in support of this determination.**

7
8 WHEREAS, On September 30, 2024, the Planning Department determined that the
9 proposed Mid-Valencia Curbside Protected Bikeway Project (the Project) is statutorily exempt
10 from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA, Section 21080.25
11 (CEQA determination); and

12 WHEREAS, The project site consists of an eight-block section of Valencia Street (from
13 15th Street to 23rd Street) located in the Mission neighborhood of San Francisco; and

14 WHEREAS, Between 15th Street and 23rd Street, Valencia Street is a
15 north-south, two-way street with one travel lane in each direction; a two-way, center-running
16 bikeway runs along this corridor with two- to six-foot buffers between the bikeway and travel
17 lanes; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA or Project
19 Sponsor) proposes to remove the existing two-way, center-running bikeway on Valencia
20 Street and install curbside protected Class IV bikes lanes from 15th Street to 23rd Street; and

21 WHEREAS, The proposed bike lanes would be located directly adjacent to the curb or
22 weave around curbside parklets, and buffer zones would be placed between the proposed
23 bike lanes and parking and loading spaces to provide space for people to get in and out of
24 vehicles and provide more distance between people biking and parked vehicles; and
25

1 WHEREAS, On cross streets intersecting the project corridor, the proposed project
2 would modify the color curb designation of existing loading spaces (e.g., from passenger
3 loading to commercial loading) and would convert some parking spaces into bikeshare
4 stations. Implementation of the proposed project would result in changes to the location and
5 an overall decrease in the number of parking and loading spaces in the project corridor; and
6 changes to the location of parklets, on-street bike share stations, and bicycle corrals (on-
7 street bicycle parking) throughout the project corridor; and

8 WHEREAS, CEQA exempts from environmental review “pedestrian and bicycle
9 facilities that improve safety, access, or mobility, including new facilities, within the public
10 right-of-way” (CEQA, Section 21080.25(b)(1)), and that meet other specified requirements;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Planning Department determined that the Project is exempt under
13 Section 21080.25, because it proposes to implement bicycle facilities that improve safety,
14 access, or mobility, and it meets the criteria for applicability of the statutory exemption; and

15 WHEREAS, On May 30, 2024, the SFMTA filed an application with the Planning
16 Department for the purpose of obtaining a CEQA determination for the Project; and

17 WHEREAS, On November 4, 2024, the Planning Department determined that the
18 Project was statutorily exempt under CEQA under Section 21080.25 and issued a statutory
19 exemption for the Project; and

20 WHEREAS, On November 19, 2024, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved the
21 Project; and

22 WHEREAS, On December 4, 2024, Julio Ramos of the Law Office of Julio J. Ramos,
23 on behalf of VAMANOS (hereinafter Appellant), filed an appeal of the statutory exemption
24 determination; and
25

1 WHEREAS, By memorandum to the Clerk of the Board dated December 9, 2024, the
2 Planning Department's Environmental Review Officer determined that the appeal was timely
3 filed; and

4 WHEREAS, On January 28, 2025, this Board held a duly noticed public hearing to
5 consider the appeal filed by Appellant; and

6 WHEREAS, In reviewing the appeal, this Board reviewed and considered the CEQA
7 determination, the appeal letter, the responses to the appeal documents that the Planning
8 Department and the Project Sponsor prepared, the other written records before the Board of
9 Supervisors and all of the public testimony made in support of and opposed to the appeal; and

10 WHEREAS, Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors
11 conditionally reversed the Planning Department's determination that the Project is statutorily
12 exempt, subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of such
13 determination based on the written record before the Board of Supervisors as well as all of the
14 testimony at the public hearing in support of and opposed to the appeal; and

15 WHEREAS, The written record and oral testimony in support of and opposed to the
16 appeal and the oral and written testimony at the public hearing before the Board of
17 Supervisors by all parties and the public in support of and opposed to the appeal, including
18 the deliberations by the members of the Board, is in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors File
19 No. 241192, and is incorporated in this motion as though set forth in its entirety; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors conditionally reverses the determination by the
22 Planning Department that the Project is statutorily exempt from environmental review, subject
23 to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of this determination.

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