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April 9, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Automated Red Light Cameras and No Turn Enforcement

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) requests that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approve the Surveillance Technology Policy for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) use of Red Light Cameras and No Turn Enforcement. This fulfills the SF Administrative Code 19B requirements for new surveillance technologies.

BACKGROUND

Since 1996, the SFMTA has operated automated red light and no turn enforcement cameras—considered Surveillance Technology under Chapter 19B—as part of its Automated Enforcement Program to reduce traffic collisions, injuries, and fatalities caused by red light running and illegal turns. While this program predates Chapter 19B, the SFMTA must now obtain Board approval of a Surveillance Technology Policy to continue using these enforcement cameras.

The proposed ordinance would authorize the SFMTA to continue using its automated red light and no turn enforcement cameras, as follows: (1) to cite and prosecute red light violations; (2) to cite and prosecute illegal turn violations; and (3) to perform engineering analysis from associated data such as vehicle counts, vehicle speeds, and violation numbers.

The cameras support the SFMTA's mission for a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system, aiding in Vision Zero goals by reducing traffic-related fatalities and injuries. They advance equitable traffic enforcement. They ensure more predictable and effective traffic control and, when broadly implemented, help change driver behavior. Enforcing red lights and no turns is a reliable and cost-effective method to prevent further fatalities and injuries.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

The SFMTA respectfully requests that the Board of Supervisors approve the System Use Policy and System Impact Report.

Sincerely,

Julie Kirschbaum
Director of Transportation