

1 [Supporting New Initiatives to Improve Street Safety for All Users and the Creation of a
2 Bicycle Citation Diversion Education Program]

3 **Resolution supporting new initiatives to improve street safety for all users and to**
4 **create a new Citation Diversion Education Program for bicyclists.**

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6 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a dense city whose streets are often crowded with
7 pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles, taxis and private automobiles; and

8 WHEREAS, Between 1999-2009, the period covered in the San Francisco Municipal
9 Transportation Agency’s most recent Collisions Report, there were more than 37,700 non-
10 fatal injury collisions and 379 traffic-related fatalities; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco Police Department, in 2010, 811
12 pedestrians were hit by cars and 18 by bicycles; and

13 WHEREAS, To meet the voter-mandated Transit First Policy in San Francisco’s
14 Charter to prioritize sustainable transportation modes such as walking, bicycling and Muni,
15 San Francisco will need to make its streets safer; and

16 WHEREAS, The 2009-2010 Civil Grand Jury report “Sharing the Roadway: From
17 Confrontation to Conversation” recommended various policies to increase the education and
18 enforcement for those who share the roadway; and

19 WHEREAS, At least twelve San Francisco agencies share responsibilities for
20 pedestrian safety, including the Municipal Transportation Agency, County Transportation
21 Authority, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Health, Public Works, Public Utilities
22 Commission, Planning, Recreation & Park, Unified School District, Department on the
23 Environment, and the Mayor’s Office on Disability; and

1 WHEREAS, Transportation advocates for safer walking and bicycling have worked
2 closely with these City departments on the elements of a San Francisco Safe Streets
3 program; and

4 WHEREAS, The new San Francisco Safe Streets program will, among other things:

- 5 • Spread street safety efforts via multiple channels, from utility bills and social
6 media to billboards and transit shelters; and
- 7 • Expand ongoing education programs for all street users, including bicycle riders,
8 transit operators, taxi drivers, parcel delivery drivers and private vehicle drivers ;
9 and
- 10 • Establish evidence-based priorities for police and community education and
11 enforcement efforts, with a focus on the most dangerous locations and the most
12 dangerous behaviors such as excess speed, failure to yield and right-of-way
13 encroachment; and
- 14 • Attain and share better records of incident data, including collisions,
15 admonishments and citations, to better inform education, enforcement and
16 engineering efforts.

17 WHEREAS, The numbers of bicyclists on San Francisco streets is increasing
18 dramatically, with a 71 percent increase over the last five years; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2009 San Francisco Bicycle Plan, the Civil Grand Jury, the Bicycle
20 Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee recommend the creation
21 of a Bicycle Citation Diversion Education Program, which would be “traffic school” for
22 bicyclists who are cited in violation of the California Vehicle Code; and

23 WHEREAS, The SF Municipal Transportation Agency and Police Department, in
24 collaboration with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, are close to implementing such a
25 program, which will improve safety for all street users; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports
2 the new initiatives of the San Francisco Safe Streets program; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages the San Francisco
4 Municipal Transportation Agency and the San Francisco Police Department to implement a
5 Bicycle Citation Diversion Education Program to improve safety for everyone who shares San
6 Francisco's streets, sidewalks and intersections.

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