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March 10, 2026

**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: Establish Permanent Curbside Electric Vehicle Station Charging Program

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) requests that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors amend the Administrative Code to establish a permanent curbside electric vehicle (EV) charging station program and authorize the SFMTA to issue permits to allow the installation and operation of curbside EV charging stations on City sidewalks and to waive the requirement to obtain an encroachment permit from the Department of Public Works (SFPW); amend the Public Works Code to reflect the authority of the SFMTA to issue permits for the curbside EV charging station program; and affirm the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

BACKGROUND

Curbside EV charging is essential to advancing San Francisco's climate, equity, and public health goals while supporting California's mandate that 100 percent of new in-state passenger car and light-duty truck sales be zero-emission by 2035. The City has set ambitious targets—25 percent of registered private vehicles electric by 2030 and 100 percent by 2040—requiring significant expansion of reliable, affordable, and conveniently located charging infrastructure. Statewide efforts such as California Assembly Bill 2427 (2023-2024) and California Assembly Bill 2127 (2017-2018) underscore the need for streamlined permitting and millions of chargers statewide to meet zero-emission transportation goals. Curbside charging is particularly critical in San Francisco, where many residents live in multi-unit buildings without access to off-street parking, ensuring equitable access to clean transportation and reducing pollution in densely populated neighborhoods.

In 2021, the City adopted its Climate Action Plan, which identifies on-street curbside charging, alongside expanded off-street infrastructure, as a key strategy to accelerate zero-emission vehicle adoption and support a healthier, more equitable future. Building on this framework, the Board of Supervisors adopted San Francisco Board Resolution 326-24 in June 2024, directing

SFMTA, the San Francisco Environment Department (SFE), and partner agencies to conduct a Curbside EV Charging Feasibility Study. Published in April 2025, the study evaluated operational, financial, and regulatory considerations and provided recommendations to guide development of a public-facing curbside charging network.

In parallel, the City launched a 2024 demonstration pilot program installing chargers at select on-street parking spaces to collect data and inform long-term implementation. This legislation transitions that pilot into a permanent, citywide program that prioritizes high-density, vehicle-reliant areas, avoids conflicts with transit lanes and other critical street uses, and establishes a permitting structure designating SFMTA as the lead agency for curbside EV charger installations in the public right-of-way. Together, these actions position San Francisco to meet its electrification goals while ensuring equitable and efficient deployment of charging infrastructure.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 2021 – SFE and the SFMTA received funding from Cities Climate Leadership, a group working with city governments to reduce emissions from urban transportation and shift cities toward cleaner mobility, to develop a **public survey** to research the challenges and opportunities for enabling curbside access to EV charging in San Francisco. FM3 Research, the selected survey implementer, administered the survey to five priority ZIP codes that were selected based on estimated curbside charging needs and neighborhoods with multifamily housing: Mission/Bernal (94110), Castro/Duboce/Dolores/Noe (94114), Inner Richmond (94118), Outer Richmond (94121) and Haight/Cole Valley (94117). Through this public opinion survey of 435 residents, staff discovered that 66% of respondents supported installing curbside charging in their neighborhood, 23% opposed, and 11% were undecided.
- August 2023 – The **Curbside EV Charging Feasibility Study** was conducted through a multi-agency collaboration to evaluate whether it is operationally, financially, and regulatorily feasible to install, maintain, and operate a public-Department of facing EV charging network at the curb. The study was led in partnership with SFE, SFPW, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Through this interagency coordination, staff assessed permitting requirements, utility infrastructure constraints, streetscape design considerations, accessibility requirements, maintenance responsibilities, and long-term funding models. The study identified key risks and opportunities associated with operating a curbside charging network and developed practical solutions and recommendations to advance the program from a pilot to a permanent, scalable initiative. The study was published in April 2025.

- April 2024 – SFE and the SFMTA held a **webinar** to orient interested stakeholders to the feasibility study, gather feedback, and better understand their needs and concerns related to curbside EV charging. Approximately 35 attendees participated, including San Francisco residents, business owners, and members of community organizations and cultural districts.

Invitations were sent to local climate and EV associations, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, disability advocacy organizations, and residents interested in curbside EV charging. The webinar was also promoted via social media channels.

- April 2024 – Following the webinar, staff distributed an **online feedback form** to collect further input on topics such as the level of support for curbside EV charging, EV ownership rates, site preferences, hopes for a curbside EV charging program, and concerns regarding curbside charging. The feedback form was available in Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino and received 19 responses, a number of which were from webinar participants, including 18 SF residents and one San Francisco business owner.
- May 2024 – SFE and SFMTA staff presented at the **Land Use and Transportation Committee** meeting on the Curbside EV Charging Feasibility Study.
- June 2024 – the Board of Supervisors passed **Resolution No. 326-24** which supports Curbside EV Charging Feasibility Study.
- June 2024 – Curbside EV Charging Demonstration **Pilot Program launches**. The pilot was implemented in collaboration with SFE, SFPUC, the Mayor’s Office, SFPW’s Disability Access Coordinator (DAC), and other City partners. This coordinated approach ensured alignment across agencies with jurisdiction in the public right-of-way, utility grid operations, accessibility compliance, and climate policy goals.
- June 2024 –SFMTA and SFE staff participated in the **San Francisco County Transportation Authority Citizen’s Advisory Committee** (CAC) to respond to questions on SFMTA’s Prop L 5-Year Prioritization Programs project request for curbside charging planning. There was a robust discussion at the CAC where committee members raised concerns about the City prioritizing curbside EV chargers over potential active transportation and transit improvements and about using funds for automobile-centered infrastructure, while other members acknowledged the need for automobiles to help meet their daily mobility and business needs.

- December 2025 – Staff presented at the **Board of Supervisors Land Use and Transportation Committee** on the study, pilot, and next steps for long-term planning.
- January 2026 – SFE and the SFMTA presented at the **Commission on the Environment** meeting on the study, pilot, and next steps for long-term planning.
- February 2026 – SFMTA staff participated in the **SFMTA Engineering, Maintenance, and Safety Committee Citizen’s Advisory Council** and **the San Francisco County Transportation Authority CAC** to provide updates on the Curbside EV Charging Feasibility Study findings, status of the Curbside EV Charging Demonstration Pilot Program, and next steps for planning the permanent program.

FUNDING IMPACT

A Fee Schedule was developed with four permits identified in the program: Operator application fee, Site permit fee, annual Operator renewal fee and annual Site renewal fee. Vendors (“Operators”) will be responsible for all associated costs in the installation, operation, maintenance, and repair of their charging units.

SFMTA BOARD ACTION

On April 7, 2026, the SFMTA Board of Directors is scheduled to approve a curbside electric vehicle charging permit program including associated fees and requirements to be implemented by the Director of Transportation.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

The SFMTA requests that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors amend 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.

Sincerely,



Julie Kirschbaum
Director of Transportation