

1 [Preparation of Findings to Reverse the Statutory Exemption Determination - Proposed MTA  
2 Mid-Valencia Curbside Protected Bikeway Project]

3 **Motion directing the Clerk of the Board to prepare findings reversing the determination**  
4 **by the Planning Department that the proposed Mid-Valencia Curbside Protected**  
5 **Bikeway project is statutorily exempt from environmental review.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, On September 30, 2024, the Planning Department determined that the  
8 proposed Mid-Valencia Curbside Protected Bikeway Project (the Project) is statutorily exempt  
9 from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA, Section 21080.25  
10 (CEQA determination); and

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, On cross streets intersecting the project corridor, the proposed project  
25 would modify the color curb designation of existing loading spaces (e.g., from passenger

1 loading to commercial loading) and would convert some parking spaces into bikeshare  
2 stations. Implementation of the proposed project would result in changes to the location and  
3 an overall decrease in the number of parking and loading spaces in the project corridor; and  
4 changes to the location of parklets, on-street bike share stations, and bicycle corrals (on-  
5 street bicycle parking) throughout the project corridor; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, By memorandum to the Clerk of the Board dated December 9, 2024, the  
24 Planning Department’s Environmental Review Officer determined that the appeal was timely  
25 filed; and

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

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

7           WHEREAS, Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors  
8 conditionally reversed the statutory exemption determination, subject to the adoption of written  
9 findings of the Board in support of such determination based on the written record before the  
10 Board of Supervisors as well as all of the testimony at the public hearing in support of and  
11 opposed to the appeal; and

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

18           MOVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to prepare the  
19 findings specifying the basis for its decision on the appeal.

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