

1 [Resolution urging the Governor to commit the State to participate in a study of Central
2 Freeway alternative configurations, and to postpone future retrofits of the Central Freeway
3 deck.]

4 **Resolution urging the Governor to postpone future retrofits of the Central Freeway**
5 **deck and to commit the State to participate in a study of alternative future**
6 **configurations for the Central Freeway.**

7
8 WHEREAS, The current structure known as the Central Freeway is a vestige of a
9 freeway plan for San Francisco that was never built; and

10 WHEREAS, As a result of three successive ballot measures, the voters of San
11 Francisco decided to replace the remaining portion of the Central Freeway north of Market
12 Street, damaged during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, with a boulevard along Octavia
13 Street, connecting to new touchdown ramps at the intersection of Market and Octavia Streets;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Due to environmental, legal, traffic handling, design, construction
16 agreement and funding considerations, construction on the Market Street ramp is going ahead
17 as approved; and

18 WHEREAS, The fact that the alternative was chosen at the ballot box obviated the in-
19 depth analysis of other potential alternatives, including the possibility of terminating the
20 freeway at a location south of Mission Street; and

21 WHEREAS, Since the adoption of Proposition E in 1998 and Proposition I in 1999, the
22 Better Neighborhood's Market/Octavia Plan, the result of a two-year community planning
23 process, has designated the SOMA West Neighborhood adjacent to the new touchdown ramp
24 to become a high-density, residential neighborhood; and
25

1 WHEREAS, Elevated freeway ramps have been proven to be a haven for criminal
2 activity, destroying the livability and vitality of neighborhoods, and

3 WHEREAS, The Embarcadero and the Hayes Street commercial district have
4 revitalized since elevated freeway structures were removed at those locations, contributing to
5 the livability and vitality of San Francisco; and

6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Transportation Authority has adopted a Strategic
7 Analysis Report (SAR) analyzing the potential impacts of a change in touchdown ramp
8 configuration that calls for an evaluation of relocating the touchdown ramp away from Market
9 Street as part of a long-term Central Freeway corridor and neighborhood revitalization
10 strategy; and

11 WHEREAS, The concrete roadway deck of the existing Central Freeway, built in the
12 1950's, will likely reach the end of its useful life within the next decade and will need to be
13 replaced; and

14 WHEREAS, Before the next set of major rehabilitation investments, including the
15 replacement of the Central Freeway deck, are contemplated, Caltrans, the City and the
16 Transportation Authority should consider the possibility of replacing the freeway with a
17 boulevard as envisioned in the Market and Octavia Plan; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that it is in the interest of the City and
19 County of San Francisco, and of the health and well being of its residents, to consider
20 alternatives for the potential future configuration of the Central Freeway corridor, including the
21 complete replacement of the elevated freeway with a street-level boulevard; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that it is in the best
23 interests of the City and County of San Francisco and the well being of its residents to study
24 the potential changes to the transportation system along the Central Freeway corridor, so that
25 the future transportation network may more appropriately support residential and other land

1 use changes proposed for the corridor, and better address traffic patterns in the entire South
2 of Market and North Mission area; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Governor to commit
4 Caltrans to participate, together with the City and the Transportation Authority, in a study of
5 alternative Central Freeway configurations that may better serve the evolving traffic patterns
6 in the area, and at the same time further lessen the negative impacts on the surrounding
7 neighborhoods; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Governor to ensure
9 that before any future seismic or roadbed replacement projects are undertaken on the existing
10 portion of the Central Freeway, Caltrans shall participate with the City and the Transportation
11 Authority in an effort to investigate replacing the elevated Central Freeway with a surface
12 boulevard for all or part of its length, as well as improvements to the US 101/Interstate 80
13 junction from Mariposa to 7th Street, including rationalizing the system of on-ramps and off-
14 ramps, to improve traffic flow and traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety on South of Market
15 streets; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Transportation
17 Authority to coordinate discussions with City departments and the State on the development
18 of the necessary land use, zoning, traffic and engineering studies, leading to a decision on the
19 future of the Central Freeway; and to develop recommendations for further steps including
20 scope, timelines, agency responsibilities and funding prospects for necessary studies, no later
21 than January 1, 2005.