



**CAPITAL PLANNING PROGRAM**

**EDWIN M. LEE**  
Mayor

**AMY BROWN**  
Acting City Administrator

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Director of Capital Planning

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Ballot Simplification Committee c/o Barbara Carr, Department of Elections

From: Brian Strong, City Administrator and Capital Planning Committee Chair

Copy: Amy Brown, Acting City Administrator and Chair  
Capital Planning Committee

Regarding: Request for Reconsideration of Road Repaving and Street Safety Bonds  
Digest

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An important change to the way in which the City and County of San Francisco makes decisions regarding the placement of General Obligation bonds on the ballot occurred in late 2005 when Section 3.20 and 3.21 of the Administrative Code was amended to include the development of a 10-year capital plan and the Capital Planning Committee. This section of the code explicitly states that the Capital Planning Committee review “any long term debt, including General Obligation bonds, to ensure compliance with the adopted capital expenditure plan” and that “The Board of Supervisors shall not place on the ballot, or authorize the issuance of any long term financing until the Capital Planning Committee submits its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.”

We believe it is important for voters to understand that the Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond is part of an objective, long-term planning process that prioritizes infrastructure needs throughout the City and makes strategic recommendations about how to fund these needs.

As such, we would like to respectfully advocate for the inclusion of a statement in “The Way It Is Now” section that the bond is identified as a priority in the City’s 10-year Capital Plan that mirrors the same language the Ballot Simplification Committee approved in the previous three bond measures. See below for the proposed amendment (in brackets and underlined). The exact language and links to previous statements are at the end of this memo.

***THE WAY IT IS NOW:***

*The City is responsible for maintaining about 850 miles of streets and more than 300 street structures, such as bridges, tunnels, and stairways. A City study shows that more than half of these streets and many of the structures need major repairs and upgrades.*

*[The City's 10-year Capital Plan identifies road repaving and street safety improvements as a high priority.]*

*With approval of the voters, the City may issue general obligation bonds to pay for capital projects such as road repaving and street safety. The City uses property tax revenues to pay the principal and interest on general obligation bonds.*

Voter information pamphlets for previous general obligation bond proposals have included language in the "The Way It Is Now" section similar to this proposed amendment.

- February 5, 2008 – Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond: "In March 2007, the City adopted a 10-year Capital Plan that addresses the safety and seismic needs of City-owned buildings and property in San Francisco. The Capital Plan recommends the use and timing of general obligation bonds, the first of which is a parks and recreation facilities bond."  
[http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/February5\\_2008.pdf](http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/February5_2008.pdf)
- November 4, 2008 – San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center Earthquake Safety Bonds: "The City's ten-year capital plan identified SFGH as one of the City's highest priority earthquake safety projects."  
[http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/November4\\_2008.pdf](http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/November4_2008.pdf)
- June 8, 2010 – Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond: "The City's 10-year Capital Plan identifies the repairs and relocation of public safety facilities and infrastructure as a high priority."  
[http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/June8\\_2010.pdf](http://sfpl.org/pdf/main/gic/elections/June8_2010.pdf)