

Funding for Homelessness and Transportation*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final Digest
On: Monday, August 1, 2016
Members: Packard, Anderson, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2

The Way It Is Now: The City provides a variety of services to homeless people, including street outreach, homeless shelters, transitional housing and Navigation Centers, permanent supportive housing, and health and job services. In July 2016, the City created a Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing to consolidate the City's efforts to assist homeless people. The City is not required to provide any specific annual amount for homeless services in the budget.

The City's Charter gives the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) authority over the City's transportation system, which includes roads, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, parking, taxicabs and Muni (the City's public transit system). SFMTA collects income from several sources, including Muni fares, parking fees and citations. The City's Charter requires the City to contribute a portion of the General Fund to SFMTA each year. The City adjusts that amount every year based on the City's revenue and population change.

In 2013, the City accepted the Transportation 2030 Task Force Report, which recommended that the City increase funding for transportation and road improvements.

In 2014, the City adopted a "Vision Zero" policy. Its goal is to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2024 by building safer streets, educating the public on traffic safety, enforcing traffic laws and implementing safety projects.

The City's transportation system is affected by several other agencies:

- The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (CTA) is responsible for long-range transportation planning for the City. The CTA also analyzes, designs and funds improvements for San Francisco's roadway and public transportation networks.
- Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) is a public train system that serves the San Francisco Bay Area, and connects San Francisco with stations in the East Bay and northern San Mateo County.
- Caltrain is a commuter rail line that runs between San Francisco and Santa Clara County.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains San Francisco's streets and sidewalks, including road repaving and repairing potholes.

The Proposal: Proposition ____ is a Charter amendment that would create two funds:

Proposition ____ would create a Homeless Housing and Services Fund. Beginning in 2018 and for the next 24 years, the City would allocate \$50 million to the fund each year, adjusted based on changes in City revenues.

The City would use this fund to provide services to the homeless:

- housing,
- programs to prevent homelessness and
- assistance in transitioning out of homelessness.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

Proposition ___ would also create a Transportation Improvement Fund. Beginning in 2018 and for the next 24 years, the City would allocate \$101.6 million to the fund each year, adjusted based on changes in City revenues.

The City would use this fund to improve the City's transportation network by allocating funding as follows:

- 12.4% annually to SFMTA to improve transit service to low-income and transit-dependent communities and reduce the cost of transit for low- and moderate-income youth, seniors and people with disabilities;
- 18.8% annually to SFMTA to maintain Muni's vehicle fleet in good repair, expand the fleet and repair and upgrade SFMTA stations;
- 9.4% annually to the CTA to improve the service of the existing transit system and expand its capacity; and fund planning, design, education, outreach, evaluation and capital investment in transportation infrastructure for transit-oriented development projects;
- 14.1% annually to the CTA to improve the reliability and increase the capacity of BART and Caltrain; fund long-range regional network planning, design studies or capital improvements; improve management of regional highways; and promote sustainable travel choices;
- 12.4% annually to the CTA to implement the City's Vision Zero policy; and
- 32.9% annually to DPW to repair City streets and conduct preventative maintenance of City streets.

Until January 1, 2017, the Mayor would have the authority to terminate one or both funds, based on his review of the City's financial condition.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to create a:

- Homeless Housing and Services Fund, which would provide services to the homeless including housing and Navigation Centers, programs to prevent homelessness and assistance in transitioning out of homelessness by allocating \$50 million per year for 24 years, adjusted annually; and
- Transportation Improvement Fund, which would be used to improve the City's transportation network by allocating \$101.6 million per year for 24 years, adjusted annually.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.