

From: vin@openthegreathighway.com
To: [REG - BSC Clerk](#)
Subject: Submission of Comments on Great Highway Ballot Measure
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 6:04:28 PM
Attachments: [BallotSimplification_23JUL2024.pdf](#)

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Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee,

I hope this message finds you well.

As a community leader of Open the Great Highway (OTGH), I am writing to submit my formal comments and suggestions on the draft digest of the Great Highway ballot measure. We have been advocating for the past four years for keeping the Upper Great Highway open to drivers and commuters, and we appreciate your efforts to ensure that the ballot measure is presented clearly to voters.

Attached to this email is a detailed letter outlining specific recommendations for improving the clarity and accuracy of the draft digest. We believe these changes are crucial to help voters understand the true impact of the measure.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information regarding our suggestions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vin Budhai
Founder, [Open the Great Highway](#)

July 23, 2024

Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee,

I am writing as a community leader of Open the Great Highway (OTGH) and a long-time advocate for keeping the Upper Great Highway open to commuters and drivers. I thank you for your efforts in clarifying this ballot measure for voters and respectfully submit the following comments and suggestions to improve the digest:

1. Revise the Title to Reflect the Measure's Core Impact

The current title, "Reserving the Upper Great Highway as a Public Open Recreation Space," is misleading. The primary effect of the measure is to permanently close the Upper Great Highway to private vehicles/commuters. Therefore, I recommend changing the title to:

"Permanently Closing the Upper Great Highway to Private Vehicles/Commuters."

2. Highlight the Main Effect of the Measure

The current draft seems to emphasize potential future plans for the Great Highway rather than the immediate effect of the measure. The central change proposed is the permanent closure of the highway to private vehicles. There is no provision for creating or funding a new park or recreational space. To better reflect this, I suggest revising the proposal summary to:

"Proposition ___ is an ordinance that would allow the City to permanently close the Upper Great Highway to commuters/vehicles seven days a week, with limited exceptions."

3. Remove Unnecessary References to Emergency Powers

The draft mentions emergency exceptions that are not included in the legal text, specifically regarding the authority of the General Manager of the Recreation and Parks Department. Since this information is not relevant to the core measure and may cause confusion, I recommend removing this reference to ensure clarity.

4. Clarify the "Yes" Vote's Effects

To ensure consistency and clarity, the "YES" vote description should directly reflect the immediate impact of the closure, similar to the "NO" vote section. I propose revising it to:

"If you vote 'yes,' you want the City to permanently close the Upper Great Highway seven days a week to private vehicles."

These changes will help ensure that voters have a clear and accurate understanding of the measure's true impact. Thank you for considering these suggestions. I look forward to your response and appreciate your continued efforts to provide transparent and understandable information for voters.

Sincerely,

Vin Budhai
Founder, Open the Great Highway