Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee:

Thank you for your important work. I am writing to ask that you reconsider certain parts of the Approved Digest about the measure related to the Great Highway. Upon reviewing the Approved Digest, it appears that the Committee missed an opportunity to present a truly simplified summary of, what is at its core, a very simple proposition. There is an opportunity to create a more lucid and honest explanation of the change that is in front of the voter. **The current Approved Digest is too long for a measure that has no complex tax or bond issues involved.** A redline of suggested text is below, but here is a bullet point summary of the specific areas I ask that you reconsider:

- **"The Way Is Is Now"**: as currently written, this section devotes a lot of text to things about 'The Way It Was' and 'The Way It May Be In The Future'. The average resident knows that roads all over San Francisco changed during COVID; the historical background, explanations about obscure jurisdiction, pilot program sunset dates, Coastal Act authority etc., is not appropriate for this summary and is overwhelming —all the voter needs is to know a succinct summary regarding *The Way It Is Now*.
- **The term "Upper Great Highway"**: "Upper Great Highway is not the name of any street in San Francisco — it refers to a part of the road named "Great Highway". As such, "upper" should not be capitalized.
- **"The Proposal"**: Again — this section includes too much about obscure exceptions and authorities. Please consider focusing on the crux of the measure's proposed change here. The voter should have a simple understanding of what the change will be. It is also important to note that this is not a measure that includes funding for any purpose.
- **"A No Vote Means"**: It is confusing to have the words "closing" and "closed" in both the 'Yes Vote Means' and 'No Vote Means' sections. The Committee often uses the simple phrase *"A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes."* Why not use it here?

The Way It Is Now: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City closed certain public streets to personal and commercial motor vehicles, reserving the streets as public open space for recreational purposes. These closures included the Great Highway between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard (Upper Great Highway), adjacent to Ocean Beach.

In May 2022, the City replaced the pandemic restrictions on the Upper Great Highway with a pilot program closing the Upper Great Highway to personal and commercial motor vehicles on Friday afternoons, weekends and holidays. The closure does not apply to emergency vehicles, official government vehicles, intra-park transit shuttle buses and similar vehicles authorized to transport people. This pilot program will end on December 31, 2025, unless the City extends it. When the pilot program ends, the Upper Great Highway will return to its use before the pandemic and be open to personal and commercial motor vehicles.

The City's General Plan sets objectives and policies for land uses within San Francisco, including streets. The California Coastal Act guides land uses along the California coast. The General Plan and Coastal Act may limit changes in use of the Upper Great Highway.

The Recreation and Parks Commission has jurisdiction over most public parks and other recreational facilities in San Francisco, including the Upper Great Highway. Under the Commission's direction, the Recreation and Parks' General Manager oversees the use of those recreational facilities.

The Great Highway is a coastal road which runs approximately 3.5 miles along the city's western edge. A segment of this road, known as the upper Great Highway, is open to motor vehicle traffic four and a half days per week: on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Friday mornings. This same portion of the road is closed to motor vehicles the rest of the week: on Friday afternoons, Saturdays, and

Sundays. When it is closed to motor vehicles, the upper Great Highway's traffic lanes are open only to cyclists and pedestrians, and is used for general recreation by the public. –

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is an ordinance that would allow the City to close the portion of the road known as the upper Great Highway to motor vehicles every day of the week. The upper Great Highway's traffic lanes would be available for use by cyclists, pedestrians, and general recreation purposes, seven days per week.

There would be limited exceptions for emergencies, as determined by the General Manager of the Recreation and Parks Department. If this measure passes, it would not include funding for any purpose.

~~use the Upper Great Highway as public open recreation space, permanently closing it to personal and commercial motor vehicles seven days a week, with limited exceptions. It would continue to allow emergency vehicles, official government vehicles, intra-park transit shuttle buses and similar authorized vehicles to access the Upper Great Highway at all times. The General Manager of the Recreation and Parks Department would have the authority to determine an emergency exists and allow personal and commercial motor vehicles to use the Upper Great Highway.~~

Proposition __ would require, within 180 days of voter approval of this measure, the City to seek any other approvals necessary to permanently close the Upper Great Highway to personal and commercial motor vehicles. Other laws may need to change, and other government agencies may need to approve of the changes. ~~Those approvals may include amendments to the City's General Plan and approvals under the California Coastal Act.~~

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want the City to use the Upper Great Highway as public open recreation space, permanently closing it to personal and commercial motor vehicles seven days a week, with limited exceptions.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes. ~~want the Upper Great Highway to continue to be closed to personal and commercial vehicles only on Friday afternoons, weekends and holidays until the pilot program expires.~~