

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 16-17, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c.(6)
Action

From: WILL KEMPTON
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO
BICYCLE PLAN PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-16-17)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), Findings of Significant Impact, Statement of Overriding Considerations and the modified CEQA findings for the San Francisco Bicycle Plan Project (Project) in San Francisco County for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission accept the FEIR, Findings of Significant Impact, Statement of Overriding Considerations and the modified CEQA findings for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND:

The San Francisco Planning Department (City) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the project. The proposed project involves near-term, long-term and minor bicycle improvement projects with the following goals: 1) refine and expand the existing bicycle route network; 2) ensure plentiful, high-quality bicycle parking to complement the bicycle route network; 3) expand bicycle access to transit and bridges; 4) educate the public about bicycle safety; 5) improve bicycle safety through targeted enforcement; 6) promote and encourage safe bicycling; 7) adopt bicycle-friendly practices and policies; and, 8) prioritize and increase bicycle funding.

On June 26, 2009, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors adopted the 2009 Bicycle Plan and findings under CEQA, including a Statement of Overriding Considerations and a mitigation monitoring reporting program. On April 30, 2013 the SFMTA adopted modified findings under CEQA and re-adopted the 2009 Bicycle Plan and reapproved traffic modifications.

On February 1, 2016, the San Francisco Planning Department approved and certified the FEIR, the Findings of Significant Impact, the Statement of Overriding Considerations and the modified CEQA findings for the project. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) determined that impacts related to the physical environment, worsening of traffic levels-of-service, potential

slowing of transit movement in the city and the potential reduction of truck loading spaces would be significant and unavoidable.

The City found that there were several benefits that outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects of the project. These benefits include overriding economic, legal, social and technological considerations that outweigh the identified significant effects on the environment. The project will essentially help fulfill San Francisco's Transit First Policy mandate as set forth in the San Francisco Charter, Section 81.115, to make bicycling an attractive alternative to travel by private automobile, and to promote bicycling by encouraging safe streets for riding, convenient access to transit, bicycle lanes and secure bicycle parking.

The total cost of the project is estimated to cost \$1,145,000. The project is anticipated to be funded with Active Transportation Program grant (ATP) Funds (\$792,000) and Proposition K Sales Tax Funds (\$353,000). Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2015/16.

Attachment

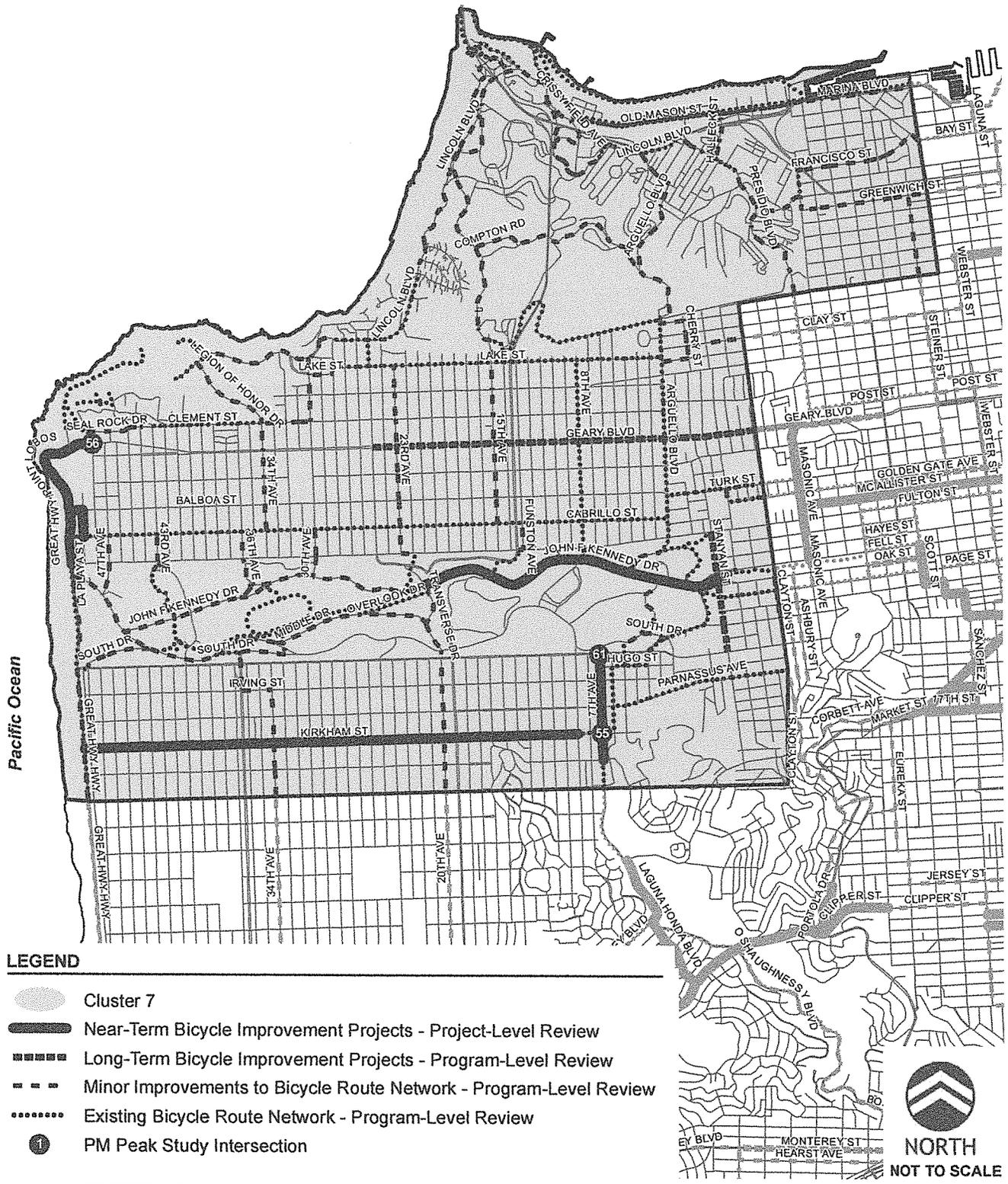
- Resolution E-16-17
- Project Location
- Statement of Overriding Considerations

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 04– San Francisco County Resolution E-16-17

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of San Francisco has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- San Francisco Bicycle Plan Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of San Francisco has certified that the Final Environmental Impact Report was completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project involves near-term, long-term and minor bicycle improvement projects with the following goals: 1) refine and expand the existing bicycle route network; 2) ensure plentiful, high-quality bicycle parking to complement the bicycle route network; 3) expand bicycle access to transit and bridges; 4) educate the public about bicycle safety; 5) improve bicycle safety through targeted enforcement; 6) promote and encourage safe bicycling; 7) adopt bicycle-friendly practices and policies; and, 8) prioritize and increase bicycle funding; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, Findings of Fact made pursuant to CEQA Guidelines indicate that specific unavoidable significant impacts related to the physical environment, worsening of traffic levels-of-service, potential slowing of transit movement in the city and the potential reduction of truck loading spaces would be significant and unavoidable and the cumulative effects make it infeasible to avoid or fully mitigate to a less than significant level the effects associated with the project; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City of San Francisco and County of San Francisco adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the project finding that the project benefits outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the City of San Francisco and County of San Francisco adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project; and
- 1.8 **WHEREAS**, the above significant effects are acceptable when balanced against the facts as set forth in the Statement of Overriding Considerations.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Report, Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Addendum and approves the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

San Francisco Bay



LEGEND

-  Cluster 7
-  Near-Term Bicycle Improvement Projects - Project-Level Review
-  Long-Term Bicycle Improvement Projects - Program-Level Review
-  Minor Improvements to Bicycle Route Network - Program-Level Review
-  Existing Bicycle Route Network - Program-Level Review
-  PM Peak Study Intersection



SOURCE: Wilbur Smith and Associates, 2008.

SAN FRANCISCO BICYCLE PLAN
REVISED FIGURE V.A.3-11: CLUSTER 7 - STUDY AREA

- **VII. Statement of Overriding Considerations**

Notwithstanding the significant and unavoidable impacts for the Preferred Project and related actions, the Board finds, after considering the Final EIR and based on substantial evidence in the record and as set forth elsewhere in these findings and herein, that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations outweigh the identified significant effects on the environment.

1. Approval of this Project would help fulfill the mandate of San Francisco's Transit First Policy as set forth in the San Francisco Charter, Section 8A.115, to make bicycling an attractive alternative to travel by private automobile, and to promote bicycling by encouraging safe streets for riding, convenient access to transit, bicycle lanes and secure bicycle parking.
2. Approval of the Project is consistent with San Francisco Charter Section 8A.113(a) which requires MTA to facilitate the design and operation of City streets to enhance alternative forms of transit, including bicycling.
3. This Project is also consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Bicycle Plan, updated in 2009 as part of the update to the Regional Transportation Plan, "Transportation 2035." The Regional Bicycle Plan recognizes regionally significant elements of the San Francisco Bicycle Route Network and allows for funding for improvements to those regionally significant elements from MTC funding sources.
4. The Project is consistent with state, region and Citywide plans and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by facilitating the increased use of bicycles in San Francisco, which will help reduce dependence on the private automobile, because private automobiles are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. These plans and policies include, but are not limited to:
 - a. San Francisco's "Climate Action Plan: Local Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions," adopted in September 2004, which affirms San Francisco's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2012. Among other policies, the Climate Action Plan outlines policies to encourage bicycling and discourage trips by private automobile.
 - b. San Francisco Department of the Environment's Strategic Plan 2009-2011, an annually updated mission statement by the Department of the Environment, which among other topics, outlines goals and actions to promote bicycle use in San Francisco in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by 963,000 tons per year by 2012.

- c. the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, otherwise known as AB 32, a California state law that requires the state's greenhouse gas emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020.
 - d. United Nations Urban Environmental Accords, a series of implementable goals that can be adopted at a city level to achieve urban sustainability, promote healthy economies, advance social equity and protect the world's ecosystem. Adopted in 2005, and signed by San Francisco, the Accords, among other goals, advocates for policies to reduce the percentage of commute trips by single occupancy vehicles by ten percent in seven years.
5. Approval of the Project, will allow the City to be eligible for substantial amounts of bicycle funding. For example, to be eligible for many sources of funds, California cities and counties must have a Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP) that discusses items (a) through (k) in Section 891.2 of the California Streets and Highways Code. The city or county must adopt the BTP or certify that it has been updated and complies with Section 891.2 of the California Streets and Highways Code and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Approval of the Bicycle Plan will enable the City to use money from these sources instead of requiring the use of General Fund or other money.
6. The Project has identified eight specific goals whose achievement would result in substantial and measurable positive benefits to the City. These goals are outlined below and their specific benefits provide further evidence that the implementation of the Project outweighs its unavoidable adverse environmental effects.
- a. Goal 1 – Refine and Expand the Existing Bicycle Route Network: Achievement of this goal would significantly improve the connectivity of the Bicycle Route Network throughout the City. The proposed infrastructure improvements, namely the addition of striped Class II bike lanes and marked shared lane pavement markings, or “sharrows,” would nearly double the number of miles of bike routes. Achievement of this goal and its proposed actions would also result in improved coordination with other City agencies, more robust data systems for monitoring network performance, the integration of best practices for facility design, and a revision of the City's project evaluation methodologies so that they better respond to the multimodal nature of the City's transportation system.
 - b. Goal 2 – Ensure Plentiful, High-Quality Bicycle Parking: Achievement of this goal and its proposed actions will result in a significant increase of bicycle parking in key locations throughout the City and improved access to crucial destinations. Achievement of this goal would also modify the Planning Code to better prioritize bicycle parking in new and existing residential and commercial developments, while ensuring well-defined guidelines for bicycle facility design, parking outreach, and enforcement of bicycle theft.

- c. Goal 3 – Expand Bicycle Access to Transit and Bridges: Achievement of this goal and its proposed actions would result in bicyclists being able to utilize existing transit services much more effectively through expanded installation of bicycle racks and the implementation of policies that permit bicyclists on transit vehicles. Ultimately, the achievement of this goal will result in enhanced connections to regional destinations for bicyclists.
- d. Goal 4 – Educate the Public about Bicycle Safety: In recent years, bicycling in the City has increased by 43 percent, and now bicycle trips make up 6 percent of all daily trips. This goal seeks to ensure that current and future bicyclists are well-trained and knowledgeable about how to ride a bicycle safely. Achievement of this goal and its proposed actions would result in expanded and targeted training and outreach to all bicyclists, but especially for youth and novice bicyclists. Implementation of these actions will ultimately reduce bicycle collisions and the number of traffic conflicts in the City.
- e. Goal 5 – Improve Bicycle Safety through Targeted Enforcement: Achievement of this goal and its proposed actions would result in increased enforcement of both bicyclist and motorist violations that most frequently cause injuries and fatalities, while ensuring that all SFPD police officers are better informed about the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists and techniques required for safe and legal sharing of the roadway. The proposed actions for this goal also call for more standardized reporting procedures for bicycle collisions, thereby facilitating the City’s ability to measure the effectiveness of its facilities and programs, as well as respond to locations with a high number of bicycle collisions.
- f. Goal 6 – Promote and Encourage Safe Bicycling: Achievement of this goal and its proposed actions would result in more awareness about the benefits of bicycling to residents, especially among diverse age, income, and ethnic populations. This goal also prioritizes more coordinated outreach efforts, economic development of bicycle-related business, and the development of public bicycle sharing in the City, a program that has been demonstrably successful in cities around the world.
- g. Goal 7 – Adopt Bicycle-Friendly Practices and Policies: Achievement of this goal and its proposed actions would result in modifications to the General Plan’s Transportation Element, Downtown Area Plan and to the City’s environmental review guidelines. As a result of these changes, bicycling as a safe and sustainable transportation mode would be better integrated and prioritized in the future development and growth of the City. In addition, this goal seeks to provide City staff with more robust data about the growth, impact, and scope of bicycling in the City.

violations, and increased awareness of driver and bicyclist responsibilities. The end result will be a reduction in the number of bicycle collisions on City streets.

- c. **Environmental:** Bicycles are the most environmentally sustainable vehicle available. They produce none of the greenhouse gases associated with global warming, nor any of the pollutants linked to asthma or other chronic health problems. Furthermore, bicycles are quiet and do not contribute to noise pollution. Implementation of this Project will undoubtedly facilitate the City's push to become a more sustainable City that preserves and protects its natural resources for future generations.
- d. **Economic:** The annual costs of congestion, pollution, traffic accidents, as well as constructing new, and maintaining existing, automobile infrastructure are significant. Augmenting and improving bicycling infrastructure in the City can significantly reduce the economic costs associated with driving by shifting drivers to more cost-effective transportation options. Furthermore, increased bicycling infrastructure can improve access to many of the City's commercial corridors. Studies have shown that in a dense urban environment such as the City many shoppers do not access commercial centers by automobile, but rather through transit or other non-motorized modes. This Project would stimulate significant economic growth by facilitating access to commercial zones and encouraging the development of these zones not just as shopping "centers," but rather as vibrant public spaces.
- e. **Equity:** The annual costs of driving are in thousands of dollars, leaving many segments of the population unable to afford the luxury of owning an automobile. Conversely, bicycles are one of the cheapest modes of transportation available. For many low-income individuals, bicycles constitute their predominant mode of travel. The implementation of the projects and policies in this Project will significantly expand bicycle infrastructure in the City, thereby providing enhanced transportation access to underserved segments of the population.

Project-level Significant and Unavoidable Impacts and Overriding Considerations

In addition to the reasons set forth above, the following specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations outweigh the identified significant, unavoidable effects (as referenced by their Impact Numbers noted in Section IV) on the environment due to the implementation of the specific near-term projects contained in the Preferred Project.

Project 1-3: North Point Bicycle Lanes, Embarcadero to Van Ness Avenue, Mod. Option 1

This project is associated with a significant and unavoidable loading impact (North Point east of Columbus) in both the existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impacts #24 and 25). Notwithstanding these impacts,

the preferred project is acceptable because the bike lanes on North Point are a critical link between the waterfront, Van Ness Avenue (a major north-south arterial and US Route 101), and Fort Mason, which provides further connections to the Marina District, Chrissy Field and the Golden Gate Bridge. Project 1-3 is already part of the Route 2 of Bicycle Network and would extend existing Class II bike lanes from the Embarcadero to Fort Mason. Furthermore, this route is the flattest east-west bicycle route option in this area. Finally, although on-street loading will be impacted on North Point during peak commute hours, the proposed North Point bicycle lanes will make on-street, double-parked loading activities easier during non-peak hours. Loading is legally allowed from Class II bicycle lanes when curb-side loading is not available. Therefore, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. double parked loading will actually be safer and more convenient for legitimate commercial loading on North Point.

Project 2-1: 2nd Street Bicycle Lanes, King Street to Market Street, Mod. Option 1

This project is associated with a variety of significant and unavoidable intersection impacts, transit delays, and loading impacts in both the existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact #26-32). Notwithstanding these impacts, the preferred project benefits the City because 2nd Street serves as a vital element of the Bicycle Network. As part of Bicycle Route 11, 2nd Street provides a critical link between Market Street (Route 50 – a major bicycle thoroughfare), Bicycle Routes 30/5, the Montgomery Street BART station, and key destinations in SoMa – the 4th and King Caltrain station, AT&T Park, and the waterfront. Bicyclists are currently using 2nd Street as a route through SoMa and to/from downtown, and recent bicycle counts have shown an increase in the number of bicyclists using this corridor (a 39 percent increase at 2nd/Townsend from 2006 to 2008). Unfortunately, the narrow width of the street and high traffic volumes make 2nd Street a particularly challenging bicycling environment. The addition of bicycle lanes on 2nd Street would reduce the likelihood of “dooring” collisions, while improving bicyclist visibility and reducing vehicle speeds.

Project 2-2: 5th Street Bicycle Lanes, Market Street to Townsend Street, Mod. Option 2

This project is associated with numerous significant and unavoidable intersection impacts in both the existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impacts #33-36). Even with these impacts, the preferred project is acceptable because 5th Street serves as a crucial element of the Bicycle Network. As part of Bicycle Route 19, 5th Street provides a critical link between Market Street (Route 50 – a major bicycle thoroughfare), Bicycle Routes 30/36, the Powell Street BART station, and key destinations in SoMa – the 4th and King Caltrain station, AT&T Park, and the waterfront. 5th Street provides the most proximate north-south bicycle route between the 4th and King Caltrain station and downtown, and, therefore, is essential to connecting bicyclists to regional transit services. Bicycle ridership in this corridor has also increased substantially in recent years (a 21 percent increase at 5th/Townsend and a 31 percent increase at 5th/Market since 2006). At the same time, the 5th

Street corridor ranked 10th in 2007 in the number of bicycle collisions. By reducing lane width, dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on 5th Street will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely between downtown and important destinations in SoMa.

Project 2-3: 14th Street Bicycle Lanes, Dolores Street to Market Street, Option 1; and Project 2-11: Market Street Bicycle Lanes, 17th Street to Octavia Boulevard, Mod. Option 1

Project 2-3 by itself is not associated with any significant and unavoidable impact. However, the combined design modifications of Project 2-3 and Project 2-11 produces a significant and unavoidable intersection impact (Church/Market/14th) in the cumulative condition, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact #37). Notwithstanding these impacts, Project 2-3 provides multiple benefits by filling a gap within the Bicycle Route Network that extends bicycle lanes on Route 30 from Dolores Street to Market Street. The installation of bicycle lanes will have a number of positive results for pedestrians and bicyclists, including reduced crossing distances, improved visibility, slower vehicular speeds, and reduced numbers of bicyclists using the sidewalks. Motorists will also benefit from this project as traffic circulation will improve because the proposed lane design is consistent with the configuration east of Dolores Street. Finally, the widened parking lane will facilitate more convenient and safer parking conditions. See below for more on the statement of overriding consideration for Project 2-11.

Project 2-4: 17th Street Bicycle Lanes, Corbett Avenue to Kansas Street, Mod. Option 1; and Project 2-6: Division Street Bicycle Lanes, 9th Street to 11th Street, Option 2

The combined design modifications of Project 2-4 and Project 2-6 result in a number of significant and unavoidable intersection and transit delay impacts, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact #38-44.) Project 2-4 outweighs these impacts because 17th Street serves as a vital east-west route in the Bicycle Route Network. 17th Street is Route 40 in the Bicycle Route Network and bicycle lanes on this street would dramatically improve east-west travel for bicyclists, as well as enhance connectivity to transit services at the 16th Street BART Station and the Castro Muni station. Furthermore, Route 40 offers connections to numerous other north-south bicycle routes. The 17th Street corridor also has seen substantial growth in the number of bicyclists (a 57 percent increase at 17th/Valencia since 2006). The benefits of Project 2-6 also outweigh these impacts. Project 2-6 would promote and encourage safe bicycling along the Division Street corridor and would fill the gap in the existing bicycle route network along this important east-west route, providing a connection between the South of Market area with points to the west and to the north, as well as a connection to existing bicycle facilities on 11th Street. Because of its location under the US 101 freeway, and the prevalence of vehicular traffic, this segment of Division Street is especially inhospitable to bicyclists. The addition of Class II bicycle lanes on Division Street would greatly enhance the road environment and bicycling experience in this corridor. By reducing lane width,

dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, the addition of bicycle lanes on 17th Street and Division Street will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely through the these areas.

Project 2-7: Fremont Street Bicycle Lane, Harrison Street to Howard Street, Option 1; and Project 2-9: Howard Street Bicycle Lane, Embarcadero to Fremont Street, Option 1

Project 2-7 by itself is not associated with any significant or unavoidable impact. However, the combined design modifications of Project 2-7 and Project 2-9 produces a significant and unavoidable intersection impact (Fremont/Howard) in both the existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact # 45-46). Notwithstanding this impact, Project 2-7 is acceptable because it would add an important new segment to the City's Bicycle Route Network. The addition of Class II and III bicycle facilities on Fremont Street would facilitate connections to Route 30 on Folsom Street and the larger bicycle route network. Fremont Street also serves as a major off-ramp from I-80 into San Francisco and high vehicle speeds make Fremont Street a particularly challenging bicycling environment. Finally, the nearby construction of the Transbay Terminal and planned residential growth in this area necessitates an improved environment for bicyclists and pedestrians. By reducing lane width, dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on Fremont Street will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely in this area. See below for more on the statement of overriding consideration for Project 2-9.

Project 2-9: Howard Street Bicycle Lane, Embarcadero to Fremont Street, Option 1

In addition to the significant and unavoidable impact generated by the combination of Project 2-7 and Project 2-9 (as discussed above), Project 2-9 by itself results in a significant and unavoidable intersection impact (Howard/Fremont) for both existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact #47-48). Even with this impact, the preferred project will benefit the City in that it would extend existing bicycle lanes on Howard Street (Route 30) east to the Embarcadero. These new lanes would provide a needed connection between the Embarcadero and destinations west into SoMa. Bicycle ridership along the Howard Street corridor is also on the rise (47 percent increase at 11th/Howard since 2006), and this project would ensure additional safe connections for growing numbers of riders. Finally, Route 30 will help to enhance regional transit connections for bicycle riders due to its proximity to the Transbay Transit Terminal.

Project 2-11: Market Street Bicycle Lanes, 17th Street to Octavia Boulevard, Mod. Option 1

This project is associated with a significant and unavoidable intersection impact (Church/Market/14th Streets) in the cumulative condition. (See Impact #49-51). This project is also associated with a significant and unavoidable loading impact (north side of Market Street near Noe Street) in both the existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section

on significant and unavoidable impacts. Notwithstanding these significant and unavoidable impacts, the benefits of the preferred project outweigh these detriments because the project creates continuous bicycle infrastructure on Market Street, the primary bicyclist connection to/from downtown and a major connector to local and regional transit services. Bicycle ridership on Market Street during the P.M. peak has increased dramatically in recent years a 33 percent increase at 11th/Market and a 31 percent increase at 5th/Market since 2006. At the same time, the Market Street corridor ranked first in the number of bicycle injury collisions from 2003 to 2007 with 179. By reducing lane width, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on Market Street will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely to and from the downtown core.

Project 2-16: Townsend Bicycle Lanes, 8th Street to Embarcadero, Mod. Option 1

Numerous significant and unavoidable intersection and transit delay impacts accompany this project as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact #32, 52-57). These impacts, however, are balanced against the benefits of the preferred project supporting a crucial element of the Bicycle Network along Townsend Street. As part of Bicycle Route 36, Townsend Street provides a critical link from the Embarcadero west through SoMa, as well as connections to numerous north-south bicycle routes to/from downtown and key destinations in SoMa – the 4th and King Caltrain station, AT&T Park, and the waterfront. Townsend Street provides the most proximate east-west bicycle route to the 4th and King Caltrain station and is essential to connecting bicyclists to regional transit services. Bicycle ridership in this corridor has also increased substantially in recent years (a 39 percent increase at 2nd/Townsend since 2006). By reducing lane width, dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on Townsend Street will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely to destinations in SoMa. The abovementioned benefits outweigh the identified impacts of this project.

Project 3-2: Masonic Avenue Bicycle Lanes, Fell Street to Geary Boulevard, Preferred Option not yet determined; and Project 3-1: Fell Street and Masonic Avenue Intersection Improvements

Project 3-2 by itself results in significant and unavoidable intersection and transit delay impacts as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. In addition, the combined design modifications of Project 3-2 and Project 3-1 generates a significant and unavoidable intersection impact (Masonic/Fell) in the cumulative condition. (See, collectively Impacts 58-71). Nevertheless, this Project provides an important north-south connection between the Panhandle/Golden Gate Park vicinity and Geary Boulevard, a primary east-west corridor in the western part of the City. Masonic Avenue (Route 55) is a major north-south route for bicyclists and connects to several east-west bicycle routes, as well as the University of San Francisco, a significant generator of bicycle trips. Bicycle ridership in this corridor is also on the rise, as the 2008 bicycle counts revealed a 39 percent increase in bicyclists at Masonic Avenue

and the Panhandle since 2006. The presence and speed of vehicles in this area also presents a particularly challenging environment for bicyclists. From 2003 to 2007, the Masonic Avenue Corridor ranked 10th in the number of bicycle injury collisions, while the intersection of Fell Street and Masonic Avenue ranked 1st. By reducing lane width, dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on Masonic Avenue will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely in this area.

Due to a high number of bicycle injury collisions and escalating safety concerns at the Fell Street and Masonic Avenue intersection, Project 3-1 was granted relief from the Bicycle Plan injunction and was implemented in September of 2008. As a result, Project 3-1 is not included in this statement of overriding considerations.

Project 5-4: Bayshore Boulevard Bicycle Lanes, Cesar Chavez Street to Silver Avenue, Mod. Option 1

This project is associated with a significant and unavoidable loading impact (Bayshore Boulevard between Cesar Chavez and Industrial Streets) for both the existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact # 72-73). Notwithstanding these significant and unavoidable impacts, the Project 5-4 is acceptable because it promotes and encourages safe bicycling along this segment of the Bayshore Boulevard corridor and would fill a gap in the existing bicycle route network, providing a connection between the Bayview, Mission, Potrero Hill and Portola neighborhoods. The new bicycle lanes and sharrows on Bayshore Boulevard would greatly improve the north-south bicycle network in this vital corridor, as well as enhance bicyclists' links to numerous east-west bicycle routes. The proximity of Route 25 to both the US-101 and I-280 freeways make Project 5-4 essential to improving bicyclist safety. The presence of and speed of vehicles in this corridor make it a challenging environment for bicyclists. The dedication of exclusive street space to bicyclists will greatly improve bicyclist visibility, limit the number of conflicts with parked vehicles, and reduce vehicle speeds. As a result, Project 5-4 is consistent with the City goal of improving road conditions and safety for bicyclists.

Project 5-5: Cesar Chavez Bicycle Lanes, I-280 to US 101 Freeways, Mod. Option 1

This project is associated a significant and unavoidable intersection impact (Evans/Cesar Chavez) in both the existing and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact #74-75). However, the preferred project provides substantial City-wide benefit as it provides a critical east-west connection between I-280 and US 101. Bicycle lanes on Cesar Chavez Boulevard (Route 60) would enhance connections between Potrero Hill and the Mission neighborhood and help to overcome the significant barrier presented by US 101. Route 60 also links with Route 525 and Route 68, which connect to major destinations like S.F. General Hospital and China Basin. Bicycle lanes on Cesar Chavez also would improve safety for bicyclists by increasing space dedicated to bicycle travel and reducing traffic conflicts in one of the more auto-oriented section of the City.

Project 5-6: Cesar Chavez/26th Street Bicycle Lanes, Sanchez Street to US 101, Preferred Option not yet determined

This project results in numerous significant and unavoidable intersection and transit delay impacts as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact # 76-98.) Yet, even with such impacts, the Cesar Chavez bicycle segment serves as valuable elements of the Bicycle Network. As part of Bicycle Route 60, Cesar Chavez and 26th Street provide a critical east-west route through the Bernal Heights and Mission neighborhoods. Bicycle ridership in this corridor also has increased substantially in recent years (a 39 percent increase at Cesar Chavez/Harrison since 2006). However, Cesar Chavez is one of the major arteries that serve US 101. The prevalence and speed of vehicular traffic in this area has made this corridor especially inhospitable to bicyclists and pedestrians. By reducing lane width, dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on Cesar Chavez and 26th Street will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely in this area. Finally, this Project supports larger City efforts to revitalize and transform the Cesar Chavez corridor into a more “liveable” neighborhood that prioritizes non-motorized travel and inviting public spaces.

Project 5-13: San Bruno Avenue Bicycle Lanes, Paul Avenue to Silver Avenue, Preferred Option not yet determined

This project has significant and unavoidable loading impacts (west side of San Bruno between Paul and Silver Avenues) for Options 1 & 2 in both the current and cumulative conditions, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts. (See Impact # 99-100). Even with such impacts, the preferred project would create an important new segment to the City’s Bicycle Route Network with multiple benefits. Bicycle lanes on San Bruno Avenue would offer a new north-south connection between Route 70 on Silver Avenue and Route 5 on Paul Avenue, thereby enabling bicyclists to access the nearby Caltrain stations with greater ease. The addition of bicycle lanes also would facilitate more efficient use of roadway capacity and the narrowed lanes in the southbound direction would slow vehicular speeds. By reducing lane width, dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on San Bruno Avenue will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely in this area.

Project 6-5: Portola Drive Bicycle Lanes, Corbett Avenue to O’Shaughnessy Boulevard, Mod. Option 1; and Project 6-6: Portola Drive Bicycle Lanes, O’Shaughnessy Boulevard/Woodside Avenue to Sloat Boulevard/St. Francis Boulevard, Modified Option 2; and Project 6-2: Clipper Street Bicycle Lanes, Douglass Street to Portola Drive, Option 1

As a result of changes to project designs, Project 6-5 by itself is not associated with any significant or unavoidable impact. However, the combined design modifications of Project 6-5, Project 6-6, and Project 6-2 produces a significant and unavoidable transit delay impact in the cumulative condition, as further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts.

(See Impact # 101-102.) Nevertheless, Project 6-5 provides many benefits as Portola Drive is an essential component to the City's Bicycle Route Network. Portola Drive already serves as Bicycle Routes 50, 55, and 60 which connect to Sloat Blvd., Clipper Street, 17th Street, Market Street, and Haight Street. Portola Drive also offers the primary flat route through this topographically challenging area of the City. By creating space specifically for bicyclists this project will greatly enhance the environment for bicyclists, while reducing the conflicts associated with large numbers of bicyclists riding on the sidewalk in this corridor. Motorists will also benefit from 8 additional parking spaces and a wider parking lane. By reducing lane width, dedicating more space for bicyclists, slowing vehicle speed, and improving bicyclist visibility, bicycle lanes on Portola Drive will ensure that a growing number of bicyclists can travel safely in this area. As a result, this project's benefits will outweigh the environmental detriments cited above.

The benefits of Project 6-6 also outweigh the impacts generated by its implementation. Project 6-6 serves as a necessary complement to Project 6-5. This project would promote and encourage safe bicycling along this segment of Portola Drive and complete a gap in the existing bicycle route network along this important route, providing a connection between the Diamond Heights, Saint Francis Wood, and West Portal neighborhoods.

Finally, Project 6-2 it will close a gap on Route 60 of the Bicycle Route Network and offer enhanced connectivity to numerous other routes (749/49/55/50) in the area. Clipper Street offers the only east-west connection between Noe Valley and Portola Drive and is essential component to ensuring that bicyclists can travel through the challenging topography of this neighborhood. Ridership in this area has also shown an increase in recent years (26 percent increase at Portola and O'Shaughnessy since 2006) and this new infrastructure is essential to safely accommodating new bicyclists. Thus, this project's benefits outweigh the identified environmental impacts.

Bicycle Plan and Long-Term Project Related Significant and Unavoidable Impacts and Overriding Considerations

The following section addresses the Bicycle Plan-related and Long term project-related significant and unavoidable impacts. Below is a list referring to the traffic, transit, and loading impacts related to these approval actions. Such impacts are further detailed in the section on significant and unavoidable impacts.

A. Plan-related Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

1. Bicycle Route Network Goals, Objectives and Action Items
 - a) Impact – TR-A1.1: Traffic, Transit and Loading Impacts (Impact #17)
 - b) Impact – TR-A1.2: Traffic, Transit and Loading Impacts (Impact #18)
 - c) Impact – TR-A1.4: Traffic, Transit and Loading Impacts (Impact #19)
2. General Plan Amendments, Environmental Review, and Citywide Coordination Goals, Objectives and Action Items
 - a) Impact – TR-A7.1: Traffic, Transit and Loading Impacts (Impact #20)
 - b) Impact – TR-A7.3: Traffic, Transit and Loading Impacts (Impact #21)
 - c) Impact – TR-A7.4: Traffic, Transit and Loading Impacts (Impact #22)
3. Bicycle Funding Goals and Objectives
 - a) Impact – TR-A8.1: Traffic, Transit and Loading Impacts (Impact #23)

B. Long-Term Improvements-related Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

1. Impact – TR-LT1: Traffic Impacts (Impact #103)
2. Impact – TR-LT2: Transit Impacts (Impact #104)
3. Impact – TR-LT3: Loading Impacts (Impact #105)

Notwithstanding the significant and unavoidable impacts noted above related to the Plan and Long-Term improvements, the Board finds, after considering the Final EIR and based on substantial evidence in the record and as set forth elsewhere in these findings and herein, that specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations outweigh the identified significant effects on the environment related to these actions.

1. The 2009 Bicycle Plan and long-term improvements are necessary components to ensuring that San Francisco becomes a world-class bicycling City for residents and visitors alike. As bicycling continues to emerge in San Francisco as a preferred and safe alternative transportation option, it will be essential for the City to continue to expand and modify the Bicycle Route Network and respond to changes in demand for bicycling infrastructure. These approval actions would enable the City to complete the bicycle route network, close network gaps, refine and rationalize the bicycle route network, and continue to improve bicyclist safety and riding experience.

2. Using bicycles instead of automobiles is considerably cheaper and often more effective. Bicycles can be more effective for police enforcement wherever there is considerable traffic congestion and at locations difficult to patrol by motor vehicle. Approval of the Bicycle Plan would allow for better promotion of the use of bicycles by City employees when attending meetings, performing field work, or conducting site inspections, as well as the establishment and expansion of programs designed to prioritize adding bicycles to the City's fleet whenever replacing or upgrading motor vehicles.
3. A large number of the long-term improvements are planned for areas of the City that are underserved by bicycling infrastructure, such as Mission Bay and Hunter's Point. As growth in the areas continues and planned development takes shape it is essential that these long-term improvements be implemented to provide existing and new residents access to a safe transportation option.
4. The long-term improvements at the Transbay Terminal will be essential to ensuring that bicyclists are able to access regional transit services. These long-term improvements will enable commuters, visitors, and residents to reduce their number of automobile trips and access parts of the region via safe, sustainable, and cost-effective transportation options.
5. Many of the long-term improvements have not been finalized and will be undergoing significant levels of additional study. As these projects undergo further design and environmental study it is expected that some of the identified impacts will be addressed through design changes or reduced to a less than significant level via mitigation.

Having considered these specific Project benefits, including the overall benefits of bicycling discussed above, the Board finds that the Project's benefits outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, and that the adverse environmental effects are therefore acceptable. The Board further finds that each of the Project benefits discussed above is a separate and independent basis for these findings, and for rejecting the alternatives as further described in Section VI.