

Youth Commission
City Hall ~ Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place



(415) 554-6446
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July 15, 2024

San Francisco Youth Commission
City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: San Francisco Youth Commission Supports the West Portal Project

Dear SFMTA Board of Director,

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, I would like to express our support for the West Portal Project. This project is critical to improving pedestrian and traffic safety, following the 4 devastating pedestrian fatalities on March 16, 2024 at West Portal Avenue and Ulloa street. San Francisco's public safety is at risk with motor vehicle collisions being the second-leading cause of death for young people behind firearms. The proposed project will increase safety for pedestrians, and improve transit reliability, and corridor collaboration with business stakeholders, ensuring that West Portal's local business and community needs are met.

The Youth Commission is a body of 17 youth from San Francisco between the ages of 12 and 23. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the Commission is responsible for advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission is also charged with providing comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that would primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.

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The West Portal Station, being a focal point of San Francisco transportation and serving 50,000 daily riders where 10 bus routes/rail lines pass the station, is long overdue for public transit safety measures. Public Safety and transit have been a long-standing issue for Youth Commissioners, an issue we have worked on since 2000. Youth heavily rely on public transit in the West Portal station as it is the most accessible train station within a few blocks radius for Hoover Middle and St. Brendan Parish Schools. Therefore, the implementation of the One-Way Lenox Way will be especially beneficial for passenger loading zones and student pick-ups/drop-offs.

In the Youth Commission Resolution No. 2324-AL-17, the Youth Commission is committed to prioritizing public safety for youth and families, thus the proposed plan to establish new rectangular flashing beacons, restrict left-turns, which account for 40% of traffic-related deaths, increased transit lanes, and the One-Way Lenox Way will be vital towards ameliorating pedestrian safety.

We thank you for your work on this important issue, and we are proud to support the SFMTA's West Portal Project.

Best,

Ewan Barker Plummer
Chair, San Francisco Youth Commission