Motion supporting the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project

Supplemental Information:

See attached document [Letter of Support]
[Motion supporting the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project]

WHEREAS, Geary is one of Muni’s highest ridership corridor, serving over 36,000 riders everyday; and

WHEREAS, The Geary Boulevard Improvement Project, “the project”, would extend the existing Transit Only Lane from 15th Avenue to 28th Avenue building on the 18% reduction in travel time achieved where transit lanes were already implemented; and

WHEREAS, The project would also provide pedestrian safety benefits through sidewalk bulb outs and through a resulting reduction in excessive speeding; and

WHEREAS; One in five riders of the 38 Geary is a youth under the age of 25; and

WHEREAS, The project supports the City’s Transit First Policy, Climate Emergency Declaration, Vision Zero Goal, the Muni Equity Strategy, and the San Francisco Youth Commission’s Budget and Policy Priorities of Achieving Vision Zero and Providing Accessible and Reliable Transportation; now therefore be it

MOVED; that the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco supports the approval of the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project and directs the chair to send the attached letter of support to the SFMTA Board of Directors.
June 12th, 2023

The Honorable Amanda Eaken, Chair; Stephanie Cajina, Vice Chair; and Members
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors
One South Van Ness Ave., 7th Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Support for the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project

Dear SFMTA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the San Francisco Youth Commission, I express our support for the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project. The project adds a Bus and Taxi only lane to Geary Boulevard from 15th Avenue to 28th Avenue and other transit speed and pedestrian safety improvements.

The Youth Commission is composed of seventeen youth, between the ages of 12 to 23, who represent the diverse communities of San Francisco. Created by the voters under a 1995 amendment to the City Charter, the Youth Commission advises the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of San Francisco on policies and laws related to young people. The Youth Commission also provides comments and recommendations on all proposed laws that primarily affect youth before the Board takes final action.
The Youth Commission supports the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project because of the transformative effect it will have on the 36,000+ current daily riders of the 38 Geary and 38R Geary Rapid Muni routes. Similar improvements already in place on Geary east of the proposed project saw an 18% decrease in transit travel time and an 81% reduction in excessive speeding. The proposed project will expand these benefits where they’re needed most, the Geary Corridor is Muni’s busiest corridor and this section of Geary Boulevard is part of the city’s High Injury Network. Improvements in this segment will benefit riders across the entire route through increased service, reliability, and travel time reductions which allow resources to be allocated towards more frequent service.

Reliable transportation and street safety is critical for young San Franciscans. 58% of SFUSD high school students rely on Muni to get to school according to an SFUSD survey and 1 in 5 38 Geary Riders are under the age of 25. Additionally, traffic Violence is the 2nd leading cause of death for youth 18 and under.

The 38 Geary and 38R Geary Rapid are Muni Equity Strategy routes serving the Tenderloin, and Western Addition neighborhoods and it is part of the Citywide Accessibility routes, 12 Muni routes that disproportionately serve people with disabilities.
This project supports the City’s Transit First Policy, Climate Emergency Declaration, Vision Zero Goal, the Muni Equity Strategy, and the San Francisco Youth Commission’s Budget and Policy Priorities of Achieving Vision Zero and Providing Accessible and Reliable Transportation. The Youth Commission urges your “Aye” vote.

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Emily Nguyen, Chair