**Restoring Transportation Balance in San Francisco Initiative**

 Media Q&A

**What is the “Restoring Transportation Balance in San Francisco” Initiative?**

The Initiative is a Declaration of Policy which calls upon the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board to restore balance to San Francisco’s transportation policies. This is the work of a group of passionate San Franciscans who want to ensure our streets are safe, well maintained, and efficient to use for everybody.

**So, among other goals, you’re looking to get rid of Sunday and holiday parking meters. Why?**

We’re a coalition of faith, business, neighborhood, community and politically-motivated individuals who are tired of being nickled and dimed by the SFMTA. We are renters, homeowners, motorists, bicyclists, transit and taxi riders, pedestrians, first responders, seniors and the disabled, and families with children. We realize that motorists contribute a disproportionate share of the funding to the SFMTA while receiving next to nothing in return. Our roads are deteriorating, and traffic lanes and parking are being removed. Sunday and holiday meters enforcement was implemented not to relieve traffic congestion and the lack of parking availability, but instead to put more money into the SFMTA coffers for unrelated projects.

**What else are you hoping to do with this initiative?**

Our aim is to restore balance to the City’s transit policy. All traffic laws should be equally enforced – to all users of our roads and sidewalks. Variable meter pricing should not be imposed on neighborhoods unilaterally. In short, motorists should not bear the brunt of the SFMTA’s unreasonable regulations and mandates.

**What does transportation balance mean to you?**

We achieve transportation balance when pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and transit riders all can share the roads safely and efficiently. When a parent with small children is able to drive to the store, park nearby, and get their shopping done with a minimum of hassle. When commuters are able to board a Muni train, street car, or bus and know it will get them to their destination on time. When pedestrians know if they follow the signals they will be safe crossing an intersection. When bicyclists are able to navigate our streets in a way that gets them to their destination quickly and safely. When disabled individuals don’t have to leave two hours before a doctor’s appointment because they cannot rely on Muni to get them there or are concerned there will not be a parking space close enough to the office.

**How many signatures do you need to qualify the initiative on the ballot?**

We need to collect 9,702 valid signatures by July 7 for this initiative to qualify for the November 4, 2014 elections. We anticipate surpassing that number.

**Who is in your coalition?**

Our coalition includes a broad spectrum of San Franciscans who use our streets and sidewalks, including leaders of neighborhood and district merchants associations; motorists; Muni and taxi riders; bicyclists; first responders; labor activists; advocates for seniors and the disabled, families with children, and members of the faith-based communities.

**Mayor Ed Lee and the SFMTA are looking at supporting similar proposals – why is yours different?**

The Mayor and SFMTA are supporting a temporary repeal of Sunday meters in order to drum up support for an enormous bond measure and a tripling of the Vehicle License Fee. We want to provide options for safe and efficient transportation to everyone in the City, regardless of their age, income, or physical ability. We hope to repeal Sunday parking meters forever, not just as a gimmick to encourage motorists to support higher taxes and fees this November and in future elections.

**How much revenue will your proposal cost the City?**

Our proposal to remove Sunday meters enforcement has already been adopted by the SFMTA Board, and unless the Board reneges, our proposal will have no impact on the SFMTA’s budget. Aside from the removal of holiday meters enforcement (which would cost approximately $1,000,000), our proposal is completely revenue neutral. We want to make sure that any new fees imposed on the citizenry are actually necessary and used fairly. Other than that, we ask only that existing revenues be allocated in an equitable fashion so all users of our streets and sidewalks benefit.

**Who can I contact for further questions?**

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