



A Transit Riders' Association for San Francisco • Box 190966, SF, CA 94119 • 415/273-1558 •
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March 19, 2006

Mayor Gavin Newsom
Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 282
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: C-3 Parking Limits - SUPPORT

Dear Mayor Newsom and Supervisors:

Rescue Muni, San Francisco's transit riders' association, continues to support the recent proposal by Supervisor Peskin to amend the Planning Code to eliminate minimum parking requirements and reduce maximum parking requirements for new residential buildings in the downtown area of San Francisco. We were disappointed in Mayor Newsom's decision to veto the measure passed by the Board, but we are encouraged to hear that there is a chance for a compromise close to the original language.

We strongly encourage the Mayor and the Board to reach a compromise that reduces parking substantially in the downtown area, as this will encourage public transit use. In particular, we strongly oppose maintaining the current parking minimums for any building, and we urge you to retain language imposing an upper limit on parking in new residential buildings downtown.

This proposal will encourage transit use and reduce automobile traffic, by making it easier for San Franciscans who don't own a car to own a home downtown. It will significantly reduce the cost of housing, a key priority for a city where housing prices are outrageously high. Unneeded parking minimums currently drive up the cost of housing, particularly in areas where most residents walk to BART or Muni.

This proposal will also reduce the impact that new construction has on our already congested streets, making it easier for San Franciscans to get to their jobs, school, and shopping by public transportation. At a time when San Francisco is planning thousands of new housing units downtown, this is vitally important to ensure that our transportation system continues to serve Muni's 700,000 daily riders, as well as to help reduce San Francisco's high accident rate for pedestrians and cars.

San Franciscans have voted repeatedly for the Transit-First Policy, most recently in 1999's Proposition E. We urge you to make this policy a reality by approving these common-sense planning guidelines for San Francisco's most walkable and transit-friendly neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Andrew Sullivan, Chair