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Transportation 2030 Vision Zero

Complete Streets SFMTA Muni Forward: Enhancing Safety and Access

Sustainable Smart Growth

MUNI
BACKWARD

FEBRUARY 2015 REPORT

We have three items we want to bring to your attention:

1. We have local problem areas to deal with.
2. We have state laws coming up that could use some attention.
3. We need to increase our audience.

Three of the many local problems:

First we have the Polk Street Shuffle, brought to you by Stephanie and Dawn. Please support the Polk Street residents and merchants they represent as they go up against the SFMTA. <mailto:polkstpark@gmail.com>.

Next we have the Masonic Monster, which has taken on new elements of stupidity that not only involves traffic and parking. Now they want to displace large trees. That project now involves many disputes with residents in Districts 1, 2, and 5. Contacts are: <mailto:tedlsf@sbcglobal.net> and <mailto:info@hanc-sf.org>

Potrero Hill is the poster child for pretty much every development-related problem in SF. In addition to tech shuttles, T-Line disputes, and major construction upheavals, we just learned about an exotic new menace that may be blamed on the city's love affair with *Smart Startups* I call them them *Smartups*. Munchery is a "high end" food delivery service operating out of what appears to be refrigerated rented Ryder trucks parking in designated RPP zones on a daily basis on Utah, near the UPS property. News of this came out of NextDoor, and is chronicled by Uptown Almanac.

<http://uptownalmanac.com/2014/11/munchery-disregards-law-pursuit-rapid-growth>
Don't do business with Munchery and find out where any food you order is coming from. You can contact me. zrants@gmail.com

Next I want to draw your attention to some state laws that are in the works. Some of them you may want to support, others you may object to. They are going to be listed on my discoveryink site: <https://discoveryink.wordpress.com/california-bills/>

And now for the big pitch. We need help. A few of us are sending out regular notices to the members of this group and we have no idea how far these messages are going. We need a better idea how many members are in each of your groups and how many people

are getting our messages. I am going to be calling on each of you separately to find out how big your mailing list is and how you go about contacting your members. We are going to gear up for bigger things and need to get a better picture of our reach. Please try to help us help you.

California State bills in the works so far in 2015:

Send comments and letters on the ones you care about.

State reps on the Senate Transportation and Housing Committees:

<http://stran.senate.ca.gov/>

State Assembly Committee on Transportation

<http://atrn.assembly.ca.gov/>

Senate Bills:

SB 192 – Sen. Carol Liu, has authored S.B. 192 to extend the helmet requirement to adults and also require all riders to wear reflective clothing when cycling at night. Details are here: <https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/SB192/2015> Contact Robert Oakes: 916-651-4025 – Robert.Oakes@sen.ca.gov

SB 34 – would increase privacy protections for data collected by automated license plate readers (ALPRs), including the imposition of security procedures and privacy policies, activity logs, and penalties for misuse of the data. ALPRs represent a growing threat to privacy, and such safeguards will help protect citizens' rights. Details below:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB34

Assembly Bills:

AB 61 – Assembly Member Travis Allen: is sponsoring a bill that many in San Francisco oppose. Read and decide for yourself. Details are below:

<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB61/id/1055426>

AB 210 – Would open High Occupancy Vehicle lanes to general traffic during off-peak hours on select Los Angeles County highways. Details below:

<https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB210/2015>

AB 162 – Would task the California Department of Transportation to conduct a study analyzing wrong-way driving on state highways and present recommendations to combat it. Details here: <https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB162/2015>

Assembly Bill 61 and the cultural revolution that comes with state edicts

February 9, 2015

tags: [AB61](#), [commuters](#), [displacement](#), [loading buses](#), [Muni](#), [parents](#), [parking](#), [San Francisco](#), [SFMTA](#), [shuttle buses](#), [teachers](#), [tech buses](#)

Editor's opinion

My take on what is happening is a bit more nuanced than some. You have to start with the “sharing economy” and the belief that disruptive industries are better than the traditional industries and jobs they are replacing. Why are we not having any discussions about this supposition?

Let's start by making a list of what we are losing – taxis, hotels, apartments, single family dwellings, conducting business with humans, shopping in stores, human interaction, live music in clubs, talking to humans on the phone, residential neighborhoods with yards and driveways, parking, traffic lanes, low overhead businesses, wholesalers, heavy and light industry, manufacturing, salespeople, repair shops, designers, writers, artists, musicians, galleries, book stores, small contractors, postal workers, teachers, bus drivers, police, firefighters and other civil servants who can no longer afford to live and or work in San Francisco. We can add to this list all day.

The escalating costs of living and pressures brought on by a too fast too soon development mentality and rush to embrace all change, has resulted in a serious loss of civility that is particularly chilling. The “me first” attitude is exemplified by the popularity of the selfie and the car wars. There is no city spirit left, unless you buy into the sports arena fan club.

If you look at the big picture what you see is a very alarming shameful corporate takeover of San Francisco by a relatively small monopoly of developers and government backers that is reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution in China. Comparisons made to certain European governments will not be mentioned here. Throw in the natural generation divide and you have a pretty wicked powerful force that can be more than disruptive. It can lead to massive social disruption and cultural change against the will of the citizens who are left largely in the dark. We are seeing the massive displacement of residents that Tim Redmond (if I am remembering correctly) warned us about right before he was fired.

First look at the problem for what it is, a highly disruptive social and economic movement centered around technologies that most of us embrace to a certain degree. Next look at the privileges the new so-called “sharing economy” has managed to carve out for itself, largely with the help of governments that have been bought by the corporations that are sucking up the cash that used to fuel a diverse economy.

AB 61 is the most recent in a long list of state bills that have been pushed through Sacramento that are meant to force behavioral changes on us to benefit those who paid for them.

The combination of developers and new technology money is a powerful foe, especially when you try to claim environmental and moral higher ground. This leads us to the real political dilemma that many of us warned about during the last election when we had a chance to unite and fight it. Unfortunately we were ignored. They divided and conquered us and will continue to devour us until we do something about it.

We have an out of control local government supporting regional plans that appear to be above the law, buying state level legislation to further S**W us. Our only salvation is to unite and fight, because fighting alone from our individual little corners of weakness will not protect us from this social revolution the powerful have in store for us. The latest effort to squash us is a movement called, I kid you not, SFBARF, San Francisco Bay Area Renters Federation: <http://www.sfbarf.org/>.

The SFBARF story is covered in the SF Examiner this week:

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/pro-development-activist-group-barf-agitates-for-more-housing/Content?oid=2907973> Read it and figure out where you stand on the housing issue. SFBARF is already covering the San Francisco and Oakland Planning Commissions. Where do you think they stand on tech buses and Airbnb? How does allowing more short term rentals that remove housing from the market solve the housing crisis? How many new employees will it take to register and enforce the Airbnb rental market?

Now for the nuance. It is clear from the discussions about the shuttle buses that we don't agree on what is wrong with them, but that doesn't matter. We just need to support the folks [who are out there on the streets fighting them](#). Write comments and letters and show up for hearings to back the streets.

Let's get together and unite and fight or hand over the city, because that is our choice.

Here is a song by Candace Roberts that resonates: Not My City Anymore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yoRVJzQAe0>