



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5a

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: March 2, 2007

FR: Executive Director

RE: AB 23 (Ma) — Pedestrian Countdown Signals

Description

AB 23 by Assemblymember Fiona Ma of San Francisco requires Caltrans to install and maintain pedestrian “countdown” traffic signals on all state highway crosswalks that are located within 2,000 feet of schools or senior centers.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

Signals at pedestrian crossings that display a numerical “countdown” informing pedestrians of how many seconds they have to cross in a crosswalk before the light changes are becoming more and more common throughout the Bay Area and are widely used in San Francisco and Oakland.

These countdown signals are popular with pedestrians and motorists alike because they promote safer crossings at busy intersections. According to the author’s office, the bill will be amended to provide for inclusion of audible indicators for the visually impaired. The author believes it is critical to include these enhanced signals at busy state highway pedestrian crossings, such as on El Camino Real along the Peninsula, Van Ness Avenue and Sloat Boulevard in San Francisco, or San Pablo Avenue in the East Bay.

MTC’s Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee expressed support for the concept of this legislation, and installing enhanced safety signals is consistent with the safety focus included in MTC’s Transportation 2030 Plan. For these reasons, we recommend a support position.

Known Positions

Support
None
Oppose
None



Steve Heminger