



**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller  
Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

Mr. John Arntz  
Department of Elections  
City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 48  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

August 18, 2022

RE: Proposition I – Vehicles on JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park and the Great Highway

Dear Mr. Arntz,

The cost of the proposed ordinance, should it be approved by the voters, is dependent on decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the budget process, as an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose. In my opinion, the cost of implementing the proposed measure, should future policymakers do so, is likely to be significant. If approved and funded, the ordinance would require changes to the City's current plans to address erosion and climate change impacts to the Great Highway. While lower-cost interim measures could likely be put in place to maintain the use of the roadway for vehicular traffic in the shorter-term, more significant investments would likely be required in the future as erosion occurs. The City is currently assessing a number of these project alternatives, with estimated costs ranging to as much as \$80 million in increased project costs over the coming 20 years.

The proposed ordinance would require private motor vehicle traffic portions of both John F. Kennedy Drive ("JFK Drive") in Golden Gate Park and the Great Highway along Ocean Beach during specified times and would prohibit the use of the Great Highway as open space for recreational purposes.

The Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project ("Project") is a multi-agency initiative led by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to implement a comprehensive shoreline management and protection plan to address sea level rise, remove shoreline armoring, improve public access and recreation, and construct a low-profile seawall to protect critical wastewater infrastructure. The City's current preferred Project to meet these goals, subject to additional review and approvals, requires the closure of a portion of the Great Highway to vehicular traffic.

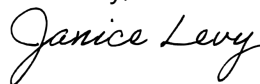
The proposed ordinance would likely require a different project approach, to permit the long-term use of the roadway for vehicular traffic. While several alternatives are currently under review, the most likely alternative requires construction of a conventional seawall along the South Ocean Beach shoreline. This alternative is estimated to cost approximately \$80 million more than the current preferred Project. This estimate is based on current planning assumptions and may change due to future policy and funding decisions by future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department currently manages the Great Highway and maintains the multi-use recreational trail along the Upper Great Highway. The proposed ordinance

would require the Department of Public Works to manage the Great Highway. Depending on the implementation decisions made by the Department of Public Works, the cost to maintain the Great Highway may increase, however any increase would be determined by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors through the normal budget process.

The proposed ordinance may require changes to future capital improvement projects planned for JFK Drive including access improvements, long term planning, and traffic engineering improvements which could result in moderate cost savings, starting at approximately \$400,000 in one-time costs. Additionally, the proposed ordinance would likely reduce the frequency of the Golden Gate Park Free Shuttle service from 7 days to 1 day per week, resulting in ongoing cost savings of approximately \$250,000 annually.

Sincerely,



**FOR** Ben Rosenfield  
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.