

PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS FOR WORKING IN SAN FRANCISCO STREETS (“THE BLUE BOOK”)

This manual serves as a guide for working in San Francisco streets. Parties working in San Francisco streets are hereinafter referred to collectively as “Contractor” or “Applicant.”

This manual establishes rules and guidance so that work can be done both safely and with the least possible interference with pedestrians, bicycle, transit and vehicular traffic. All traffic control, warning and guidance devices must conform to the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). In addition to the regulations in this manual, Contractor is responsible for complying with all applicable city, state, and federal codes, rules and regulations. This manual also contains relevant general information, contact information, and procedures related to working in the public right of way controlled by agencies other than the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA).

The party responsible for setting up traffic control shall be held accountable and responsible if traffic control does not meet the guidance and requirements established by this manual and state requirement.

The authority for establishing the Blue Book is derived from the [San Francisco Transportation Code](#).

Prepared by:
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
Streets Division
San Francisco, California

Revised June 2, 2026

This free manual can be obtained from, free of charge at:
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Streets Division,
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103-5417

A copy of this manual, including future updates and revisions can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.sfmta.com/bluebook>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: PERMITS REQUIRED TO WORK ON CITY STREETS	7
1.1 Permits Issued by SFPW	7
1.1.1 Excavation Permit.....	7
1.1.2 Temporary Occupancy Permit	7
1.1.3 Street Space Permit.....	7
1.1.4 Additional Street Space.....	7
1.1.5 Night Noise Permit.....	7
1.2 Permit Issued by SFMTA (Special Traffic Permit).....	7
1.2.1 Situations Requiring Special Traffic Permits	8
1.2.2 Display of Special Traffic Permit	8
1.2.3 Special Traffic Permit required for Emergency Work	8
1.2.4 Applying for Special Traffic Permits (STP).....	8
1.2.5 Use of SFMTA striping drawings.....	9
1.2.6 Fees for Special Traffic Permits (STP).....	9
1.2.7 Special Traffic Permit (STP) Processing Time	9
1.2.8 Renewals and Maximum time an STP is valid	10
1.2.9 Maximum area that can be covered in an STP.....	10
1.2.10 Payments for Special Traffic Permits (STP) and Draw-Down Accounts..	10
1.2.11 Special Traffic Permit - Prior Payments Required	11
1.2.12 Indemnification	11
1.2.13 Revocation of Special Traffic Permit	11
1.3 Other Permits	11
1.3.1 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	11
1.3.2 Port of San Francisco	12
1.3.3 Recreation and Park Department.....	12
1.3.4 SFMTA Rail Clearance Permit	13
SECTION 2: WORKING ON STREETS WITH SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.....	14
2.1 Streets of Major Traffic Importance (Appendix C, Table 1)	14
2.2 Restrictions in Certain Areas	14
2.2.1 Area of Important Streets – Downtown (Appendix D, Map 1A).....	14
2.2.2 Restrictions for Moscone Convention Center Events (Appendix D, Map 2)..	14
2.2.3 Ball Park Restrictions (Appendix D, Map 3)	14
2.2.4 Holiday Moratorium.....	14
2.2.5 Major Muni Routes.....	16
SECTION 3 LANE CLOSURE REQUIREMENTS	18
3.1 Closing a Lane.....	18
3.2 Traffic Lane Requirements	18
3.3 Temporary Traffic Lanes and Transition Lengths.....	19
3.4 Multi-Lane Shifts	19
3.5 Flag Control.....	21
3.6 Coordination with Others	21
SECTION 4: PARKING REMOVAL	22
4.1 Legal Use of Temporary Tow-Away Zones	22
4.2 Registering Tow-Away Signs.....	22

4.2.1	Registering Tow-Away Authorized by Public Works	23
4.2.2	Registering Tow-Away Authorized by SFMTA (the Tow-Desk).....	23
4.3	“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements.....	23
4.3.1	“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements for SFPW Signs	23
4.3.2	“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements for SFMTA Signs	23
4.4	Posting Procedures for SFMTA Signs.....	24
SECTION 5:	WALKWAY CLOSURES	25
5.1	Clear Path of Travel	25
5.2	Walkway and Crosswalk Closure Guidelines.....	26
5.3	Implementing Walkway Closures under Special Traffic Permits (STP)	29
SECTION 6:	STRIPING AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS	30
6.1	Temporary Pavement Markings.....	30
6.2	Temporary Pavement Black-out Markings.....	31
6.3	Laying Out Temporary Striping (Cat Tracking)	32
6.4	Permanent Pavement Marking Restoration	32
6.5	Muni Markings.....	32
SECTION 7:	TRANSIT OPERATIONS	33
7.1	Bus Stops	33
7.2	Overhead Wires.....	34
7.3	Passenger Facilities.....	34
7.4	Tracks	35
SECTION 8:	SPECIAL DEVICES AND PARKING SPACES	36
8.1	Raised Channelizing Devices.....	36
8.2	Removal and Re-Installation of Devices	37
8.3	Slow Streets.....	38
8.4	Special Parking Spaces and Bus Zones in the Work Area.....	39
8.5	Bicycle Facilities	40
SECTION 9:	WORKING ON BICYCLE ROUTES.....	41
9.1	Types of Bike Routes.....	41
9.2	Handling Bicycles at Special Locations.....	44
SECTION 10:	TRAFFIC CONTROL BY SAN FRANCISCO OFFICERS (SFMTA OR SFPD).....	47
10.1	Duties of Officers	47
10.2	Requesting Officers.....	47
10.3	Officer Working Hours.....	47
10.4	Notification and Restrictions	48
10.5	Furnishing Permits to Officers	48
10.6	Officer Reassignment.....	48
SECTION 11:	TRAFFIC EQUIPMENT AND DETECTORS IN CITY STREETS	49
11.1	Vehicle Detectors in the Work Area.....	49
11.2	Vehicle Sensors in the Work Area	49
11.3	Bicycle Counter Detectors in the Work Area.....	50
11.4	Working Around Parking Stall or Roadway Sensors	51

11.5	Other Traffic-Related Devices in the Work Area	51
11.6	Working Around Parking Meters	51
SECTION 12: EMERGENCY PROCEDURE AND CONSTRUCTION ZONE STANDARDS		52
12.1	Emergency Procedure	52
12.2	Construction Zone Standards.....	53
12.2.1	Tow-Away Lanes	53
12.2.2	Metal Plating	53
12.2.3	Transitioning (Ramping).....	53
12.2.4	Cyclone Fences	53
12.2.5	Placement of Message and Arrow Boards, and Other Devices	54
SECTION 13: PENALTIES, CITATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.....		55
13.1	Safe Paths of Travel (SPOT) Citations	55
13.2	Types of Citations	55
13.3	Payments for Citations	55
13.4	Hearings and Administrative Review for Citations	55
APPENDIX A AND B: SECTIONS REMOVED		57
APPENDIX C: STREETS OF MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPORTANCE		58
APPENDIX D: MAPS		71
APPENDIX E: UNIFORM SIGN CHARTS		77
APPENDIX F: TYPICAL LANE CLOSURE PLANS		87
APPENDIX G: CONTACT INFORMATION.....		104
APPENDIX H: FORMS.....		106