

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 May 16, 2024

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 Length of time an STP is valid	9
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	10
1.2.12 Indemnification	10
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	12
SECTION 2: WORKING ON STREETS WITH SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.....	13
 2.1 Streets of Major Traffic Importance (Appendix C, Table 1)	13
 2.2 Restrictions in Certain Areas	13
2.2.1 Area of Important Streets – Downtown (Appendix D, Map 1A)	13
2.2.2 Restrictions for Moscone Convention Center Events (Appendix D, Map 2)	13
2.2.3 Ball Park Restrictions (Appendix D, Map 3)	13
2.2.4 Holiday Moratorium	13
2.2.5 Major Muni Routes	15
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

<u>4.2.1</u>	<u>Registering Tow-Away Authorized by Public Works</u>	22
<u>4.2.2</u>	<u>Registering Tow-Away Authorized by SFMTA (the Tow-Desk).....</u>	23
4.3	“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements.....	23
<u>4.3.1</u>	<u>“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements for SFPW Signs</u>	23
<u>4.3.2</u>	<u>“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements for SFMTA Signs</u>	23
4.4	Posting Procedures for SFMTA Signs.....	24
SECTION 5: SIDEWALK CLOSURES.....		25
5.1	Clear Path of Travel	25
5.2	Sidewalk Closure Guidelines	25
SECTION 6: STRIPING AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS		26
6.1	Temporary Pavement Markings	26
6.2	Temporary Pavement Black-out Markings.....	27
6.3	Laying Out Temporary Striping (Cat Tracking)	27
6.4	Permanent Pavement Marking Restoration	27
6.5	Muni Markings	28
SECTION 7: TRANSIT OPERATIONS		29
7.1	Bus Stops	29
7.2	Overhead Wires.....	29
7.3	Passenger Facilities.....	30
7.4	Tracks	30
SECTION 8: SCHOOL ZONES		32
SECTION 9: BICYCLE ROUTES.....		33
9.1	Bike Paths (Class 1).....	33
9.2	Bike Lanes (Class 2).....	33
9.3	Bike Routes (Class 3).....	33
9.4	Closure of Bike Routes	33
SECTION 10: TRAFFIC CONTROL BY SAN FRANCISCO OFFICERS (SFMTA OR SFPD)		34
10.1	Duties of Officers	34
10.2	Requesting Officers.....	34
10.3	Officer Working Hours.....	34
10.4	Notification and Restrictions	34
10.5	Furnishing Permits to Officers	35
10.6	Officer Reassignment	35
SECTION 11: DETECTORS IN CITY STREETS.....		36
11.1	Vehicle Detectors in the Work Area	36
11.2	Vehicle Sensors in the Work Area	36
11.3	Bicycle Counter Detectors in the Work Area.....	37
11.4	Working Around Parking Stall or Roadway Sensors	37
11.5	Other Traffic-Related Devices in the Work Area	38
SECTION 12: EMERGENCY PROCEDURE AND CONSTRUCTION ZONE STANDARDS		39

<u>12.1 Emergency Procedure</u>	39
<u>12.2 Construction Zone Standards</u>	39
<u>12.2.1 Tow-Away Lanes</u>	39
<u>12.2.2 Metal Plating</u>	40
<u>12.2.3 Transitioning (Ramping)</u>	40
<u>12.2.4 Cyclone Fences</u>	40
<u>12.2.5 Placement of Message and Arrow Boards, and Other Devices</u>	40
<u>SECTION 13: PENALTIES, CITATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW</u>	42
<u>13.1 Safe Paths of Travel (SPOT) Citations</u>	42
<u>13.2 Types of Citations</u>	42
<u>13.3 Payments for Citations</u>	42
<u>13.4 Hearings and Administrative Review for Citations</u>	42
<u>APPENDIX A: SECTION REMOVED</u>	44
<u>APPENDIX B: SECTION REMOVED</u>	44
<u>APPENDIX C: STREETS OF MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPORTANCE</u>	45
<u>APPENDIX D: MAPS</u>	60
<u>APPENDIX E: SIGN CHARTS</u>	67
<u>APPENDIX F: TYPICAL LANE CLOSURE PLANS</u>	79
<u>APPENDIX G: CONTACT INFORMATION</u>	100
<u>APPENDIX H: FORMS</u>	102

