



# Large Vehicle Restrictions

SFMTA Board Directors Meeting

June 17, 2025

# Why Are We Here Today?

- As of May 2025, the Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC) identified 501 large vehicles across San Francisco, of which 437 are being used for habitation.
- The 2024 San Francisco Point-in-Time (PIT) Count estimated that 1,444 households are living in vehicles in San Francisco, representing a 37% increase from the 2022 PIT Count.
- Large Vehicles impact curb access, traffic and circulation, and often present public health and safety hazards.
- Mayor Lurie established a Large Vehicle Taskforce to review these challenges and develop better solutions, including identifying code amendments to comprehensively address these impacts.
- Division I Transportation Code, Administrative Code, Park Code and Port Code amendments have been introduced to the Board of Supervisors and Division II amendments will be presented today for this Board's consideration.

# Goals of the Large Vehicle Taskforce

- **Implement innovative and humane approaches that reduce vehicular homelessness** by addressing the immediate safety and stability needs as well as creating pathways to permanent housing for people living in vehicles, who represent our most vulnerable residents
- **Restore public spaces, public safety, public health and neighborhood livability** by effectively enforcing and managing oversized vehicle parking
- **Maximize efficiency through data-driven approaches and coordinated interdepartmental efforts** across agencies

## City Departments of the Large Vehicle Taskforce:

- SFMTA
- Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing
- Department of Emergency Management
- San Francisco Police Department
- San Francisco Sheriff's Office
- San Francisco Recreation and Parks
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- The Port of San Francisco
- Department of Public Health
- City Administrator's Office

# History of Large Vehicle Legislation

- 1971:** Police Code establishes prohibition of vehicular habitation (Section 97)
- 2012:** Board of Supervisors creates overnight violation of Large Vehicles (Section 7.2.54)
- 2013:** SFMTA Board of Directors approves first locations for OV parking restrictions. Staff publishes report: *Oversize Vehicle (OV) Parking Restriction Pilot – Evaluation and Recommendations*
- 2014:** SFMTA Board approves a second location for parking restrictions, then directs the agency to pause on additional restrictions because of concerns
- 2018:** District 11 Supervisor asks for OV parking restrictions on De Wolf Street. Board approves restrictions, directs staff to develop guidelines for future proposals
- 2019:** SFMTA Board approves OV parking restriction in D9 on the perimeter of the University Mound Reservoir
- 2020:** Pandemic begins
- 2024:** Effort to amend Division II code did not advance

# A New Approach: Comprehensive Code Amendments

Generally, large vehicles are governed by two violations, 7.2.54 and 7.2.84. The comprehensive legislation package identifies amendments for these Division I Transportation Code sections as well as the relevant sections of Division II.

## Division I

### 7.2.54—Large Vehicles

- **Existing code** overnight restriction on specific blocks for vehicles exceeding 22 feet long or 7 feet in height or camp trailers, fifth-wheel travel trailers, house cars, trailer coaches, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, or semi-trailers
- **Proposed code** 2-hour parking limit citywide except commercial vehicles (see 7.2.84) or otherwise exempted by a Refuge Permit, all other restrictions apply

## Division II

- **Proposed code** adds Section 917 establishing a Large Vehicle Refuge Permit including requirements, privileges, duration, conditions, revocation. Refuge Permit exempts vehicle from 2-hour restriction

# A New Approach: Comprehensive Code Amendments

## Division I

7.2.84—Large Vehicles used for commercial purposes

- **Existing code** specifies one-hour parking limit and overnight prohibition for commercial vehicles exceeding a certain weight in specified zoning districts within Section 502 unless actively loading
- **Proposed code** modifies the restriction to 2-hour parking limit for commercial vehicles exceeding 22 feet long or 7 feet in height in specified zoning districts within Section 502 unless actively loading

## Division II

Section 502

- **Existing code** identifies Commercial Vehicles subject to restrictions by weight and has outdated list of zoning classifications
- **Proposed code** identifies Commercial Vehicles subject to restrictions by dimensions and refines the list of zoning classifications

# Supporting San Franciscans

*With substantial financial commitments from the Mayor's Office, outreach teams are able to make offers of appropriate housing and services.*

*Until housing arrangements can be finalized, people will be issued a Large Vehicle Refuge Permit.*

# Outreach & Offerings

- **Outreach:** The city will deploy new outreach and case management staff trained to work with people living in large vehicles, with language skills and trauma-informed care.
- **Offerings:** Residents living in large vehicles in San Francisco as of May 2025 will be assessed for eligibility for:
  - **Appropriate Offer of Non-Congregate Interim or Permanent Housing:** The city will make offers based on individual needs and eligibility. Mayor Lurie expanded HSH family rapid rehousing subsidy program to support up to 115 families living in large vehicles and continued funding for 130 hotel vouchers.
  - **Large Vehicle Buyback Program:** The city will offer cash incentives to residents living in large vehicles as of May 2025 to relinquish their vehicles as part of the outreach program.
  - **Large Vehicle Refuge Permit Program:** Residents living in vehicles as of May 2025, who are actively engaged in services and awaiting placement into non-congregate interim or permanent housing, may be eligible for a permit allowing exemption from the two-hour parking rule.

## Existing resources – turnover in these programs can be leveraged for this effort:

- Family rapid rehousing: 744 subsidies
- Family permanent supportive housing: 1,545 units / subsidies
- Adult rapid rehousing: 805 subsidies
- Adult permanent supportive housing: 10,396 units / subsidies

# Large Vehicle Refuge Permit

**Issuance:** Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) to certify eligibility and commitments to receive Refuge Permit

- Present and occupying large vehicle on May 31, 2025
- Experiencing homelessness
- Agree to engage consistently with city departments for case management services
- Agree to accept offer of non-congregate interim or permanent housing
- Allow Public Works to clear debris
- Agree to Good Neighbor Policy
- Follow other parking regulations

## Revocation & Enforcement

- Refuge Permit may be revoked when permittee has refused an offer of non-congregate interim or permanent housing. With revocation, Large Vehicle is subject to citation & tow
- Refuge Permit may be revoked if permittee violates a condition of the permit. With revocation, Large Vehicle is subject to citation & tow

# Planning and Implementation Phases

- **April-May 2025:** Planning conducted by Large Vehicle Taskforce
- **May 2025:** Large Vehicle Data Collection conducted to develop database of vehicles potentially eligible for housing and service offers
- **Summer 2025:** Legislative process and operational planning (e.g., expand and train staff)
- **Fall 2025:**
  - **Permit Issuance Phase:** Education, outreach & permitting period
  - **Full Implementation Phase:** Dedicated case management and services for refuge permit holders paired with enforcement

**Thank you**