

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 November 25, 2025

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	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	19
3.1 Closing a Lane	19
3.2 Traffic Lane Requirements	19
3.3 Temporary Traffic Lanes and Transition Lengths	20
3.4 Multi-Lane Shifts	20
3.5 Flag Control	22
3.6 Coordination with Others	22
SECTION 4: PARKING REMOVAL	23
4.1 Legal Use of Temporary Tow-Away Zones	23
4.2 Registering Tow-Away Signs	23

4.2.1	Registering Tow-Away Authorized by Public Works	23
4.2.2	Registering Tow-Away Authorized by SFMTA (the Tow-Desk).....	24
4.3	“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements.....	24
4.3.1	“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements for SFPW Signs	24
4.3.2	“Tow-Away No Stopping” Sign Requirements for SFMTA Signs	24
4.4	Posting Procedures for SFMTA Signs.....	25
SECTION 5:	WALKWAY CLOSURES	26
5.1	Clear Path of Travel	26
5.2	Walkway and Crosswalk Closure Guidelines.....	27
5.3	Implementing Walkway Closures under Special Traffic Permits (STP)	30
SECTION 6:	STRIPING AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS	31
6.1	Temporary Pavement Markings	31
6.2	Temporary Pavement Black-out Markings.....	32
6.3	Laying Out Temporary Striping (Cat Tracking)	32
6.4	Permanent Pavement Marking Restoration	32
6.5	Muni Markings.....	33
SECTION 7:	TRANSIT OPERATIONS	34
7.1	Bus Stops	34
7.2	Overhead Wires.....	34
7.3	Passenger Facilities.....	35
7.4	Tracks	35
SECTION 8:	SCHOOL ZONES	37
SECTION 9:	BICYCLE ROUTES.....	38
9.1	Bike Paths (Class 1).....	38
9.2	Bike Lanes (Class 2).....	38
9.3	Bike Routes (Class 3).....	38
9.4	Closure of Bike Routes	38
SECTION 10:	TRAFFIC CONTROL BY SAN FRANCISCO OFFICERS (SFMTA OR SFPD)	39
10.1	Duties of Officers	39
10.2	Requesting Officers.....	39
10.3	Officer Working Hours.....	39
10.4	Notification and Restrictions	39
10.5	Furnishing Permits to Officers	40
10.6	Officer Reassignment.....	40
SECTION 11:	DETECTORS IN CITY STREETS.....	41
11.1	Vehicle Detectors in the Work Area.....	41
11.2	Vehicle Sensors in the Work Area	41
11.3	Bicycle Counter Detectors in the Work Area.....	42
11.4	Working Around Parking Stall or Roadway Sensors	42
11.5	Other Traffic-Related Devices in the Work Area	43
SECTION 12:	EMERGENCY PROCEDURE AND CONSTRUCTION ZONE STANDARDS.....	44

12.1	Emergency Procedure	44
12.2	Construction Zone Standards	44
12.2.1	Tow-Away Lanes	44
12.2.2	Metal Plating	45
12.2.3	Transitioning (Ramping)	45
12.2.4	Cyclone Fences	45
12.2.5	Placement of Message and Arrow Boards, and Other Devices	45
SECTION 13: PENALTIES, CITATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW		47
13.1	Safe Paths of Travel (SPOT) Citations	47
13.2	Types of Citations	47
13.3	Payments for Citations	47
13.4	Hearings and Administrative Review for Citations	47
APPENDIX A: SECTION REMOVED		49
APPENDIX B: SECTION REMOVED		49
APPENDIX C: STREETS OF MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPORTANCE		50
APPENDIX D: MAPS		65
APPENDIX E: SIGN CHARTS		72
APPENDIX F: TYPICAL LANE CLOSURE PLANS		84
APPENDIX G: CONTACT INFORMATION		105
APPENDIX H: FORMS		107