



## KATY TANG

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### **\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\***

### **SUPERVISOR TANG ANNOUNCES INSTALLATION OF FLASHING BEACON LIGHTS TO NOTIFY DRIVERS OF GREAT HIGHWAY CLOSURES**

*Beacons will provide drivers opportunity to find alternate routes and reduce traffic circulation issues during closures*

Today, Supervisor Katy Tang, along with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), San Francisco Public Works, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) announced the installation of four flashing beacon lights across San Francisco's west side. When there is inclement weather or sand accumulation, the flashing beacons will notify commuters and residents when the Great Highway is closed in order to improve traffic conditions and increase pedestrian safety.

"After hearing many concerns from residents who have experienced pedestrian safety and traffic circulation issues due to the frequent Great Highway closures, our office worked with city departments to come up with a long-term solution for improved notification," said Supervisor Tang. "With the understanding that we cannot control Mother Nature and its impacts, we must at the very least provide adequate notification for drivers."

The beacons are installed at the following strategic locations: Lincoln Way at 33rd Avenue, Sloat Boulevard at Middlefield Drive, Skyline Boulevard just north of John Muir Drive, and Fulton Street at 33rd Avenue. The new beacon lights will help drivers plan their commutes by informing them of a closure ahead of time and they will then know to take an alternate route, such as Sunset Boulevard.

"There was a pressing need to address the numbers of cars diverting through neighborhood streets when the Great Highway is shut down due to inclement weather or sand intrusion," said Ed Reiskin SFMTA Director of Transportation. "So in the SFMTA's continuing effort to make San Francisco streets safer, our engineers collaborated with Public Works to design flashing beacons that not only offer advance warning of the Great Highway's closure but advanced opportunities to seek alternate routes."



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SF Public Works is responsible for removing sand from the roadway. “The flashing beacons will help us get the word out when the Great Highway is closed while our crews work on getting the roadway safe to travel again for drivers and cyclists,” said San Francisco Public Works Mohammed Nuru. “This system will benefit commuters and Ocean Beach neighbors.”

“Our office continues to work to strengthen our system of notifying residents and drivers, as well as clearing the roadway of sand in a reasonable amount of time in the event of a road closure,” said Supervisor Tang. “These new flashing beacons are just one part of a larger effort to make the Sunset District safer for everyone.”

The beacon lights began operation on Friday, May 8, 2015. For more information, please contact the office of Supervisor Katy Tang at (415) 554-7460.

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