

**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ORDER NO. 172,596**

ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES AND IMPLEMENTING THE PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF  
SPECIAL SIDEWALK PERMITS WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN STREETScape AREAS.

**I. BACKGROUND:** The Planning Department adopted The Downtown Streetscape Plan on July 13, 1995 which is the guiding document for the development of the Downtown Pedestrian Network called for in the Downtown Plan (Objective 22), an Element of the City's General Plan. The Downtown Streetscape Plan is also the implementation framework for downtown streetscape improvements as outlined by Section 138.1 of the Planning Code which regulates streetscape improvements in the downtown C-3 districts (See Figure One). Streets in the downtown area have been classified into three different categories: Base Case Streets, Second Level Streets and Special Streets. Each of the categories have specific requirements. The standard is designed to reinforce the street designation system with a standard sidewalk for Base Case Streets, a more refined sidewalk with some decorative elements for Second Level Streets, and a distinctive, decorative sidewalk reserved for Special Streets. All new sidewalks and sidewalk repairs in the downtown area must meet the conditions and requirements set forth in this DPW Order. Final approval will be subject to review and approval by DPW.

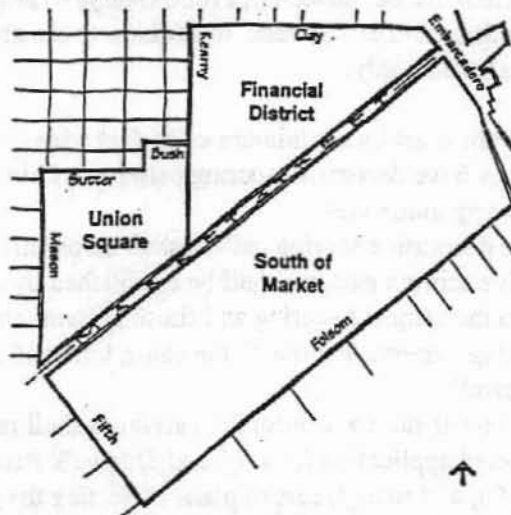


FIGURE ONE: Downtown Streetscape Area (C-3 Districts)

**II. OBJECTIVES:**

- A. Implement the Downtown Streetscape Plan and Downtown Streetscape Design Guidelines.
- B. Improve the condition of sidewalk surfaces in the downtown C-3 districts.
- C. Provide single and consistent sidewalk surface materials, color, finish, and scoring patterns in the downtown C-3 districts.

### III. DOWNTOWN STREET CLASSIFICATIONS:

A. *Base Case Streets:* The standard requirements for Base Case Streets are the minimum required for all streets within the downtown C-3 districts. They include the following:

1. Sidewalk widths must be a minimum of 10 feet wide.
2. The standard sidewalk scoring pattern shall be a three-foot square grid pattern.
3. Sidewalks shall be constructed of a dark gray, Hi-Con @ 5 lbs. per cubic yard carbon black based concrete finish, with 25 to 30 lbs. per 100 square feet of silicon carbide sparkle grains.
4. Sidewalk repairs shall match this color scoring pattern when:
  - a. Adjacent sidewalks meet all of the above requirements.
  - b. Repair is from the property line or edge of the building to the curb, even if the adjacent sidewalks do not meet all of the above requirements.
  - c. Sidewalk areas to be repaired will be evaluated on a case by case basis, even if the adjacent sidewalks do not meet all of the above requirements.

B. *Second Level Streets:* The requirements for the Second Level Streets, designed with a more refined sidewalk with some decorative elements, are intended to convey the importance of these streets. These streets include Beale, Bush, 4<sup>th</sup>, Front, Geary, Kearny, New Montgomery, Post, Powell, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Steuart, Stockton and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. In addition to the above standards for Base Case Streets, the following shall also apply:

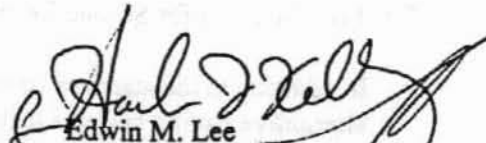
1. Sidewalk widths must be a minimum of 14 feet wide.
2. Sidewalks may have decorative scoring patterns within the three-foot grid pattern, as per the following guidelines:
  - a. Only one decorative scoring pattern shall be permitted per block.
  - b. Decorative scoring patterns shall be established by block precedent.
3. In addition to the standard scoring and finish system, applicants may propose alternate paving systems that match the color, tone and scoring pattern of the standard sidewalk.
4. Proposals to install sidewalk decorative surfaces shall require the following:
  - a. A completed application for a Special Sidewalk Permit, with a non-refundable fee of \$100, and two (2) sets of plans indicating the proposed scope of work.
  - b. When applicable, a submittal of a friction/static test for coefficient of friction (ASTM-C1028) using a neolite material under wet and dry conditions.
    - i. A relatively flat sidewalk surface shall require a minimum coefficient of friction of 0.65 in order to be approved.
    - ii. Sidewalk surface grades exceeding 1:12 (8.33%) shall require a minimum coefficient of friction of 0.80 in order to be approved.
  - c. Submittal of photographs of existing sidewalks on the block face proposed for the decorative sidewalk treatment.
  - d. Final approval for proposed sidewalk surfaces shall be subject to review and approval by the Department of Public Works (DPW).

- C. **Special Streets:** Special Streets, which include California, Mission, Montgomery Streets and Grant Avenue, are considered destination streets. These streets usually have wide sidewalks and street furniture. Sidewalks on Special Streets must meet all of the standard requirements for Base Case and for Second Level Streets.
1. In addition to the standard scoring and finish system, the applicant may propose alternative paving systems that match the color, tone, and scoring pattern of the standard sidewalk. The applicant may also propose other decorative treatments in the form of different admixtures, score-line highlights such as metal striping or introduction of decorative tiles into the sidewalk surface.
  2. Alternative paving materials are subject to approval DPW, in furtherance of the Downtown Streetscape Plan.
  3. Applications from projects subject to Sections 138.1 or 309 of the Planning Code must be approved by the Planning Department, as well as by DPW.

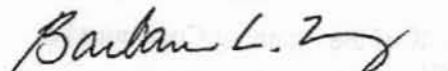
V. **ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS/MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES:**

- A. The construction of any special sidewalk surface and/or scoring pattern shall be constructed and maintained as shown on the plans submitted, revised, filed and approved by DPW, and in accordance with all applicable Planning and DPW Codes, specifications and regulations.
- B. The applicant/permittee shall be responsible for coordinating the replacement of any special sidewalk surface or scoring pattern with an identical material, at the permittee's own expense, with the appropriate City agency and/or public service utility company to replace, during the installation, repair or replacement of any City and/or public service utility company facilities.
- C. The permittee shall verify the locations of any City or public service utility company facilities that may be affected by the proposed special surface and/or scoring pattern, and the work authorized under a Special Sidewalk Permit, and shall assume all responsibility for any damage to such facilities. The permittee shall make the appropriate arrangements and payments for any necessary temporary relocation of any City or public service utility company facilities.
- D. The permittee acknowledges their obligation to inform subsequent owner or owners of the responsibilities and conditions of this DPW Order and their approved Special Sidewalk Permit.
- E. The permittee shall be responsible for obtaining all required permits from any local, state, or federal agencies; including but not limited to the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) for any work taking place on private property, the State of California (Caltrans) for any work taking place within the State's jurisdiction, etc.
- F. The permittee or subsequent owner or owners recognize the recordation of the Special Sidewalk Permit, and all conditions and requirements set forth in this DPW Order.

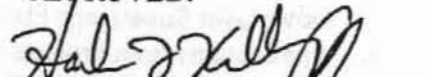
- G. The permittee and any permitted successor or assign recognize and understand that the Special Sidewalk Permit, and all conditions and requirements set forth in this DPW Order, may create a possessory interest.

  
Edwin M. Lee  
Director of Public Works

RECOMMENDED:

  
Barbara L. Moy, Bureau Manager  
Street-Use & Mapping

APPROVED:

  
Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.  
Deputy Director for Engineering  
and City Engineer

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*AE* NE/JK/EO/SS/ne/dpw/bsm

APPROVED: OCTOBER 11, 2000

EDWIN M. LEE, DIRECTOR