



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**MEMO**

**DATE:** June 9, 2014

**TO:** George Zisiadis

**FROM:** Allison Vanderslice, Preservation Planner, (415) 575-9075

**REVIEWED BY:** Architectural Review Committee of the  
Historic Preservation Commission

**RE:** Meeting Notes from the Review and Comment at the June 4, 2014  
Hearing for LightRail Installation – Path of Gold Light Standards  
Case No. 2014.0794A

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## BACKGROUND

Planning Department Preservation Staff has drafted a summary of the key points from the June 4, 2014 Architectural Review Committee (ARC) meeting. At the hearing, the Department requested review and comment regarding the compatibility of the project with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* (Standards) and unresolved issues regarding design, installation, maintenance and removal of the proposed LightRail LED driver utility boxes on the Path of Gold Light Standards (POG).

### Utility Box Design:

The ARC concurred with Staff's concern regarding the size, placement, design and number of utility boxes. Two Commissioners agreed that the boxes as currently proposed do not meet the Standards. The ARC commented that the boxes as proposed would visually detract from the POG and agreed that alternatives to installing the utility boxes on the POG would be preferable. The ARC accepted the Sponsor's statement that due to technical limitations the LED drivers could not be placed within the POG poles or bases. One Commissioner raised the issue concerning possible damage to the POG by installing the LED driver internally. The ARC generally supported the proposal due to the temporary and reversible nature of the proposed utility boxes.

If no alternative placement is available and external boxes installed on the POG are required, than the ARC offered the following recommendations regarding the utility box design and placement:

- The external box design should be improved, such as further elongating the box and shaping the top and bottom of the box.
- The utility boxes should be turned toward the street-facing side of the POG poles to minimize visibility from pedestrian traffic along Market Street.
- One Commissioner suggested lowering the placement of the boxes on the pole to allow for more room between the box and the character-defining triple globe tops. In general, the ARC agreed with this approach but requested that the project team ensure that the boxes would not conflict with temporary banners installed on the POG.

**Installation of Utility Boxes:**

The ARC concurs with staff's recommendation. Staff recommended that the Sponsor should determine protective measures, such as the installation of a protective material, in order to protect the POG from potential damage and/or corrosion caused by the clamp and utility box. One Commissioner suggested the use of stainless steel straps.

**Conditions Assessment and Maintenance Plan:**

The ARC concurs with staff's recommendations. Staff recommended that the Sponsor should work with DPW and the Planning Department to develop a plan to ensure that the installation minimizes damage and that the POG system is appropriately maintained during the proposed five-year LightRail installation period. At a minimum the plan should include periodic assessment of the installation and a plan for repairing and addressing regular maintenance, vandalism, graffiti, damage and/or corrosion.

**Removal of the LightRail Installation:**

The ARC concurs with staff's recommendations. Staff recommended that the Sponsor should prepare a repair detail for filling and repairing the 3/4" hole drilled in the historic pole. The Sponsor should draft a plan for repair and maintenance at the removal of the installation, the plan should include repainting of the POG.