



City and County of San Francisco  
Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Ed Reiskin  
Director of Transportation  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
11 S. Van Ness Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94102

REC'D JUL 17 2015

**SUBJECT: Changes to the 33 Muni Bus Line**

Dear Director Reiskin: ~~Ed~~,  
Ed,

I am writing to respectfully request that SFMTA reconsider the service elimination of the 33 Stanyan, on Potrero Avenue between 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> streets. This service provides transportation to many patients of San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH), the city's largest safety net hospital that provides primary care, specialty care, and inpatient services to a large portion of San Francisco's low income and vulnerable residents.

Department of Public Health (DPH) staff and the Health Commission only recently learned of this planned service elimination. It is also my understanding that SFGH staff were not notified of the changes during the SFMTA planning and legislative process. Several community members voiced their concerns to the Health Commission, which requested that SFDPH staff review the potential impact of this service elimination for patients and staff.

After service elimination of the 33 segment noted above, patients and staff using the 33 will be required to transfer at Potrero and 16<sup>th</sup> to the 9 San Bruno. Although there are planned service improvements for the 9 San Bruno, the transfer will potentially increase the amount of time required to travel to SFGH and could pose hardships for our patients, particularly seniors and persons with disabilities. Based on preliminary analysis of available data, key findings are as follows:

- Up to 54,700 of SFGH outpatient patient visits annually (12%) come from areas that are served by the 33 line. Though all outpatient visits to SFGH may not be made via public transit, over 70% of outpatient visits are paid for by programs for low-income persons (Medi-Cal, Healthy SF/uninsured) who are less likely to own a car.
- The 33 line outbound ends one block from SFGH and accounts 25% (690) of outbound alightings between 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> streets on Potrero Avenue. Similarly, the 33 line inbound begins near SFGH and accounts for 25% (763) of all inbound boardings between the same five blocks on Potrero. Overall, the 33 line accounts for 16% of boardings/off-boardings between 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> streets on Potrero Avenue.
- Up to 9% of SFGH staff may commute to work via Muni and live in zip codes impacted by changes to the 33 line. A 2013 survey indicates that more than quarter of SFGH staff use public

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The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~  
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all ~

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transit to commute to work and among them. An estimated 32% of staff live in zip codes that are potentially impacted by changes to the 33 line.

- After implementation of the planned frequency increases to the 9 San Bruno, transferring to the 9/9L San Bruno may add an additional 3-12 minutes, or potentially more, of travel time for visitors to SFGH.

I understand that since learning of the planned service reduction, SFDPH and SFMTA staff have been meeting together to discuss additional data analysis, improving wayfinding to SFGH through signage, and increased coordination between the two agencies in response to this anticipated service change. Through this forum, we also learned that this summer SFMTA staff are planning to conduct a survey of people getting on the 33 at SFGH to better understand where people are going to and coming from, and the impacts and any potential hardship related to transferring on the trip. While these efforts to address the planned changes are very much appreciated, I remain concerned about the overall negative impact on health care access for our vulnerable patients, including low-income individuals, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

I urge you to reconsider the planned service elimination for the 33 Muni to SFGH. I look forward to working collaboratively on this issue as well as on future projects where health and transportation intersect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Garcia', with a stylized, cursive script.

Barbara Garcia