



June 2008

My Fellow San Franciscans:

I am pleased to present the draft Better Streets Plan for your review. This is a major milestone towards my vision of establishing a systematic, implementable program to bring about real and lasting change to San Francisco's streets.

This plan forwards a comprehensive set of guidelines to improve San Francisco's streetscapes – to make our streets more useable and attractive and universally accessible to all, to make them safer and more welcoming, to improve their ecological functioning, and to return them to their rightful place as the center of civic life in this wonderful city. I commend all those involved in the drafting of this plan for their work.

There will be significant challenges to ensuring that the kinds of improvements envisioned in the Better Streets Plan move from idea to reality. We will need to commit the resources and funding in order to re-envision and refurbish our streets over a reasonable amount of time. Integrated street improvements to the extent envisioned by the Better Streets Plan will not happen over night. They will take a concerted effort over time on the part of all of us but will ultimately yield more efficient and attractive streetscapes for the entire city.

This draft Better Streets Plan is an excellent beginning. Please review it and make comments. In a few months, after we have heard from you, staff will revise and then seek to have the plan adopted. We hope to have your full support throughout the process and when we begin to build the kinds of streets this plan envisions. We appreciate your on-going commitment to helping us plan Better Streets in San Francisco.

Warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke.

Gavin Newsom
Mayor