



SFMTA



Chinatown Parking & Transit Improvements

July 21, 2026 – SFMTA Board of Directors

Overview

- Project background
- Project proposal
- Community engagement
- Key comments and concerns
- Today's legislation
- Next steps



Project background

- Chinatown merchants have asked for more parking and better curb access near Portsmouth Square
- The SFMTA identified ways to add parking while also supporting reliable Muni service
- The 1 California...
 - Serves 20,000+ daily riders
 - Connects the Richmond District, Chinatown, downtown
 - One of Muni's busiest routes
 - Buses as slow as 3 MPH
 - Transit reliability improved in 2016 with part-time transit lane on Clay Street from Grant Avenue to Kearny Street
- In Chinatown...
 - 72% of households do not own a car
 - Buses are among Muni's most crowded



Project proposal

This proposal responds to merchant requests for additional street parking

On Clay Street between Kearny and Sansome streets (covers two blocks):

- Remove the 7-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. tow-away zone
- Curbside parking and loading expanded to all-day (increases parking supply)
- Adjacent mixed traffic lane changed to a full-time transit lane (allows right-turning vehicles and taxis)

On Sacramento between Powell and Stockton streets (covers one block face):

- Remove the 4-6 p.m. tow-away restriction (does not affect the existing transit lane)
- Curbside parking and loading expanded to all-day

These changes aim to add parking and improve reliability for the 1 California on Clay Street

Staff reviewed traffic volumes on Clay Street and do not anticipate added traffic delay as result of the project



The 1 California on Clay Street approaches Montgomery in PM peak



The 1 California on Sacramento Street approaches Powell in PM peak

Estimated parking additions and transit lane change

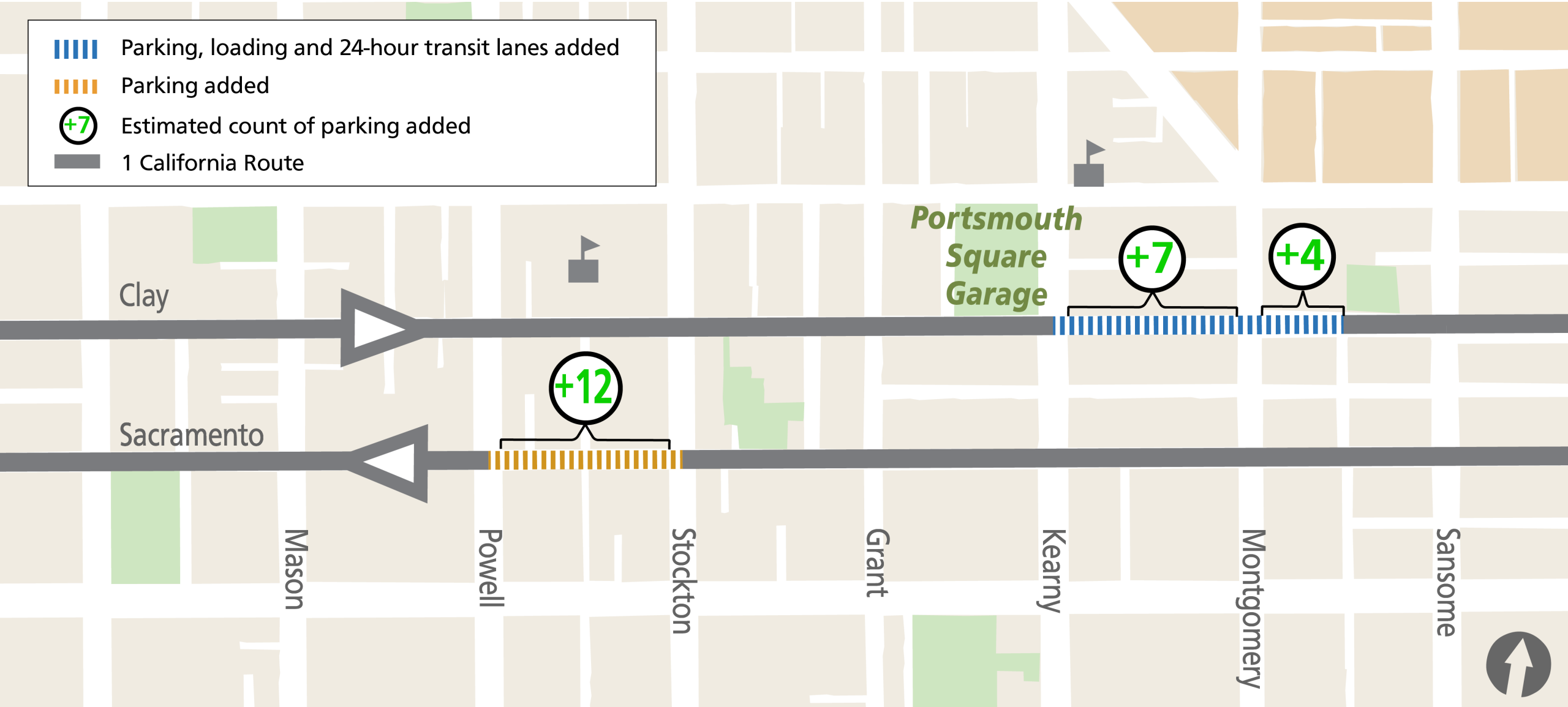
Parking, loading and 24-hour transit lanes added

Parking added

+7

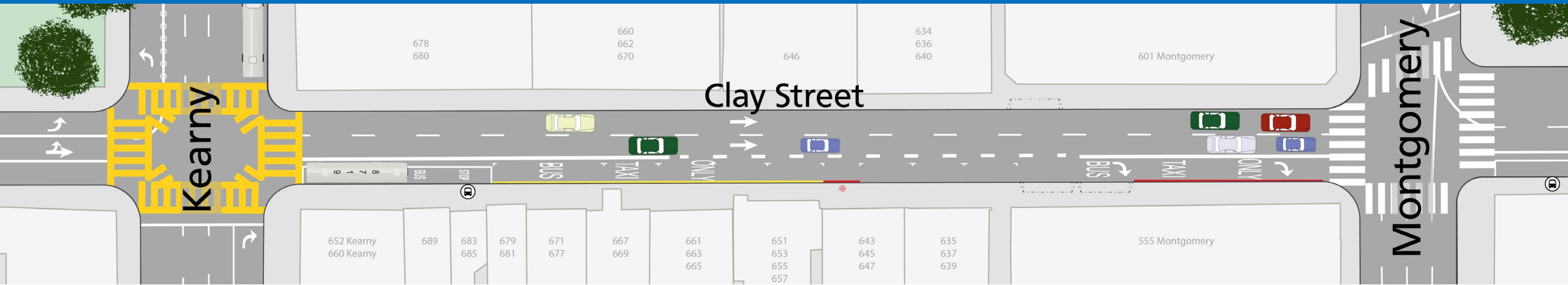
Estimated count of parking added

1 California Route

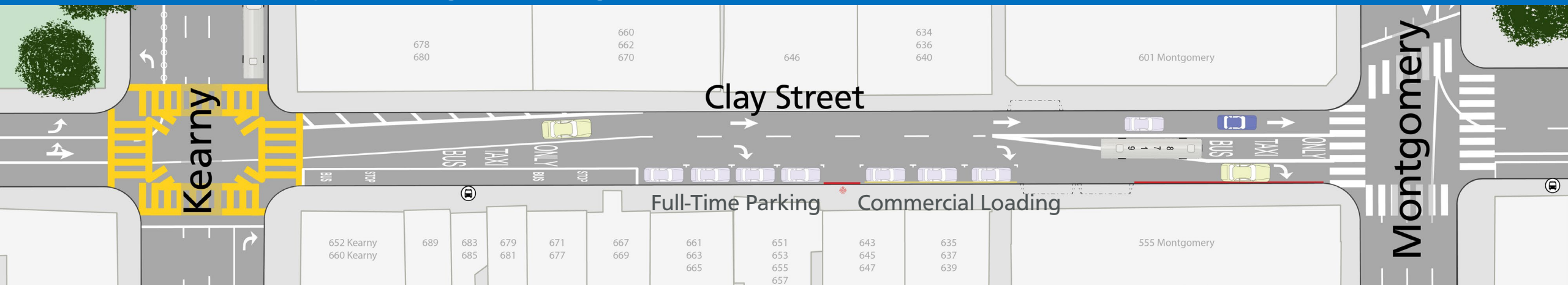


Clay Street proposal: Kearny to Montgomery

Existing: 9 Part-Time Parking/Loading (No Parking 7-9 AM; 3-6 PM) & Part-Time Transit Lane

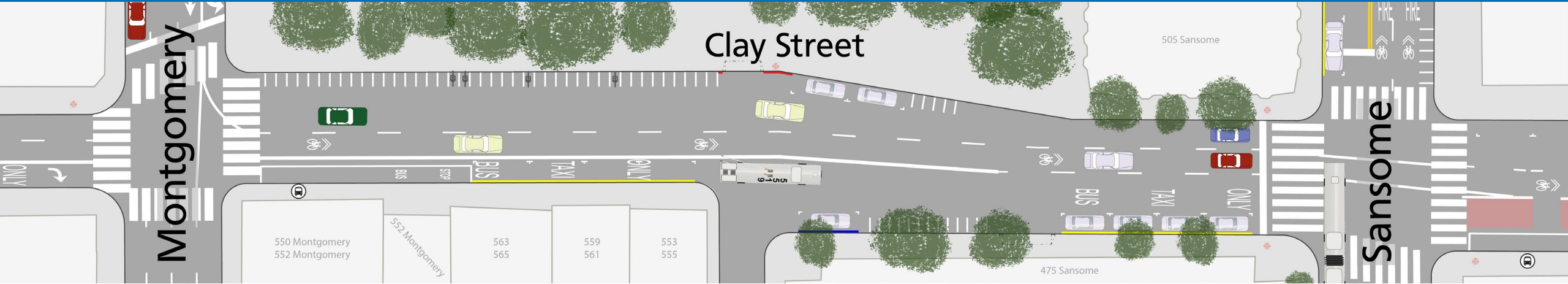


Proposal: 7 All-Day Parking/Loading Spaces and Full-Time Transit Lane

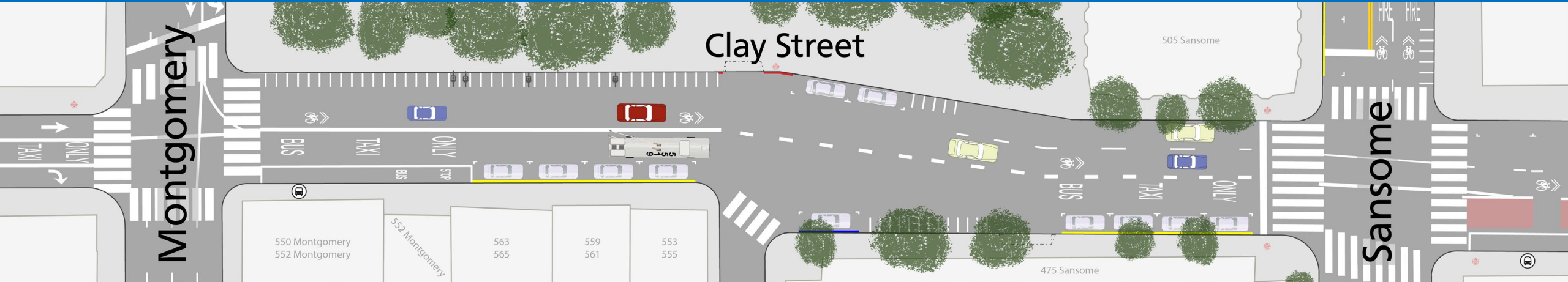


Clay Street proposal: Montgomery to Sansome

Existing: 8 Loading (4 Part-Time, 4 All-Day), Part-Time Transit Lane

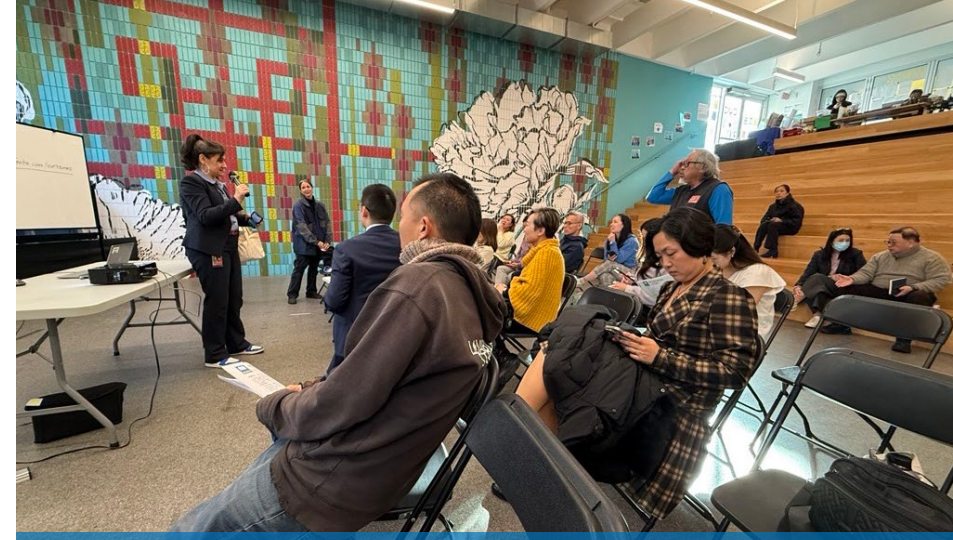


Proposal: 8 All-Day Loading Spaces and Full-Time Transit Lane



Community engagement

- Extensive outreach conducted since summer 2025
- Engagement found community support for parking restoration and the transit lane on Clay Street, with some modifications to support all-day parking and loading needs
- Direct outreach to businesses on Clay Street and key Chinatown community partners:
 - Chinatown Merchants United Association of San Francisco
 - Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC)
 - Portsmouth Square Parking Garage Board
 - Chinatown Transportation Research and Improvement Project (TRIP)
 - Be Chinatown
 - Chinatown History and Culture Association
 - Chinatown Community Youth Center
 - Chinese Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco



Project presentation at the January 29, 2026 Chinatown quarterly



Project tabling at the May 9, 2026 Chinatown Wellness Festival

Key comments and concerns

- Key comments and concerns raised before the June 12, 2026 Engineering Public Hearing:
 - Support for maintaining transit reliability
 - Transit lane removal requested on portion of Clay Street next to Portsmouth Square Garage considered but not implemented
 - Support for improving parking and curb access for Chinatown
 - Support for maintaining loading for Clay Street businesses in Chinatown between Kearny and Montgomery streets
 - Interest in evaluating parking and loading spaces outside the project scope
- No comments raised at the public hearing



Project update with members of the Chinatown Transportation Research and Improvement Project (TRIP) advocacy group on June 4, 2026

Today's legislation

- Remove 7-9 AM and 3-6 PM tow-away restrictions to restore all-day parking and loading on Clay Street between Kearny and Leidesdorff streets
- Designate a full-time transit lane on Clay Street between Kearny and Leidesdorff streets
- Remove 4-6 PM tow away restrictions to restore all-day parking and loading on Sacramento Street between Stockton and Powell streets

Next steps

- Today: SFMTA Board votes on proposal
- If approved, project could be delivered within weeks by SFMTA shops
- SFMTA staff offered some Chinatown stakeholders a briefing to provide feedback on timing of implementation

