Why Improve Folsom and Howard Streets?

Folsom and Howard are a part of the High Injury Network, the 12 percent of city streets with 70 percent of the severe and fatal collisions.

Over the last 5 years, 3 people were killed and 308 people were injured on Folsom and Howard streets including:

- 1 Pedestrian fatality on Howard
- 1 Bicyclist fatality on Folsom
- 1 Bicyclist fatality on Howard

What Are the Near-Term Project Goals?

The Folsom Howard Streetscape Project will make SoMa more livable by making it safer and more pleasant to walk, bike, shop and live along Folsom Street from 11th to 4th and potentially Howard Street from 11th to 6th. The project will:

- Improve safety for all users of the corridor
- Make biking and walking in SoMa a more comfortable experience
- Improve loading for local businesses
- Make changes to improve transit services

What About the Streetscape Projects’ Permanent Changes?

Long-term changes to the corridor like widened sidewalks, streetscape amenities and mid-block crossings are on track to be legislated in the winter of 2017.

There will be continued outreach and opportunities to provide input in the fall, including more open houses, when a design for the long-term changes is proposed.

You can learn more about the long-term changes on the project’s webpage sfmta.com/folsomhoward.
Near-Term Safety Improvements

Long-term changes to improve safety on Folsom and Howard streets will take years. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of people will continue to use these two streets. The Mayor has directed the SFMTA to improve street safety as quickly as possible.

That is why we will improve safety now, with improvements like parking-protected bikeways, daylighting intersections, and transit boarding islands. This will shorten crossing distances for pedestrians and provide dedicated, protected space for bicyclists. To implement these changes on Folsom, about 26% of parking spaces will be removed to enhance safety and visibility.

These changes will improve transit, protect pedestrians and bicyclists. These changes support San Francisco’s Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities.

Loading Improvements

After meeting with more than 75 businesses, we have heard significant concerns about loading.

These near-term improvements will double the number of loading zones on Folsom Street to respond to businesses’ needs for additional space.

Making these changes now will help us get the permanent changes to the street in the larger project right. We will continue to work with the business community before, during and after installation to try to improve loading along the corridors.

Near-term Improvements Timeline:

- Business and Community Group Outreach - Summer 2017
- Near-Term Improvements Open House - July 13th and July 15th
- Public Hearing for Near-Term Improvements - August 2017
- SFMTA Board of Directors Approval - October 2017
- Near-Term Improvements Installed - Winter 2017 (expected)