Transbay Howard Streetscape Improvement Project

SFMTA Board of Directors
April 16, 2024
South Downtown Design + Activation Plan (Soda)
Project Background

- Howard Street is on San Francisco's Vision Zero High Injury Network
- Builds upon traffic safety improvements previously installed by the Howard Street Quick-Build Project & Soda Plan
- Implements permanent, high-quality streetscape infrastructure to improve the safety and travel experience of all road users
SoMa Bikeway Network

- Transbay Howard Streetscape Project
- Existing Protected Bikeways
Quick-Build Project
Project Goals

- **Support Vision Zero & Improve Traffic Safety**
  This project will help improve traffic safety for all users of the roadway and support our City’s commitment to prioritize traffic safety.

- **Provide a connected and comfortable biking and walking environment**
  This project will close the gap in the bikeway network, connecting Howard Street from The Embarcadero to 11th Street with streetscape upgrades like landscaping, pedestrian improvements, and traffic signal changes.

- **Provide space for commercial and passenger loading**
  A protected bikeway design accommodates vehicle loading activities and reduces roadway conflicts.
Collisions at a Glance

• 70 reported injury collisions and one fatality between 2019-2023

• 2019 fatality involved a left turning vehicle hitting a pedestrian

• 13 collisions involved bicycles

• 17 collisions involved pedestrians

• The most common type of collision occurred between vehicles only (32%)
Outreach

Project staff conducted community outreach between September 2022 and January 2023

- Door-to-door
- Curb use survey
- Stakeholder meetings and presentations
- Virtual Open House and Survey
- In-person and Virtual Office Hours
- Community Events
- Email Blasts, Social Media, and Mailers
What We Heard During Outreach

- Desire for more protected bike lanes & traffic calming in neighborhood
- Concerns with parking & loading
- Increasing traffic in the neighborhood
- Request for more signal changes to prioritize pedestrians/bikes
- Construction needs to minimize disruption to businesses
Recommended Design

- **Traffic signal changes** to increase safety for people walking and biking across the street
- **Protected two-way bikeway** on south side of street
- Adjusting the size and placement of passenger and commercial **loading zones**
- **Travel lane reduction** to promote slower vehicles speeds and create space for active transportation
- **Streetscape upgrades** like greening, bulbouts, and traffic islands to improve the on-street experience
Next Steps

April 2024: Board Action Today

- Approving a two-way protected bikeway and parking and loading changes on Howard Street between The Embarcadero and 4th Street

2024-2025:

- Detailed Design by Public Works
- Bid and award construction work

2025-2026:

- Construction
Thank you!

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