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Transportation
Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2015

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***** Press Release *****

State and Federal Officials Study San Francisco's Vision Zero Efforts

Delegates to Tour Polk Street Where Some Near-Term Improvements Are Now Complete

San Francisco—The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), which manages all surface transportation in the city, including the Municipal Railway (Muni), today joined the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority to host federal and state transportation officials interested in San Francisco's Vision Zero efforts and successes.

With the goal of advancing pedestrian and bicyclist safety at the federal, state and local levels, senior officials from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, California Office of Traffic Safety, Federal Highway Administration and California State Transportation Agency, are today convening at San Francisco City Hall to learn about how San Francisco has been boosting street safety citywide in support of Vision Zero.

"I'm looking forward to hearing more about Vision Zero SF and how it is contributing to our nationwide efforts to save lives and reduce crashes on our roads. In particular, I'll be assessing the city's efforts to protect pedestrians and cyclists as part of Transportation Secretary Foxx's 'Safer People, Safer Streets' initiative," said Administrator Mark Rosekind of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

San Francisco adopted Vision Zero as a policy in 2014, committing to build better and safer streets, educate the public on traffic safety, enforce traffic laws, and adopt policy changes that save lives. The result of this collaborative, citywide effort will be safer, more livable streets as San Francisco works towards the Vision Zero goal of zero traffic fatalities by 2024. For more information, go to: www.visionzerosf.org

"As a necessary step toward the future, California recognizes that walking and bicycling are becoming an increasingly popular alternative for commuting and recreation," said California Office of Traffic Safety Director Rhonda Craft. "We also recognize the innovative and proactive steps San Francisco's Vision Zero has made in making safety preeminent in that future. Their efforts can stand as a model for others who are trying to make their communities safer for all roadway users."

San Francisco officials are also asking their state and federal counterparts to help in several areas, including cutting red tape for funding and making the environmental review process more efficient.

“Having these organizations and delegates here to learn about our Vision Zero efforts really underscores San Francisco’s recent work to create a culture of traffic safety,” said SFMTA Director of Transportation, Ed Reiskin. “While our goal of zero traffic fatalities by 2024 has a long time horizon, we are working quickly today to increase safety citywide while larger projects and initiatives are being developed.”

On Polk Street for example, where a larger safety project has been recently approved, the SFMTA has worked rapidly in the past few weeks to increase safety now. Work completed includes 25 intersections upgraded with bolder, zebra-striped crosswalks, a new southbound bike lane, and five high-injury intersections improved with painted safety zones that slow turning vehicles and increase pedestrian visibility.

By summer 2015, the SFMTA will also implement separate spaces for southbound bicyclists and right-turning vehicles to reduce collisions, leading pedestrian intervals which allow pedestrians a few seconds of a "WALK" signal before vehicles receive a green light at certain intersections, and red curb “daylighting” to increase pedestrian visibility at certain intersection approaches.

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Established by voter proposition in 1999, the SFMTA, a department of the City and County of San Francisco, oversees the Municipal Railway (Muni), parking and traffic, bicycling, walking and taxis. With five modes of transit, Muni has approximately 700,000 passenger boardings each day. Over 1 million people get around this city each day and rely on the SFMTA to ensure safe and reliable travel by transit, walking, bicycling, taxi and driving.

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