Safer Market Street: Vision Zero in Action

Vision Zero is San Francisco’s policy commitment to work toward eliminating all traffic-related fatalities by 2024. The frequency of traffic fatalities in the City of San Francisco constitutes a public health crisis. Over 70% of all severe and fatal collisions occur on just 12% of city streets. Market Street has four of the top 20 intersections for pedestrian injury collisions citywide, and the top two intersections for bicycle injury collisions. Safer Market Street is one of over 24 projects identified by the SFMTA to be expedited to address the recent spike in fatalities along high-injury corridors such as Market Street.

Overview

Safer Market Street helps achieve the Vision Zero goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities by improving safety across all modes of transportation. The extension of transit-only lanes, turn restrictions and supplemental safety treatments would mediate conflicts between people walking, biking and driving.

Timeline

Project Update

June 16, 2015 the SFMTA board unanimously approved the Safer Market Street project. The turn restrictions are complete and in effect as of Aug. 1. The team will be doing construction outreach, but anticipates minimal disruptions. The project will be complete by December of this year.

Features and Benefits

- **Turn Restrictions**
  - Diverts traffic off of Market Street to reduce conflicts between motorists and people walking and biking.

- **Extension of Transit-only Lanes**
  - In combination with the turn restrictions, the transit-only lanes will improve transit efficiency and reliability.

- **New Loading Zones**
  - New loading zones provide additional safe and dedicated loading areas off of Market Street for motorists.

- **Supplemental Safety Treatments**
  - Painted safety zones and a new boarding island on 8th Street creates a safer environment for all users.
Safer Market Street covers the segment of Market between 3rd - 8th streets and the upcoming turn restrictions in addition to the existing required turns limit private vehicle access. Transit, paratransit, taxis, bicycles and emergency and commercial vehicles would be exempt. All motorists are free to cross Market Street; the objective is to divert traffic off of Market to reduce conflicts between road users.

The extension of the existing transit-only lanes gives buses dedicated space increasing transit efficiency and improving service reliability. It additionally reduces problems caused by lane weaving.

The project team collaborated with hotels and merchants and as part of a pilot program is creating additional loading zones to encourage safe loading and unloading of private vehicles off of Market Street. New blue zones increase access for people with disabilities.