

**29 Sunset Improvement Project** SFMTA Board of Directors June 6, 2023

## **29 Sunset Improvement Project**

- Muni Forward project to improve:
  - transit travel time and reliability,
  - rider amenity, safety and accessibility,
  - and crosstown transit options
- ... on busy route (14,000 riders per day)



- Two-phase project, starting on west side
- "Paves the way" for 29 Rapid



## **About the 29 Sunset**

- Long crosstown route spanning south and west sides
- Serves large number of schools and universities
- Not a commute route – high ridership both ways, all day
- Issues with delay, crowding



### **Muni Forward**

- About 80 miles of reliability upgrades approved or built since 2014
- Ridership increased 14% on Rapid bus from 2016 to 2018
- Time savings of 9-20% or more in seven corridors
- Time savings on transit lanes implemented during the pandemic: 11-31%



### West Side Transportation Strategy

- 29 Sunset just one of many SFMTA projects on the West Side (map shows current transit projects)
- Lincoln Way Quick-Build Project pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements starting this summer





## **SFMTA Service Equity Strategy**

- 29 Sunset is SFMTA Service Equity Strategy route prioritized for improvements
- Serves four of nine Equity Strategy Neighborhoods
- Improvements on west side will benefit whole route; south side outreach to begin soon



Muni Service Equity Strategy neighborhoods are areas with high percentages of households with low incomes and people of color

# Reliability

- Recent on-time performance generally in 70-80% range, compared to ~80+% systemwide
- 20-30% of arrivals bunched or gapped



**Bunching** occurs if a vehicle arrives less than two minutes after a preceding vehicle, or less than one minute for routes with vehicles scheduled to arrive every five minutes or less. **Gapping** occurs if a vehicle arrives five or more minutes later than the scheduled headway.



BUNCH

#### **Recent Improvements**

- In 2014, "queue jump" transit-only left-turn added on Lincoln at 19th Avenue
- In 2015, route realigned from Geneva to Ocean to reduce travel time
- Extra "school tripper" service added in 2017 and 2021
- In 2022, frequencies improved to 9 mins



Photograph by Aaron Bialick

 Recently approved near- to far-side stop relocations and improvements on Sunset Blvd to be implemented along with repaving project through 2024

## **Community Engagement**

Project conceived in response to community organizing, including from students



San Francisco Youth Commission meeting

Lowell HS Instagram campaign



# **Community Engagement**

- 2019: Initial meetings
- Fall 2021: Community survey
- Spring 2022: Stakeholder listening tour
- Winter 2022-23: Proposals
  - Open houses
  - Q&A session
  - Stakeholder meetings
  - Merchant visits





# **Community Engagement Findings**

- Need for greater reliability and reduced travel times, crowding and pass-ups
- Concerns about stop removal, primarily on Sunset Blvd
- Desire for Rapid service





### **Proposals**

- Improved stops on Lincoln
- Bulbs on Lincoln, Holloway
- Transit signal priority upgrades
- Limited parking impacts



NOTE: Proposed changes at 25th/Geary are no longer being considered as part of this phase of the project, and will be further evaluated after the design for the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project is complete.

### **Proposals**

- Stop removals, primarily on Sunset where existing spacing well below recommended minimum
- Stops by Golden Gate Park relocated to signalized crosswalks/park entrances
- Stops moved near to far side at signalized intersections



NOTE: Proposed changes at 25th/Geary are no longer being considered as part of this phase of the project, and will be further evaluated after the design for the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project is complete.

### **Proposals**

 Sunset stop pattern reflects 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue (locations identical between Judah and Wawona)



### **Costs & Benefits**

- Estimated cost of ~\$9.5 million
- 15-20% time savings between Junipero Serra and Baker Beach (~15 minutes round trip)
- Delay reduction will also reduce long wait times and crowding





# **Today's Legislation**

- Stop removals and relocations
- Curb use changes, including red curbs where there would be bulbs (limited parking impacts)
- Bus zone lengthening
- Part-time bus zone (parking at other times) at 25<sup>th</sup> Ave & California



### **Next Steps**

- Today: Phase one legislation at SFMTA Board
- Summer: Begin phase two (south side) community planning process
- Starting later this year through 2024: Quick build implementation, including stop removals
- 2024: Anticipated phase two legislation to SFMTA Board
- 2025-2026: Anticipated remaining phase one construction
- 2027-2028: Anticipated phase two construction (quick build may occur earlier)

