

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, highquality 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%)

Collisions by Mode



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!

SFMTA.com/TransbayHoward TransbayHoward@SFMTA.com