

# Brotherhood-Alemany Quick-Build Project: Community Site Visit Summary

Summary of feedback received at the October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 community site visit.

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## Overview

The Brotherhood-Alemaný Quick-Build Project seeks to improve the complicated Brotherhood Way / Alemaný Boulevard / Sagamore Street / Orizaba Avenue / Bright Street intersection safer and easier to navigate for residents and travelers. The project will improve safety using proven methods that will:

- Making drivers more likely to stop for pedestrians at crosswalks;
- Lowering vehicle speeding;
- Reducing conflicts between turning and merging cars;
- Making it easier for people to access their homes, churches, bus stops, and parks;
- Improving connections for people riding bikes.

On Saturday, October 4, 2025, the SFMTA project team held a community site walk to learn about the needs of community members' needs and their perspectives on proposed the kinds of interventions that they believe would be most helpful. We heard feedback centered on three main themes:

- Cars often drive too fast in the area, especially on Sagamore Street going downhill (westbound). Drivers who speed are less likely to stop for pedestrians at crosswalks
- The signs, markings on the pavement, and traffic signals are not clear or enough. This causes drivers to make illegal turns, merge unsafe, not stop for pedestrians, and go the wrong way.
- It's hard for drivers to see pedestrians in some spots because of low lighting, poor sight lines, and glare, which can cause accidents.

Community members suggested different ways to improve safety, like adding speed bumps, raised crosswalks, curb and island extensions, putting up new signs and lane markings, and additional flashing lights to alert drivers to people crossing (flashing pedestrian beacons).

## Attendees

Thirteen people attended the community walk, including members of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association, residents who live along Orizaba Ave, and one resident that suffers from mobility issues caused by a crash at the intersection. Five attendees said they walk through the intersection often, seven drive, and one takes public transport. About half had previously spoken to the SFCTA regarding their *Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan*.



**SFMTA staff present to site visit attendees.**

## Existing Conditions

Many problems were pointed out at the Brotherhood/Alemanly intersection today:

- This intersection connects I-280 and main roads like 19th Ave, so drivers are used to going fast. This causes speeding and not giving way to pedestrians.
- The existing flashing lights at westbound Brotherhood Way don't work well. Drivers often ignore them, especially if cars are behind, because they're worried about being hit from behind.
- The "Y" for westbound traffic at Brotherhood Way/Alemanly Blvd is confusing and hard to notice with inadequate signage, which makes cars stop suddenly or merge dangerously.
- Cars going downhill on westbound Sagamore St toward Brotherhood Way and Alemanly Blvd often go above the speed limit.
- People often make illegal U-turns from eastbound Alemanly Blvd to northbound Orizaba Ave. Bumps in the road meant to stop this don't work anymore.
- The view of the crosswalk at Sagamore Street and Orizaba Ave is blocked, which can cause conflicts between people who walk and cars turning.
- Many pedestrians choose not to cross at Sagamore St/Alemanly Blvd at Orizaba Ave because it feels unsafe.
- Cyclists ride on sidewalks because the roads are crowded or there aren't enough bike lanes.
- Crosswalk paint is faded and needs to be redone.

- The street lighting is poor, especially on the south side of Alemany Blvd.

## Recommendations

Attendees expressed support for the following specific improvements at the Brotherhood/Alemany intersection:

- Add signs and painted lines on westbound Sagamore Street to show which lane to use, so drivers don't get confused at the Y-shaped part where Brotherhood Way and Alemany Blvd meet.
- Put up more speed limit signs or automated signs to slow down cars on westbound Sagamore Street.
- Build concrete curb extensions at the corner of Sagamore Street and Orizaba Avenue.
- Make bigger concrete islands and put up no U-turn or no left-turn signs at Sagamore Street and Alemany Blvd to stop illegal turns.
- Add speed cushions and raised crosswalks in different places, including at the entrance to Orizaba Avenue from westbound Sagamore Street.
- Install new flashing beacons (RRFBs) at the crossing of eastbound Alemany Blvd and westbound Sagamore Street.
- Use HAWK beacons and bright overhead lights, like in Berkeley, to help pedestrians cross safely.

## Next Steps

The project team will take this feedback and create different design ideas for the area during the rest of 2025. These designs will follow transportation safety best practices to fix speeding, confusing signs, and visibility problems. SFMTA will check the designs to make sure they don't block transit or emergency vehicles and match other plans.

In early 2026, the team will show these design ideas to the community and ask for more feedback. They plan to do this through meetings, going door-to-door, setting up at events, or holding online or in-person open houses. They will also work to coordinate with the SFCTA on the *Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan* during this time.