



GOLDEN GATE PARK

ACCESS & SAFETY PROGRAM

October 2021



SFMTA



**SAN FRANCISCO
RECREATION
& PARKS**

A photograph of a paved path in a park. In the foreground, a person wearing a bright yellow safety vest, a black helmet, and a face mask is riding a bicycle. To their right, a person wearing a grey vest, a grey cap, and a black face mask is walking. In the background, other people are visible, including a person pushing a stroller. A green sign on a pole reads "1000 FEET FROM LBY FOND". The path is lined with trees and a stop sign is visible in the distance.

Overview

- Background and Context
- Disability Community Feedback
- Project Proposals
- Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement
- Discussion & Input

Program Background & Context

75% of weekday traffic on JFK Drive pre-COVID was cut-through, with no park destination or purpose





Almost 7 million walking, rolling, biking and strolling trips have been made on car-free JFK since April 2020, a 36% daily increase in park visits

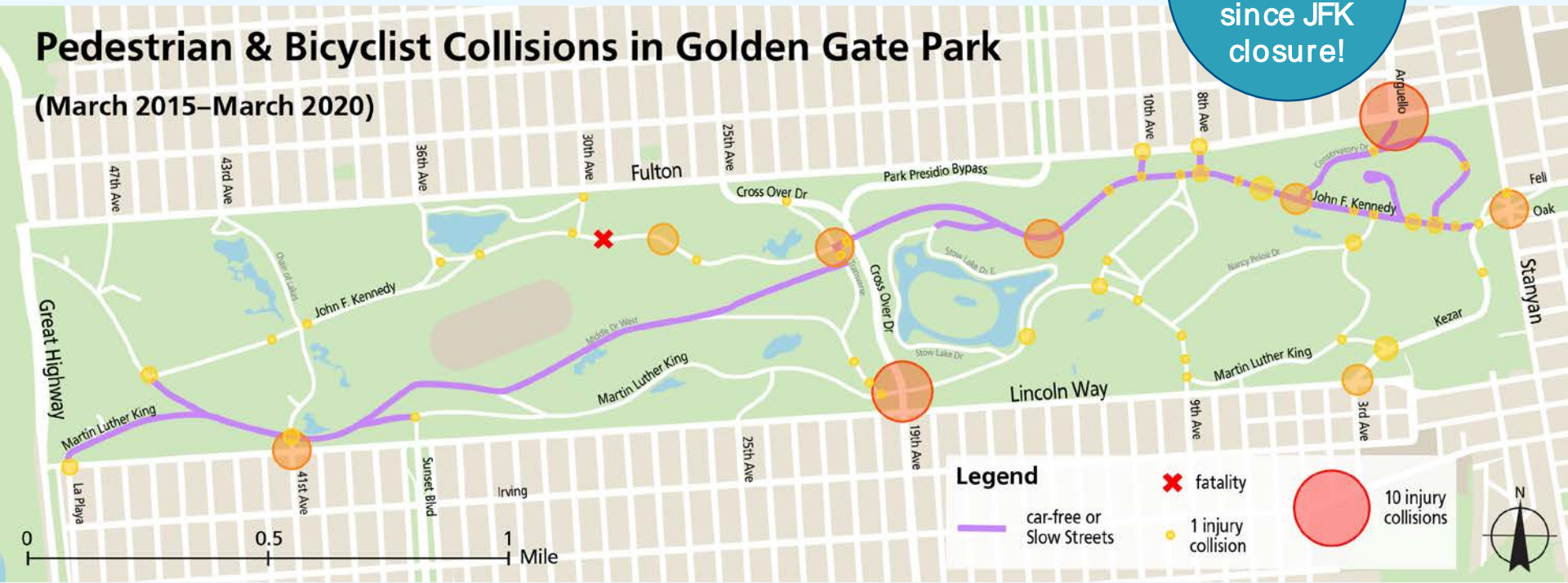
Golden Gate Park streets are designed for speed: On June 22nd, 2016, Heather Miller was killed on JFK Drive near 30th Ave by a person driving recklessly



Vision Zero aims for Zero Traffic Deaths in San Francisco

Zero injury collisions since JFK closure!

Pedestrian & Bicyclist Collisions in Golden Gate Park (March 2015–March 2020)



In the five years preceding COVID there were more than 100 injury collisions involving people walking and biking in Golden Gate Park. 38 occurred on the current car-free streets alignment; 26 at entries to car-free streets; 42 on other park streets

Program Scope

Decisions for Winter 2021/22:

- 1) **Closed street alignment**- which streets should be closed to cars in Golden Gate Park post-COVID?
- 2) **Supportive transportation policies and projects:** make it easier to get to the park by all modes

Decisions beyond Winter 2021/22:

- 1) **Broader capital improvements:** traffic signals, major park improvements that require civil infrastructure
- 2) **Bigger City operations:** Muni route frequencies, Music Concourse garage updates

Disability Community Feedback To Date



What we've heard so far from the Disability Community & Older Adults

- Previous approaches to disability community outreach by the city have felt ableist or ageist
- Some people with disabilities and older adults use their cars as mobility devices
- Extensive need for wayfinding signage to assist all parkgoers, including paratransit and personal pick up/drop off
- Some people with disabilities and older adults have expressed that the lack of cars helps them feel safer

What we've heard so far from the Disability Community & Older Adults

- The current park shuttle is not reliable or user-friendly and stops don't have seating or shelter
- Many people with disabilities are low income and have concerns about paying for parking
- Out of town park visitors with disabilities and families with children or older parents with mobility devices express difficulty finding parking that is close enough to park features



Access improvements in progress

Capital

- ✓ New, on-street ADA spaces
- ✓ Music Concourse drop-off/pick-up zones
- ✓ Conservatory Dr. West./ Dahlia Dell access – fully open as of October 1st
 - Bandshell Lot ADA parking – in design
 - MLK at Polo Fields circulation – in design

Operational

- ✓ Adaptive Bikeshare events – underway
 - Dynamic parking rates in the Music Concourse Garage
 - Golden Gate Park Shuttle – better routing & higher frequency

New accessible parking

- We understand that challenges with accessible parking have existed for a while and feel harder now with the closures
- We have already completed 5 new spaces on MLK and 3 on Nancy Pelosi
- 4 spaces in the Music Concourse Bandshell Parking lot are now free and available 7 days a week
- The Music Concourse Bandshell Parking lot which has been used primarily for tour buses will be converted to 19 free ADA spaces (more than the number of spaces lost on JFK)



Passenger loading zones

- Vehicles can always access the passenger loading zones in front of the DeYoung Museum and the Academy of Sciences
- 15-minute free drop-off and pick-up in the garage; we are exploring options to improve the accessibility of this option

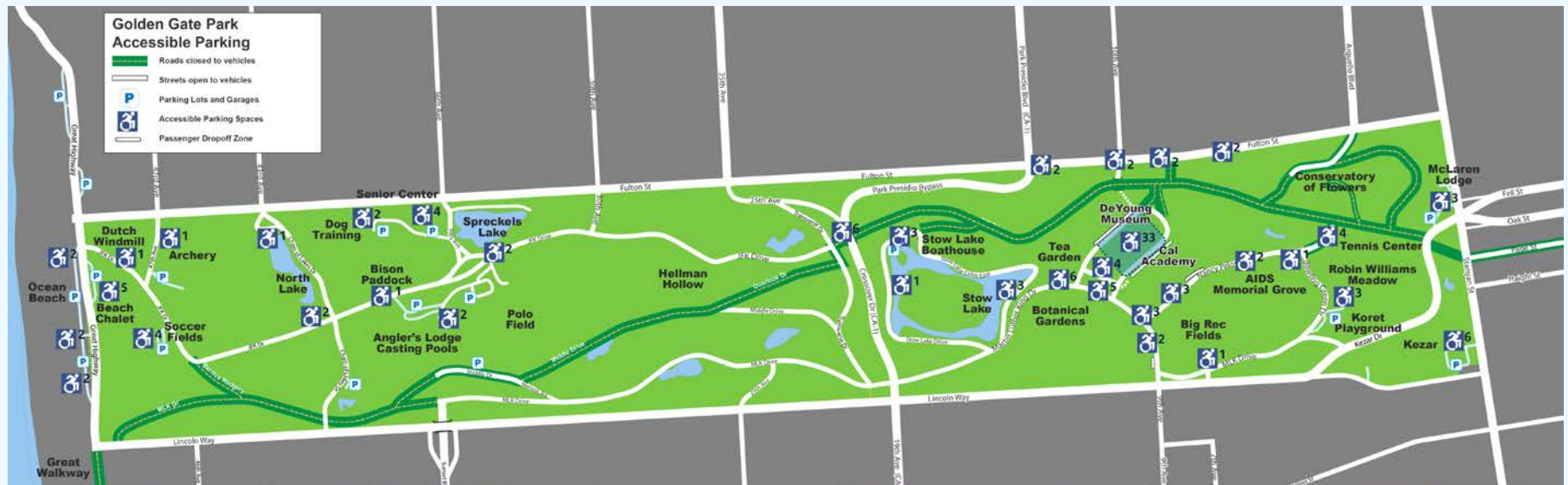


Getting to park destinations now

- Improved visual maps and text directions of how to find accessible parking and drop off zones will be posted on the Recreation and Parks and MTA websites
 - This image shows the section of the map focusing on the Music Concourse
 - The map has been updated to be easier to read
- Maps and updated text directions will be posted by the end of the month



Map of accessible parking and passenger loading zones





Example of text directions to accessible parking and passenger loading zones

Conservatory of Flowers, Dahlia Garden and Tennis Center

Four accessible spaces are available on Nancy Pelosi Drive in the block between Bowling Green Drive and John F. Kennedy Drive (JFK Drive). One space is located in front of the Tennis Center and three spaces are located at the end of the block near JFK Drive and are closest to the Conservatory of Flowers and Dahlia Dell

Directions from the north and east: Enter park on John F. Kennedy Drive from Stanyan Street or Oak Street. Head west and bend south as the road becomes Kezar Drive. Turn right on to Martin Luther King (MLK) Drive at a traffic signal. Turn right at the next intersection onto Bowling Green Drive. Follow the road including a bend to the left then right. Turn right at Nancy Pelosi Drive.

Directions from the south: Enter the park from 9th Avenue heading north. Turn right at the second street, Nancy Pelosi Drive. Follow Nancy Pelosi Drive for almost half a mile. Continue straight past the intersection with Bowling Green Drive.

Getting to park destinations using paratransit

- We have confirmed with Paratransit that their vehicles can enter the park at 8th Avenue for faster access to the Music Concourse (de Young & California Academy of Sciences)





Project Proposals



Project Proposal Considerations

Engineering Considerations:

- Legibility, safety, and engineering feasibility
- Addition of ADA parking - blue zones
- Maintain delivery access to park institutions
- Improve pick-up/ drop-off to park institutions

Park Experience Considerations:

- Minimizing disruption to current park use and visitor experience
- Prevent or minimize new cut-through traffic in the park

Existing Car-Free Route Option

East End

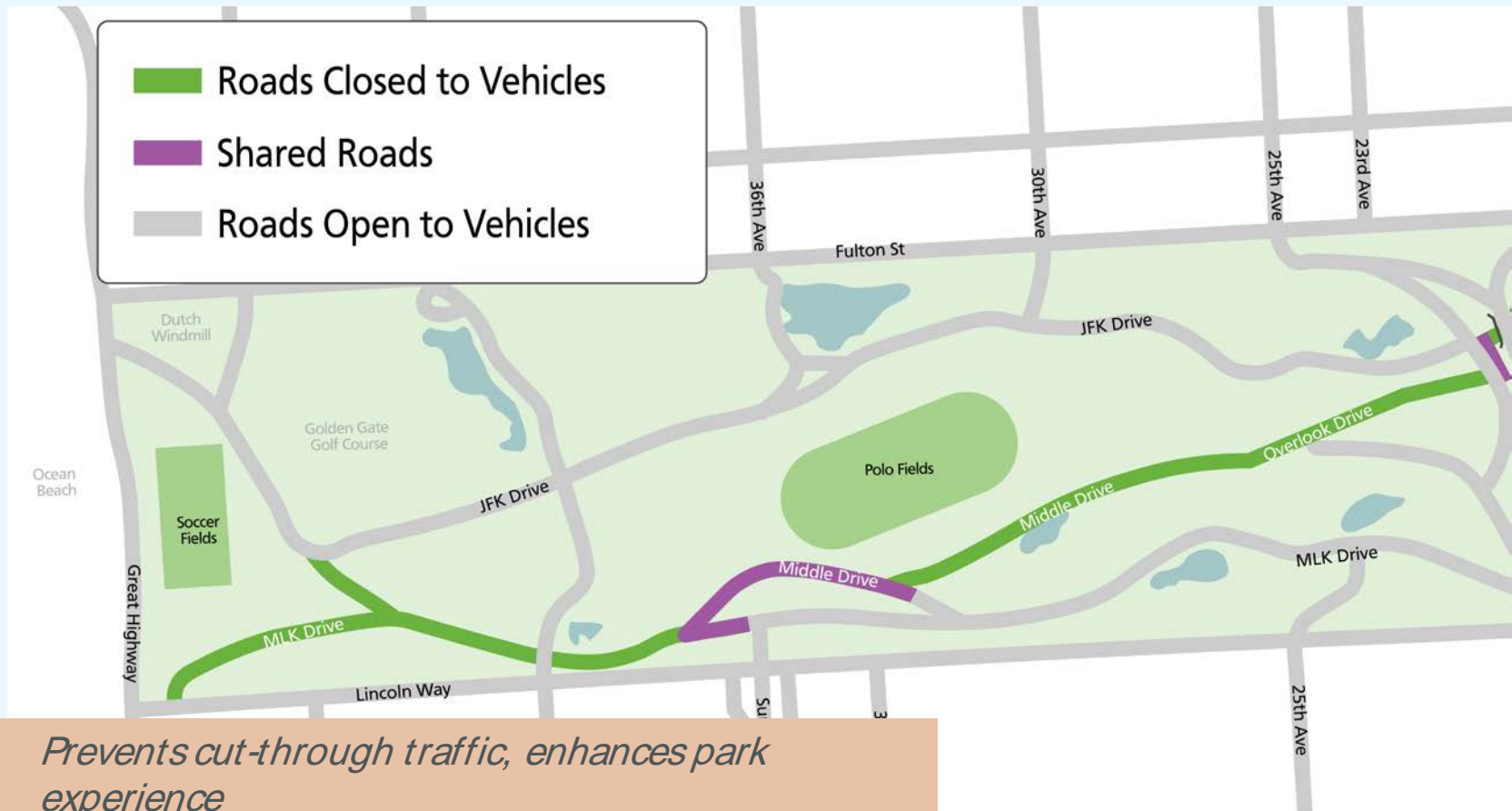


- *Prevents cut-through traffic, enhances park experience*
- *Zero injury collisions since April 2020*
- *More reliable service on the 44 O'Shaughnessy for Bayview & Excelsior*
- *Emergency vehicles can use car-free space*
- *Additional access solutions needed*

- Roads Closed to Vehicles
- Shared Roads
- Roads Open to Vehicles

Existing Car-Free Route Option

West End



- *Prevents cut-through traffic, enhances park experience*
- *Zero injury collisions since April 2020*
- *Emergency vehicles can use car-free space*
- *Additional access solutions needed*

Project Proposals

- Revamp the **park shuttle** to make it more useful for everyone
- Improve **parking, loading and ADA access** on Fulton Street from 6th Ave to 11th Ave
- Set up a new **taxi stand** inside the park
- **Improve signage** online and in-person to improve navigation
- Install additional bike racks for **dockless bike-share and scooter-share**
- Permit **docked bikeshare stations**
- Permit **pedicab service** within the park

Shuttle Program

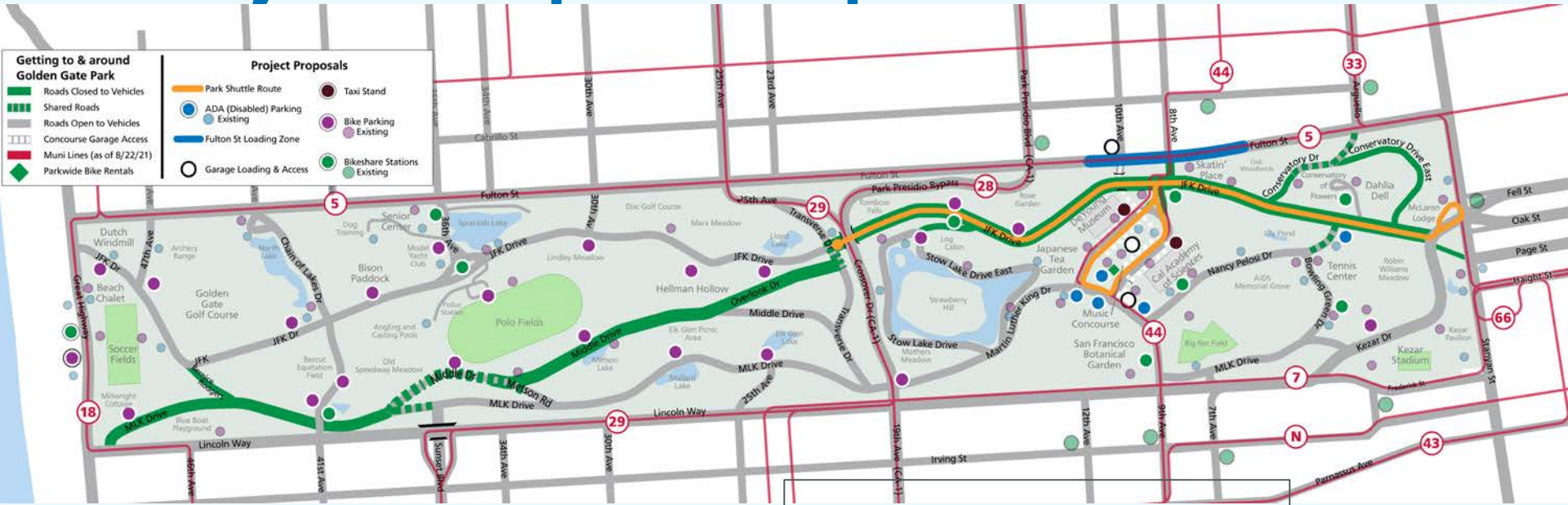
We understand the current Golden Gate Park Shuttle is not working well for park users and we are committed to improving it.

Through the Golden Gate Park Access and Safety Program we are proposing substantial improvement to the shuttle program to make it work better, including:



- In the **short-term** (winter 2021-2022):
 - MAINTAIN current shuttle route between McLaren Lodge and Transverse Drive
 - INCREASE weekend service from 2 to 3 shuttle vehicles
 - NEW weekday service with 2 shuttle vehicles
 - UPGRADE existing shuttle stops to be more accessible and visible
- In the **longer-term**:
 - OUTREACH to determine changes to route, frequency, and transit connections
 - PURSUE low floor shuttle vehicle procurement & new shuttle management

Project Proposal Options



Project Proposals

- Park Shuttle Route
- ADA (Disabled) Parking Existing
- Fulton St Loading Zone
- Garage Loading & Access
- Taxi Stand
- Bike Parking Existing
- Bikeshare Stations Existing

Music Concourse Close-up

Private Vehicle Access Loop Option

8th Ave to Transverse Dr



Proposal Outcomes:

- Returns ~16 ADA parking spaces on JFK
- Retains some of the safe streets benefits
- Creates delays for 5 Fulton and 44 O'Shaughnessy
- Reduces car-free experience west of 8th Ave
- Maintaining a wide car-free promenade, necessary for emergency vehicle access, precludes most parking

- Roads Closed to Vehicles
- Shared Roads
- Westbound Access Loop
- Roads Open to Vehicles

No Project Option



Proposal Outcomes:

- *All park streets re-opened to vehicle traffic*
- *All parking spaces on JFK available for use*
- *Induces substantial cut-through traffic activity*
- *Impacts to traffic safety and park experience*
- *Substantial delays for the 44 O'Shaughnessy*

Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

Key Stakeholders

- **Elected & Appointed Decisionmakers** – BoS, Rec Park Commission, SFMTA Board
- **GGP Institutions:** Cal Academy, Conservatory of Flowers, Fine Arts Museums, Dahlia Society, Lindy in the Park, Tennis Centers
- **Safe Streets Advocates:** WalkSF, SFBC, Vision Zero Coalition, KidSafe SF, Livable City, Church of 8 Wheels, Golden Gate Senior Services, Richmond District Family Transportation
- **Senior/ Disability Community:** Senior & Disability Action, The Arc, Access SFUSD, Age and Disability Friendly SF, Independent Living Resource Center, Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Mayor's Disability Council, Mayor's Office on Disability, Multimodal Accessibility Advisory Committee, Paratransit Coordinating Council

Key Stakeholders

- **Equity Priority Communities** - Chinatown TRIP, BVHP Parks Alliance, D10 Community Council, Excelsior Action Group, BMAGIC, MoMAGIC, Office of Racial Equity
- **Golden Gate Park Neighborhood Stakeholders** - HANC, 45th Ave Neighborhood Coalition, Cole Valley Improvement Association, Planning Association for the Richmond, Inner Sunset Merchants Association, Inner Sunset Park Neighbors
- **Citywide Organizations** – SF Parks Alliance, SF Travel, Youth Commission, Park & Rec Open Space Advisory Committee, Youth Transportation Advisory Board
- Beyond!

Thank you.

Feedback and contact us:

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[SFMTA.com/ AccessGGP](https://SFMTA.com/AccessGGP)

