

THE PEOPLE'S SLOW STREETS



FACT SHEET



THIS IS A VISION FOR CREATING A SAFE, SEAMLESS, AND CITY-WIDE NETWORK OF SLOW STREETS BY 2024.

We interact with our streets every day. They take up more space than all of our parks combined. Yet despite how often we use them, many people feel unsafe and unwelcome on our streets. By centering the needs of historically, marginalized communities, we can connect every corner of the city and make our streets work better for everyone.

Here are three ideas to accomplish our vision for Slow Streets.

1. BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Approve existing Slow Streets and install metrics and materials that improve safety by slowing cars and eliminating cut-through traffic.



2. EXPANDING WITH EQUITY

Invest 10M in Equity Priority Communities, and improve the on-boarding process to enable community-led pilot projects.

3. CONNECTING THE NETWORK

Connect Slow Streets across the city to create a seamless network of 100 miles of safe streets that is easy to identify and utilize.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are answers to some common questions about the plan



WHAT WOULD THE NETWORK CONNECT TO?

Schools, parks, commercial corridors & all the other amenities of daily life.

WHY IS THIS PLAN NEEDED NOW?

When the Mayor lifts pandemic emergency orders — which could happen at any time — the current Slow Streets program will end 120 days later if a permanent program isn't established.

WHAT MAKES A STREET A SLOW STREET?

It's a street that enables pedestrians to share the full width of the road, creating space to walk, play, and roll. Slow Streets are designed to slow vehicles and eliminate cut-through traffic, creating an inviting community space where people ages 8 to 80 can safely travel.

HOW COULD MY COMMUNITY BENEFIT?

Research shows that every neighborhood wants safer, slower, quieter streets. Slow Streets provide a safe place for outdoor exercise and recreation, human-centered pathways to amenities and other neighborhoods, community gathering spaces for meeting with friends and neighbors. The plan asks SFMTA to allow communities to lead the way in defining their own needs and opportunities.

HOW IS THIS PLAN RELATED TO THE EXISTING SLOW-STREETS PROGRAM?

These recommendations give communities more opportunities to decide how their streets should be used, and gives the SFMTA more tools in order to ensure that a street is used correctly. We seek to affirm and expand the work that SFMTA is already doing on Slow Streets.

HOW DOES THE PEOPLE'S SLOW STREETS PLAN CENTER EQUITY?

Research shows that every neighborhood wants safer, slower, quieter streets. Slow Streets provide a safe place for outdoor exercise and recreation, human-centered pathways to amenities and other neighborhoods, community gathering spaces for meeting with friends and neighbors. The plan asks SFMTA to allow communities to lead the way in defining their own needs and opportunities.

HOW WILL THIS PLAN AFFECT PARKING AND TRAFFIC?

Slow Streets have little to no impact on traffic on neighboring streets, as has been shown by several studies. Additionally, parking is unchanged by Slow Streets, ensuring that everything from deliveries to daycare pickups is still possible.

HOW MANY SLOW STREETS ARE THERE NOW? HOW MANY ARE YOU PROPOSING?

There are currently 45(?) miles of Slow Streets, and this initiative aims to double the number of Slow Streets to create a 100-mile network of streets that feel safe for anyone ages 8 to 80. These would also include protected bike paths and other pedestrianized streets like the JFK Promenade.



FAQ CONTINUED

Here are answers to some common questions about the plan



HOW WILL THIS PLAN IMPACT LOCAL BUSINESSES?

This plan would help local businesses by making it easier for San Franciscans to reach their commercial corridors without a car, relieving traffic for those who do need to drive. Additionally, studies have shown that encouraging active transportation leads to an increase in business.

I HAVE TO DRIVE. WHY WOULD I WANT TO SUPPORT THIS PLAN?

Many of us will continue to need to drive regardless of how successful Slow Streets are—including many who helped create this plan! Slow Streets don't affect the many thoroughfares that help drivers navigate this city. They focus on existing low-traffic streets, seeking to find alternate routes that will relieve congestion by allowing pedestrians and cyclists to avoid the crucial arteries that drivers need.

WHAT ABOUT NEIGHBORHOODS THAT DON'T WANT SLOW STREETS?

In any community facing potential changes, there might be disagreement, and under this plan SFMTA would work early with community members to seek common ground and pilot a variety of potential solutions. If a consensus emerges that residents don't want a Slow Street, SFMTA must seek alternate routes.

THE SLOW STREET IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD ISN'T WORKING. WHY WOULD I WANT MORE?

Individually, even the best Slow Streets are only a small part of a thriving community, and there are plenty of Slow Streets that have struggled. This plan creates a more robust process for iterating Slow Streets to guide them to success. Together, a connected network is stronger than the sum of its parts, linking communities from the Bayview to the beach, from Chinatown to City College, and everywhere in between. The strength of this plan is how it ties the city together.

WHAT MAKES A SLOW STREET SUCCESSFUL?

First and foremost, a Slow Street should feel safe, connect to a variety of amenities, and encourage a diversity of use. This is made possible by low speeds (under 15mph) and low volume (under 1500 cars per day), which is accomplished through street design changes that slow cars and eliminate cut through traffic.

THE CITY IS STILL RECOVERING FROM COVID. WHY FOCUS ON THIS?

By making amenities such as business districts more accessible to people walking, biking, or rolling, Slow Streets increase foot traffic and contribute to increases in business at brick-and-mortar establishments — a key component of economic recovery. The plan also creates flexibility for uses that benefit recovery, from open-air sites to receive services to local vendor markets that can help launch small businesses.

