

Coming Together
Collaborative Approach for Safe Streets
Tenderloin Traffic Safety Task Force

Thursday, June 18, 2020

@walksf



walksf.org



Thanks to UC Berkeley SafeTREC and California Walks

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Berkeley SafeTREC
SAFE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER





Who is Walk SF?

Since 1998, **Walk San Francisco** has been the only pedestrian advocacy organization working to make walking in San Francisco safe and enjoyable.



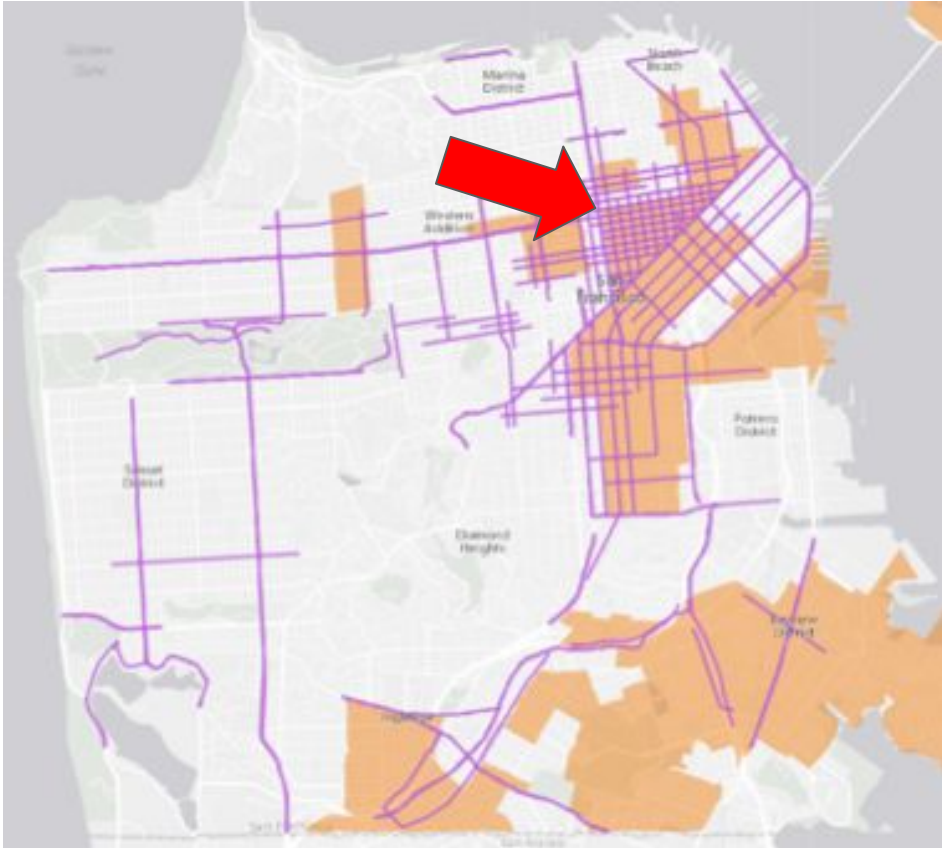




Safe Systems Approach



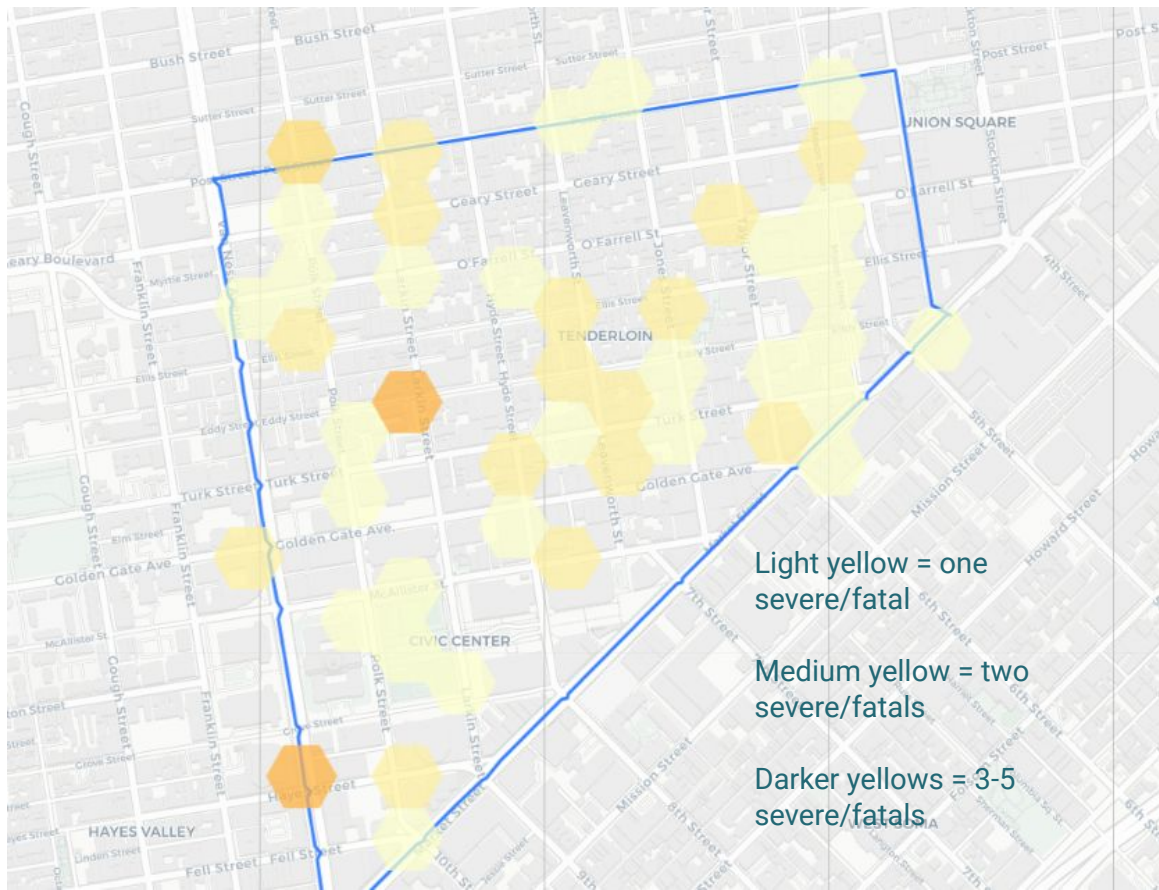




Low-income, immigrants,
communities of color, older adults
& people with disabilities:

**2X more likely
to live on
High-Injury Corridors**

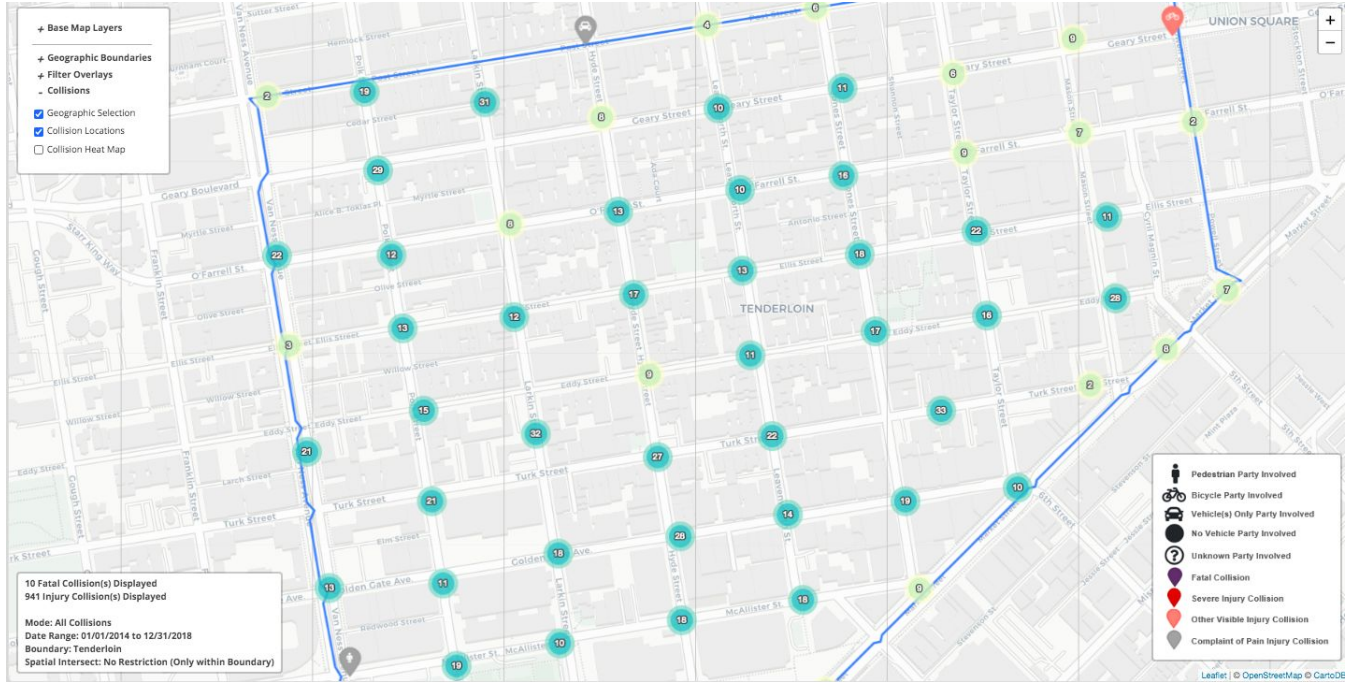




Severe and fatal crashes over past five years

Every year people die in Tenderloin traffic crashes





Injury crashes per intersection over the past five years

Every year people die in Tenderloin crashes







The Tenderloin is one of the most diverse and dense concentrations of residents, businesses, and community organizations in San Francisco





Youth population 3x
higher than city
average

Senior population 4x
higher than city
average





Tenderloin is 21% more diverse than other neighborhoods





Median income 70% lower

Violent crime 2.6x higher

311 requests 9.1x higher

1/3 of city's single room
occupancy (SRO) housing
stock within ¼ mile





Front-line of our city's
homeless crisis

Narrow sidewalks

Limited public space



Evan Oravec - Central City SRO Collaborative

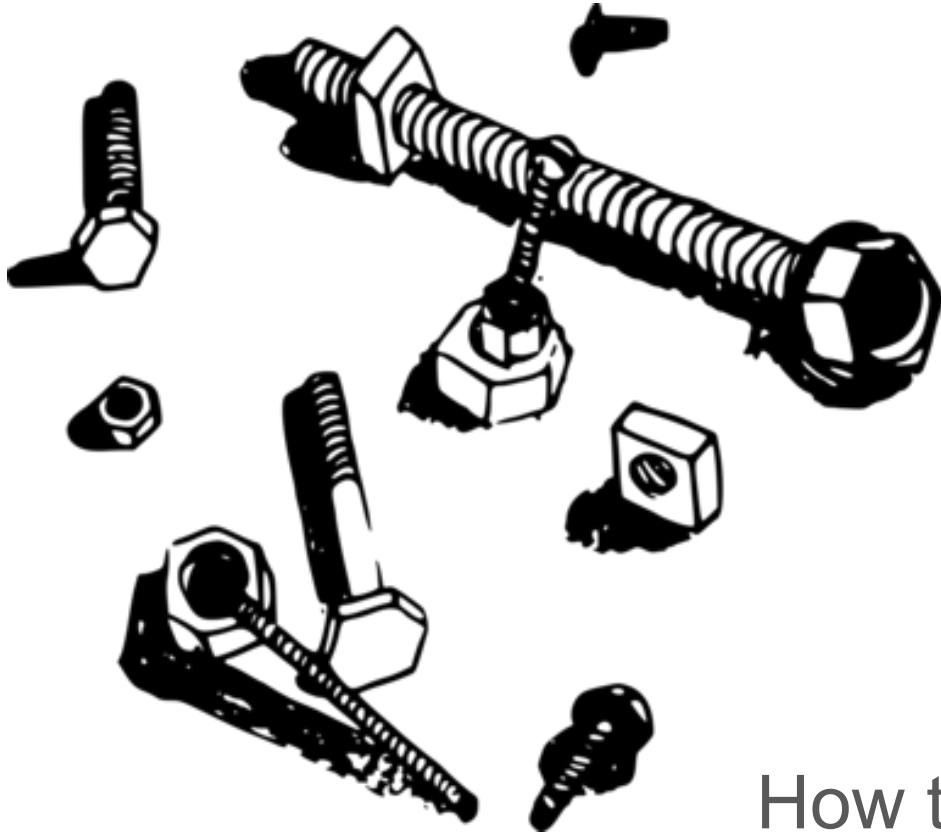
- The mission of the Central City S.R.O. Collaborative is to build community morale and to enhance the quality of life for low-income residents currently occupying Single-Room Occupancy hotels in the Tenderloin and South of Market (SoMA) neighborhoods
 - Improve conditions *within* their hotels and *around the community*
- My role as Community Organizer
 - Tenant work
 - Community advocacy



History of the Task Force

- The Task Force came together organically out of need
 - Several organizations had been working/concerned about unsafe streets, and were brought together to combine efforts
 - Responding to disproportionate number of traffic fatalities in the neighborhood
 - People feeling unsafe walking around





How the Task Force works

Structure

- Monthly meetings
 - SFMTA participation every other meeting
- Facilitator
 - Rotating facilitation/co facilitation model
 - 6 months, split responsibilities
- Structure challenges
 - Growing pains, leadership time commitment



Doing the Work

Milestones

First SFMTA Letter Progress being made



October 24, 2018

Ed Reiskin
Director
SF Municipal Transportation Agency
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

To Director Reiskin:

Over the past summer, the Tenderloin and our residents have suffered an unprecedented spike in serious and fatal traffic collisions. Gregory Blackman and Edison Rivera were hit and killed while biking and walking and just last week, another pedestrian was critically injured within this 50 square block neighborhood.

Sadly, these occurrences are nothing new. Every single street in the Tenderloin is a known High-Injury Corridor. While new investment through the Turk and Taylor Street Safety Projects are beginning to transform our streets, the timeline and scope of these projects do not adequately address the crisis-level traffic safety issues faced by our Tenderloin residents, workers and visitors every day.

As neighborhood and citywide advocates and service providers, the safety of seniors, children and other vulnerable populations who live in the Tenderloin is our priority for your agency's investment in the area. **Due to our concerns about existing projects addressing these immediate issues on an appropriate and urgent timeline, we are demanding to see new investment and near-term solutions in line with the following:**

- Neighborhood-wide, near-term improvements to reduce speed of vehicles and prioritize people walking and biking, especially at intersections.
- A near term project and full road diet for Taylor Street ahead of the Safer Taylor capital project due to break ground in 2021.
- A Tenderloin task force led by the SFMTA to identify, fund and implement the next three Vision Zero corridor projects in the neighborhood as well as the two previous asks.

We look forward to your response and working together to address the Tenderloin's immediate and long-term traffic safety needs.



Then to Now

- 2019 Work

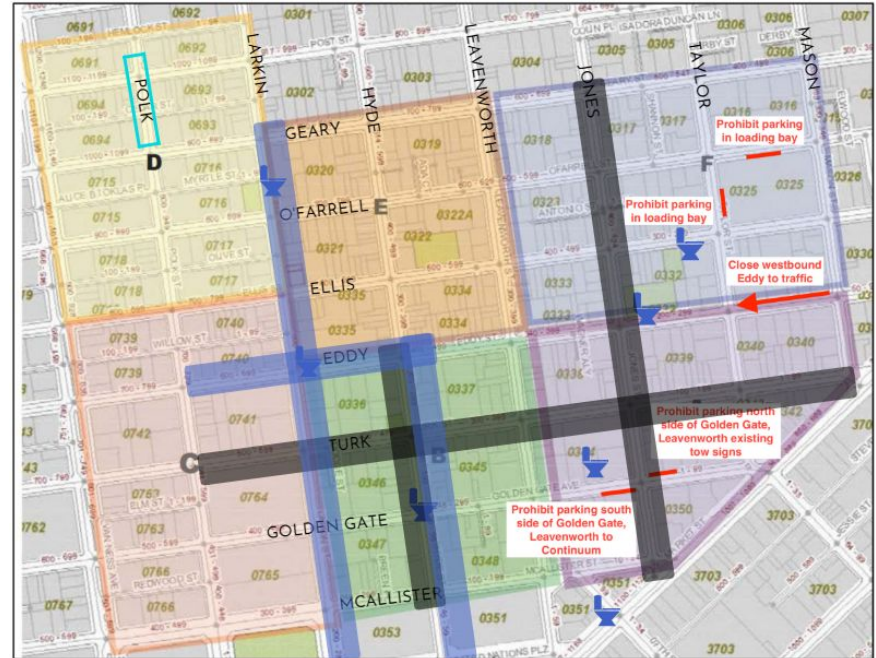


"Seniors crossing, children at play." These were the signs held by Tenderloin residents rallying for traffic safety, photographed on the front page of a 1988 issue of the Tenderloin Times. Unfortunately, their actions then and our actions now have not been enough to curb the rampant traffic violence that continues to take an outside toll on residents of the Tenderloin, one of our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

This year continues to be one of the most deadly for people walking in the Tenderloin in recent memory. In September, a 12-year-old boy was hit and nearly killed at an intersection which just six months ago claimed another's life. Following the first fatality, the SFMTA built quick, community-supported improvements. Unfortunately, these did little, if anything, to prevent another life forever altered. These are our most vulnerable residents, seniors and children, who are being impacted and we are failing to keep them safe as they simply try to get where they are going.

We are a coalition of Tenderloin and citywide advocates and service providers – including many residents. We have been meeting for just over a year as a Tenderloin Traffic Safety Task Force. A similar letter to Director Reiskin last October 2018 was the beginning of a concerted effort by SFMTA in 2019 to bring some "quick-build" improvements to the neighborhood – specifically new four-way pedestrian scrambles at ten intersections and the quick-build implementation of the lane reduction in advance of the Safer Taylor Street capital project.

COVID Response Work





Community Planning in the Tenderloin

Jennifer Molina, SFMTA

June 18, 2019

CA Walks and UC Berkeley SafeTREC

Past SFMTA Projects in Tenderloin

- Daylighting
- Golden Gate Avenue
- Turk Street
- **Safer Taylor Street**
- 27 Bryant Transit Improvements
- Eddy Two-way Conversion
- Lower Polk Street
- Van Ness and Geary Improvements

Shifting approach

Full-time community planner, co-lead Task Force

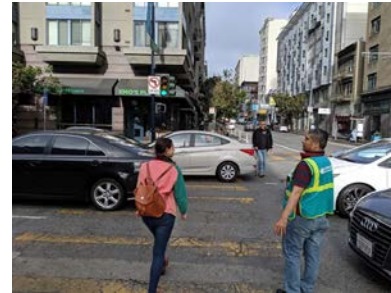
- **Listen** to and respond to mobility issues/concerns
- **Learn** how best to engage with community
- **Build** relationship & form partnerships
 - Community groups/org
 - Other city agencies working in the neighborhood
- SFMTA Commitments (e.g. Gap Analysis, Quick-Builds, Capital Improvement Plan, Neighborhood Strategy)

Establishing Trust & Relationships

- Recognize City's racist history & role local government plays in rectifying transportation inequities
- Show-up, listen, follow community's lead
- Less about Project X, more about serving neighborhood



Chat w/ an engineer - TNDC



Safe Passage AM Shift - Turk @ Jones

Funding

- Prop B - \$200,000
 - Early Planning efforts
 - High-Injury Network Gap Analysis/Data Collection
- Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant - \$300,000
 - Outreach for 2020 Quick Builds
 - Neighborhood Strategy
 - Includes paying CBOs & community members to lead and support the work

Challenges

- SFMTA capacity to deliver changes
- Inclusive community planning (needed, but takes time and resources!)
- Commitments and coordination from multiple City agencies
- Humanitarian crisis in the Tenderloin

Next Steps

- Covid-19 Emergency Response in TL
 - Create a network of sidewalk extensions (parking or travel lane closures)
 - Support emerging needs
- Continue neighborhood engagement
- Revisit 2020 Commitments (Quick Builds, Neighborhood Strategy)

Questions?





THANK YOU!

Stay connected

Jodie Medeiros : Walk SF
jodie@walksf.org

Evan Oravec : Central City SRO
evan@theclinic.org

Jennifer Molina : SFMTA
jennifer.molina@sfmta.com