

Daniel Lurie, Mayor



Kat Anderson, Commission President  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** January 16, 2025

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager  
Stacy Bradley, Director of Capital and Planning Division

**From:** J. Marien Coss, Project Manager

**Subject:** Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project

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## Agenda Wording

Discussion and possible action to approve a conceptual design for the Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Project. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

## Strategic Plan

**Strategy 1: Inspire Public Space:** Keep today's parks safe, clean, and fun; promote our parks' historic and cultural heritage; and build the great parks of tomorrow.

**Objective 1.1:** Develop more open space and improve access to existing facilities to address population growth in high-need areas and emerging neighborhoods

**Objective: 1.2.:** Strengthen the quality of existing parks and facilities.

**Strategy 2: Inspire Play:** Promote active living, well-being and community for San Francisco's diverse and growing population.

**Objective 2.2** Strengthen and promote the safety, health and well-being of San Francisco's youth and seniors.

**Strategy 3: Inspire Investment**

**Objective 3.1:** Increase public investment to better align with infrastructure needs and service expectations.

## Background Information

Visitacion Avenue runs through the Visitacion Valley neighborhood and is located in the southeastern quadrant of San Francisco, and Supervisorial District 10. The Visitacion Avenue

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project aims to enhance safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists on the segment of Visitacion Avenue within McLaren Park between Mansell Street and Hahn Street.

This road segment serves students and families who attend the SFUSD Visitacion Valley Middle School, which serves grades 6-8. In addition, the SF Muni bus #56-Rutland stops northbound directly at Visitacion Valley Middle School.

The project was a strong candidate for several grant programs targeting economically underserved communities. Project planning efforts were funded by a Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant received in partnership with SFMTA. It evaluated connections between the Visitacion Avenue and Sunnydale neighborhoods and McLaren Park. The project was awarded a second Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant for capital improvements to provide new bicycle and pedestrian access to areas located within a Priority Conservation Area where Visitacion Avenue is located. Additionally, the project was awarded two grants from the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program in coordination with Sunnydale HOPE SF to support pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements, enhancing access to new public housing developments.

## **Commission Approvals**

In December 2020 the Recreation and Park Commission authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Commission concerning the administration of a \$194,000 Project Conservation Area grant for the McLaren Park and Neighborhood Connections Project; and recommended that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to accept and expend the grant. (Resolution #2012-003) The Board of Supervisors approved the accept and expend legislation in March 2023.

## **Community Engagement**

Community engagement has been integral to the planning and development of this project. Building on the 2018 McLaren Park Vision Plan, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (SFRPD) has conducted extensive outreach to ensure that community priorities are addressed, including:

- Engaging hundreds of local stakeholders through surveys, public meetings, and outreach events, associated with overall connectivity planning throughout John McLaren Park.
- Partnering with neighborhood organizations like the Excelsior Collaborative, McLaren Collaborative, Mercy Housing Sunnydale Residents, and other local groups.
- Coordinating with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) for alignment with the agency's Community Based and Active Transportation Plans.
- Coordinating with Sunnydale-HOPE SF development partners to ensure the project aligns with new transportation infrastructure being developed to the south of the project area.

- Conducting a site walk for Sunnydale residents, and two site walks for the public, and holding multiple virtual community meetings to gather input on design options and safety features for the project.

Community engagement revealed the importance of safer streets to strengthen access between the park and neighborhood, meeting the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) grant's goal of supporting underserved communities.

### Proposed Improvements

The Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project aims to enhance pedestrian and bicycle accessibility along the Visitacion Avenue corridor, linking McLaren Park with the surrounding neighborhoods of Sunnydale and Visitacion Valley. This project will improve pedestrian safety, calm vehicular traffic, increase bicycle infrastructure, and improve connections to Visitacion Valley Middle School and recreational areas.

The scope of the renovation is to install:

- New sidewalks and pedestrian path lighting to connect existing sidewalks on Visitacion Avenue from Mansell Street and Hahn Street
- New crosswalk near Leland Avenue connection and improve the crosswalk at Visitacion Avenue Middle School
- Two-way bicycle from Mansell St to Leland Avenue crosswalk the transitions to multi-use paved path that will eventually connect to Sunnydale Avenue.
- Site specific traffic calming interventions, which will likely include a combination of narrowing road, speed tables, raised medians, flashing beacons.
- Maintain the public parking along the southern edge of Visitacion Avenue corridor, in high demand areas where park amenities are located

### Sources & Uses of Funding

#### Sources

|  |       |              |
|--|-------|--------------|
| Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Grant                         | \$    | 2,505,299    |
| Priority Conservation Area (PCA)   | \$    | 159,520      |
| Development Impact Fees  | \$    | 162,999      |
| Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) <i>pending approvals</i>                   | \$    | 850,000      |
| Priority Conservation Area (PCA) <i>pending approvals</i>                | \$    | 750,000      |
| 2020 Health and Recovery Bond ( <i>committed &amp; potential funds</i> ) | \$    | 1,222,182    |
|  | Total | \$ 5,650,000 |

#### Uses

|                                   |       |              |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Hard Costs                        | \$    | 3,450,000    |
| Soft Costs                        | \$    | 1,700,000    |
| Project Reserve and Contingencies | \$    | 500,000      |
|                                   | Total | \$ 5,650,000 |

## **Project Schedule**

Planning Phase: Fall 2023 – Fall 2024  
Design Phase: January 2025 – October 2025  
Bid Phase: Fall 2025 – Spring 2026  
Construction Phase: Summer 2026 – Fall 2027

## **Environmental Review**

The project received Categorical Exemption (Cat Ex) under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on December 18, 2024, under CEQA Case Number 2024-010358ENV.

## **Staff Recommendation.**

Staff recommends approving a conceptual design for the Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Project. Approval of this proposed action by the Commission is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

## **Supported By**

Supervisor Shamann Walton  
Excelsior Collaborative  
Growing Outside and Learning (GOAL)  
McLaren Collaborative  
Mercy Housing Sunnydale Residents  
Portola Neighborhood Association  
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition  
Bike Advisory Committee (BAC)  
SF Urban Riders  
Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance  
KidSafeSF  
Gleneagles Golf Course  
Walk SF  
San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)  
San Francisco Recreation and Park Department management and staff

## **Opposed By**

None known

## **Attachments**

Attachment A. Concept Design Package