



SFMTA

West Portal Transit Delay Reduction Pilot



March 4, 2020

Goal

To reduce multi-modal conflicts that contribute to train delay and safety challenges



Project Background

- Approved by SFMTA Board on May 21, 2019
- Implemented in June 2019
- 6-month evaluation period following implementation

Project Background

- Critical point in the Muni Metro network
- Three light-rail lines (K/L/M) merge/diverge
- Switch from manual to automated modes
- 80,000 daily riders travel through West Portal
- Multi-modal conflicts: trains/pedestrians/cars
- Delays can impact entire Muni Metro network

Built on Recent Initiatives

Parking Control Officers are stationed at West Portal Station during AM and PM peak periods to support train movements



Project Refinements

During the Project implementation, refinements were made based on stakeholder comments or staff observations

- **Ulloa Street** – double yellow center line was painted on the segment between West Portal Ave and Claremont Blvd, adjacent to new bus zone
- **Ulloa Street** – passenger loading zone signs were revised for clarity
- **West Portal/Vicente** – northbound lane restrictions were not implemented

Project Evaluation

Evaluation Plan analyzed following metrics and coordinate with stakeholders

- **Light-rail vehicle delays** entering/exiting West Portal Station
- **Traffic volume** counts at West Portal/Ulloa, Lenox/Ulloa, Claremont/Ulloa, West Portal/Vicente, and Vicente/Wawona-Madrone
- **Collisions** within project area
- **Parking occupancy** on West Portal Avenue
- **Qualitative input** from train operators and inspectors
- **Qualitative input** from stakeholders
- **Qualitative observations** of interaction between Muni and private vehicles

Results

Light Rail Vehicle Delays - Surface

- L Taraval entering/exiting the station experienced a decrease in travel time
- K/M entering/exiting the station stayed consistent travel time, or slight reduction

Light Rail Vehicle Delays - Subway

- Travel times within the subway experienced variability which is consistent with general subway performance
- The SFMTA is working on an array of projects to address performance variability both in the subway and on the surface

Results

Light Rail Vehicle Queuing

- Decrease in frequency at which two or more trains were queued on West Portal Ave
- Small changes on Ulloa St, but saw best queuing performance when PCOs were present

Parking Occupancy

- Changes to parking occupancy during pilot hours was less than 5% metric defined in the Evaluation Plan (measured by meter payment)

Results

Collisions

- There were no recorded collisions during the evaluation period that appear to be related to project changes

Sales Tax Data

- Sales tax data is reported by the San Francisco Controller's Office and is not yet reported for 2019.

Draft Recommended Changes

Reinstate the northbound left turn movement on West Portal Ave at Ulloa St

- Without further upgrades, the restriction appeared to have minimal impact on transit travel time

Consider prohibiting the southbound left turn movement from Lenox Way to Ulloa St at all times

- Reduces friction between turning vehicles and trains

Draft Recommended Elements to Maintain

Maintain all other Project elements

- Relocation of the 48 Quintara bus zone removed many pedestrians from crossing in front of the L Taraval
- Restricting the northbound U-turn removed an undesirable and difficult turn
- Transit lane prioritizes transit while still allowing drivers to enter for making turns or passing an obstruction

Future of West Portal

- Project resulted in some improvement, but delay and variability remain issues
- SFMTA will continue to evaluate West Portal together with the full Muni Metro system to identify potential improvement in collaboration with neighborhood stakeholders

Next Steps

- Continued outreach and discussion with stakeholder on current project elements
- Present findings and recommendations to the SFMTA Board for their review (anticipate April 2020)
- Continue planning for improvements to Muni Metro system and West Portal to address sources of delay

Thank you!

www.sfmta.com/westportalpilot

Tony Henderson
tony.henderson@sfmta.com
415.646.2751