

# Jones Street Physical Distancing Lanes (COVID-19 Project)

## One-Month Evaluation Summary

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Breed announced the release of the Tenderloin Neighborhood Safety Assessment and Plan for COVID-19 – a report of the current conditions in the Tenderloin and a block-by-block plan for addressing those challenges. The Tenderloin Plan is part of the City’s broader efforts to address the public health crisis in San Francisco and among people who are experiencing homelessness. The disproportionate impacts from COVID-19 to the Tenderloin are part of the broader intersectional public health issues that the Tenderloin faces, and the SFMTA is working with the community to be part of the solution.

As a result of these efforts, the SFMTA installed physical distancing lanes on Jones street from O’Farrell Street to Golden Gate Avenue to expand walking space to alleviate overcrowding sidewalks. This change included converting one car travel lane and parking to add the additional walking space. The walkway and vehicle lanes are separated by concrete barriers or “k-rail” and flex posts. These roadway changes were installed during the first week of August 2020 and are expected to remain during the course of the public health order.

### Evaluation Findings



Overall, the average and 85th percentile speeds on Jones Street have remained similar prior to the project being installed. Vehicle travel time increased on average by 22 percent.



Observations showed up to 35 people over a two-hour period walking in the the new physical distancing lanes and hatched area besides to the k-rail, equating to approximately 15 percent of the people walking on Jones Street.



The number of vehicles traveling on Jones Street and Hyde Street dropped by 7 percent and 15 percent, respectively. (Hyde Street was also measured in order to understand if diversion was happening as a result of the roadway changes.)



Pedestrian counts have remained the same pre- and post-implementation at Jones/Eddy and Jones/Golden Gate

### Date of Completion

- Early August 2020

### Project Extents

- Jones Street from O’Farrell Street to Golden Gate Avenue

### Data Collection Time Frames

- Pre-project data collection: late July 2020
- Post-project data collection: late September 2020

### Project Elements

- Additional pedestrian walking space for physical distancing
- Road diet (three lanes to two)

### Key Evaluation Metrics

- Pedestrian counts
- Physical distancing behavior
- Vehicle speed and travel time
- Vehicle travel time
- Parking/Loading behavior
- Vehicle queuing

## Lessons Learned

- » With the installation of the Jones Street Physical Distancing Lane Project, vehicle queuing was contained within the Golden Gate to Turk street block of Jones Street. During pre-COVID conditions vehicles backed up past Ellis Street on Jones.
- » Vehicles are parking in the tow-away lane during the peak period for longer periods than those parking and loading on the east-side against the k-rail, however, vehicles are moving, with no sign of congestion
- » As sidewalks become more or less crowded during the day, the physical distancing lane provides an alternative path for people walking on Jones Street.
- » The SFMTA will continue to work with parking enforcement and emergency response agencies to mitigate challenges and constraints with the project.



## Next Steps

The project team will continue to monitor the Jones Street Physical Distancing Lane Project through the three-month and six-month evaluation process, as well as through input from the community. For more information about ongoing SFMTA efforts happening in the Tenderloin, please visit: [SFMTA.com/TLStreets](https://www.sfmta.com/TLStreets)