



SFMTA

Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety Project Community-Based Transportation Plan

SFMTA Board Meeting
October 19, 2021

Project Overview

Funded by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) Grant Program and authorized by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.

The CBTP program goals include:

Improve access and mobility for low-income communities

Engage residents and community organizations in conducting analysis and shaping the recommendations

The Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety CBTP represents a collaborative planning process with community groups and other stakeholders to identify pedestrian challenges and solutions on **Lake Merced Boulevard between Skyline Boulevard and John Muir Drive.**



Project Process

Beginning in 2020, the project began with a review of past plans and a site survey of the existing conditions including pedestrian safety/access (including to transit stops) and issues/needs.

A community Steering Committee was formed in late 2020 and met monthly from January to June 2021 to:

- Establish baseline conditions
- Perform a community safety needs assessment
- Develop a prioritized list of pedestrian safety improvements for Lake Merced Boulevard

In June 2021, community outreach was conducted in the form of a virtual open house and public survey.



Coordinating with Other Planning Efforts

The Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety Project process included coordination and review of nearby improvement efforts listed below.

- [Lake Merced Bikeway Feasibility Study](#) goals include addressing crowding on the multi-use pathway through widening or on-street bikeways.
- [Lake Merced 2012 Bond Project](#) (Lake Merced Improvement Project) consists of improvements around the entire lake that include trail surface repair, pedestrian and bicycle signage, stencils, tree maintenance and more.
- [Parkmerced Development](#) is a multi-family development project initiated in 2015 to create a pedestrian-friendly community with approximately 10,000 apartments, a retail corridor and parks.
- [Great Highway Pilot Project](#) and [Great Highway and Outer Sunset Traffic Management Project](#) began in April 2020 as part of the city's COVID-19 response efforts to temporarily repurpose Upper Great Highway to be a car free street.
- [Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project's](#) goal is to protect the integrity of wastewater assets built in response to the Clean Water Act to protect public health and the environment, including the Lake Merced Tunnel, the Westside Pump Station, and the Oceanside Treatment Plant.

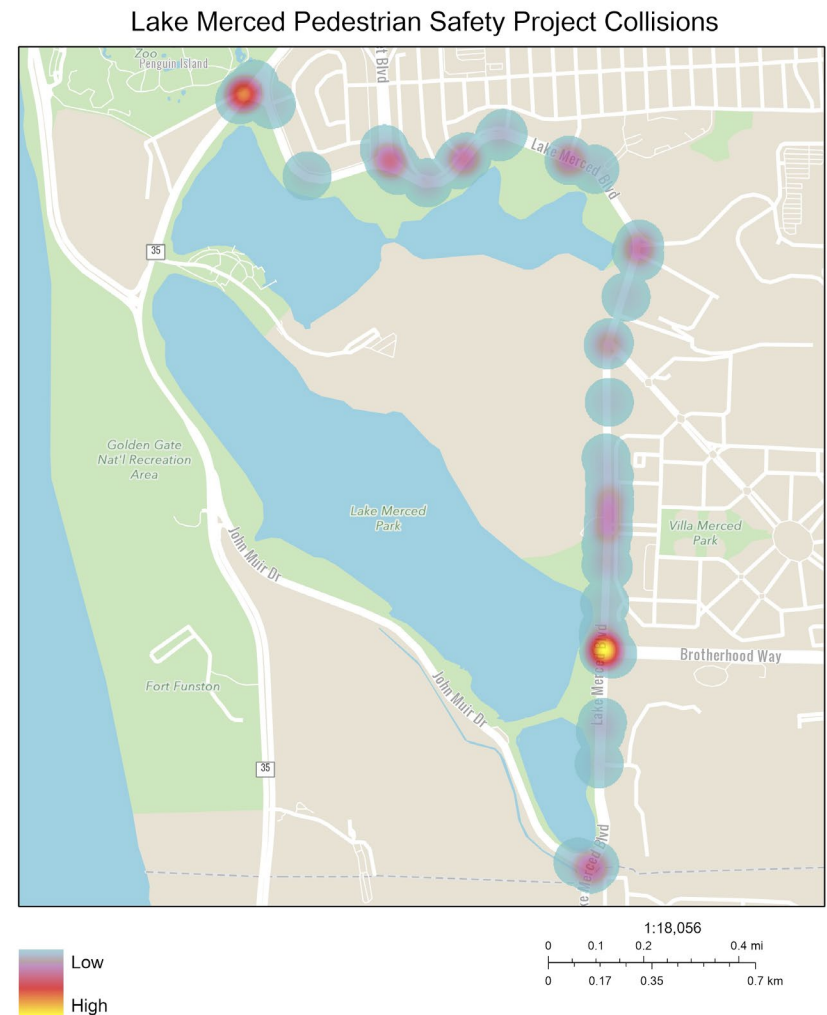
Vision Zero and Lake Merced Boulevard

Lake Merced Blvd. between Font and Sunset boulevards is part of San Francisco's Vision Zero [High Injury Network](#), where 75% of the city's traffic injuries and fatalities occur on just 13% of SF streets.

Between 2015 to 2020, 106 collisions were reported on Lake Merced Blvd. between Skyline Blvd. and John Muir Dr.

Of those 106 collisions, nine involved a bicyclist and a vehicle and four involved a pedestrian and a vehicle.

There have been two pedestrian fatalities since 2017.



Eri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Eri Community Maps Contributors, Eri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METINASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

Safety Issues

- High vehicle speeds (85th percentile speeds between 41 to 45 mph)
- Long pedestrian crossings
- Long distances between pedestrian crossings
- Gaps in signage
- Lack of pedestrian lighting
- Narrow and/or missing sidewalks




Unsafe pedestrian crossings on Lake Merced at Winston Blvd.



Long distances b/w crossings and gaps in signage on Lake Merced Blvd. heading eastbound towards Middlefield Dr.

Community Outreach and Engagement

- A virtual open house was scheduled from June 8 to 22 that consisted of an [online project overview](#) or “Story Map” with a survey embedded.
- Multilingual surveys were mailed to residents, organizations and businesses within 900-feet of the project area. A total of 201 survey responses were received.
- The multilingual survey was available online and advertised through posters along the project area and the steering committee members’ networks. A total of 449 survey responses were received.



Lake Merced Pedestrian Safety Project Survey

- 1. What is your relationship to the project area (i.e. Lake Merced Boulevard between Skyline and John Muir Drive)? (select all that apply)**

 - I live on or near Lake Merced Boulevard
 - I work on or near Lake Merced Boulevard
 - I commute or make trips on and/or adjacent to Lake Merced Boulevard
 - I do not live, work, or travel on or adjacent to Lake Merced Boulevard
 - Other Comment _____
 - Don't know/Not Sure

- 2. How do you travel through Lake Merced Boulevard? (select all that apply)**

 - Walk or use a wheelchair or other mobility aid (e.g. cane, scooter, guide dog, or walker)
 - Drive a car or motorcycle
 - Use rideshare (e.g., Lyft/Uber)
 - Ride a bicycle or scooter
 - Ride Muni
 - Paratransit
 - Taxi
 - Other Comment _____
 - Don't know/Not Sure

- 3. How often do you typically travel on Lake Merced Boulevard? (select all that apply)**

 - Every day
 - Every week
 - Every month
 - Sometimes
 - Never
 - Other Comment _____
 - Don't know/Not Sure

- 4. Do you agree with the following statement? Safety improvements are needed for people who walk on Lake Merced Boulevard between Skyline Blvd. and John Muir Drive.**

 - Strongly Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Neutral
 - Agree
 - Strongly Agree

Don't know/Not Sure

5. Please check up to 5 improvements that you would like to see on Lake Merced Boulevard that could be implemented on Lake Merced Boulevard between Skyline Boulevard and John Muir Drive:

- Upgraded Crosswalks (repainting for high visibility)
- New/additional signals and pedestrian crossings
- Narrowing vehicle travel lanes
- Close right-turn slip lanes that allow unsignalized right turns for vehicles
- Additional Signage
- Additional Lighting (Pedestrian or Street Level)
- Pedestrian Refuge Islands
- Additional Walk Time at Signals
- Upgrading Traffic Signal Head Sizes for better visibility
- New protected bike lanes on Lake Merced (with connections to existing bike network around the lake)
- Transit improvements/restored service
- Traffic calming features such as traffic circles or speed humps
- Sidewalk widening or bulb-outs at key locations or crossings

6. Based on your answers in Question #5, tell us the top 3 safety improvements that you would like to see implemented on Lake Merced Boulevard.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

7. What other safety issues need to be addressed on Lake Merced Blvd. between Skyline and John Muir Drive?

What We Heard

Steering committee and community feedback confirms pedestrian safety improvements are needed.

Survey respondents overwhelming (71%) agree or strongly agree that safety improvements are needed for people who walk on Lake Merced Blvd. between Skyline Blvd. and John Muir Dr.

The top five pedestrian safety treatments resonate with survey respondents:

1. Upgraded crosswalks (repainting for high visibility) (60%)
2. New protected bike lanes on Lake Merced Blvd. (with connections to the existing bike network around the lake) (49%)
3. Additional lighting (Pedestrian or Street Level) (48%)
4. New/additional signals and pedestrians crossings (47%)
5. Sidewalk widening or bulb-outs at key locations or crossings (32%)

Recommendations

Corridor Improvements

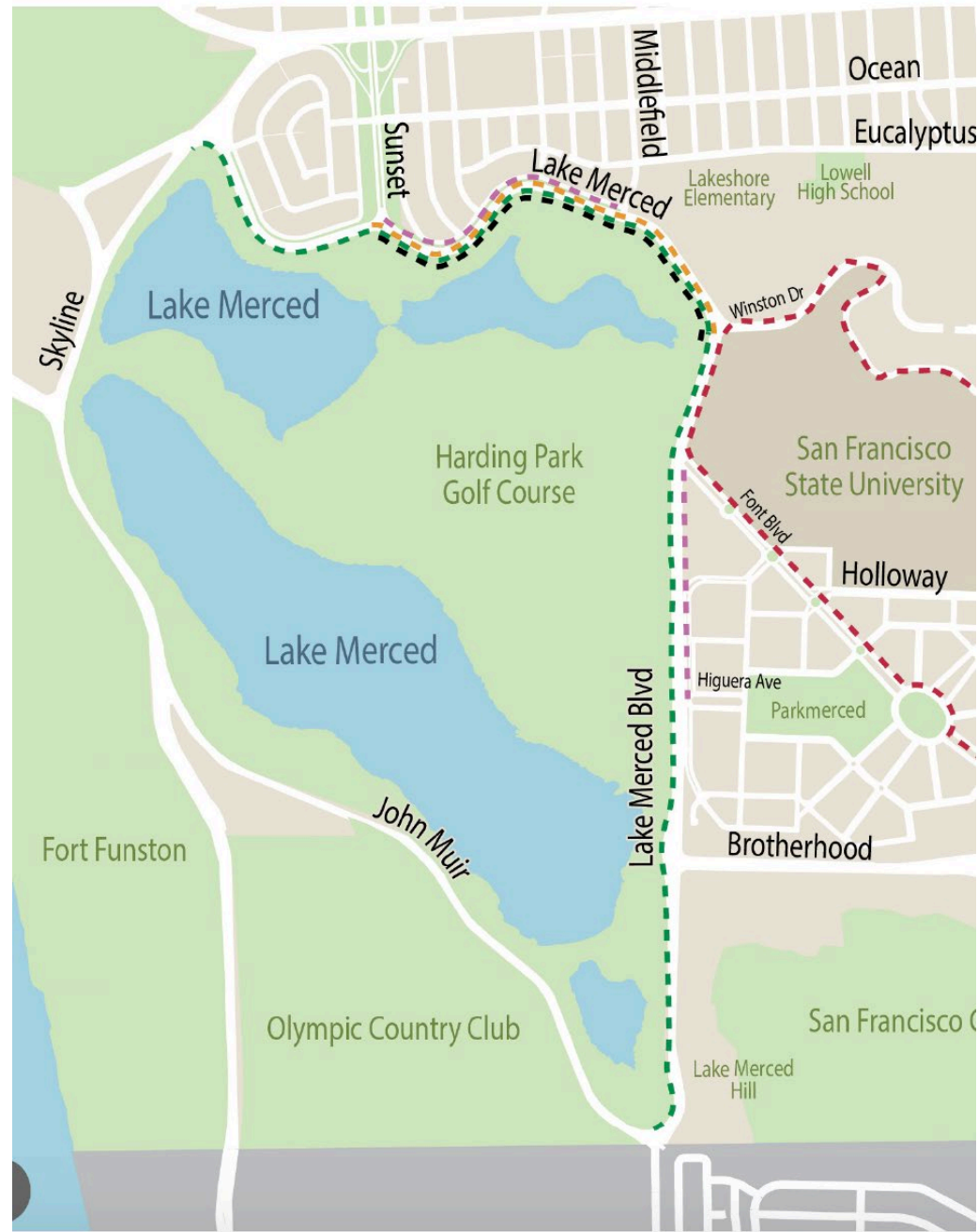
High Priority

- Improve transit*

* Service for the 57 and 58 bus routes will resume August 14, 2021

Medium Priority

- Install signage
- Narrow travel lanes; Install bike facilities
- Install new pedestrian crossing
- Install lighting



Recommendations

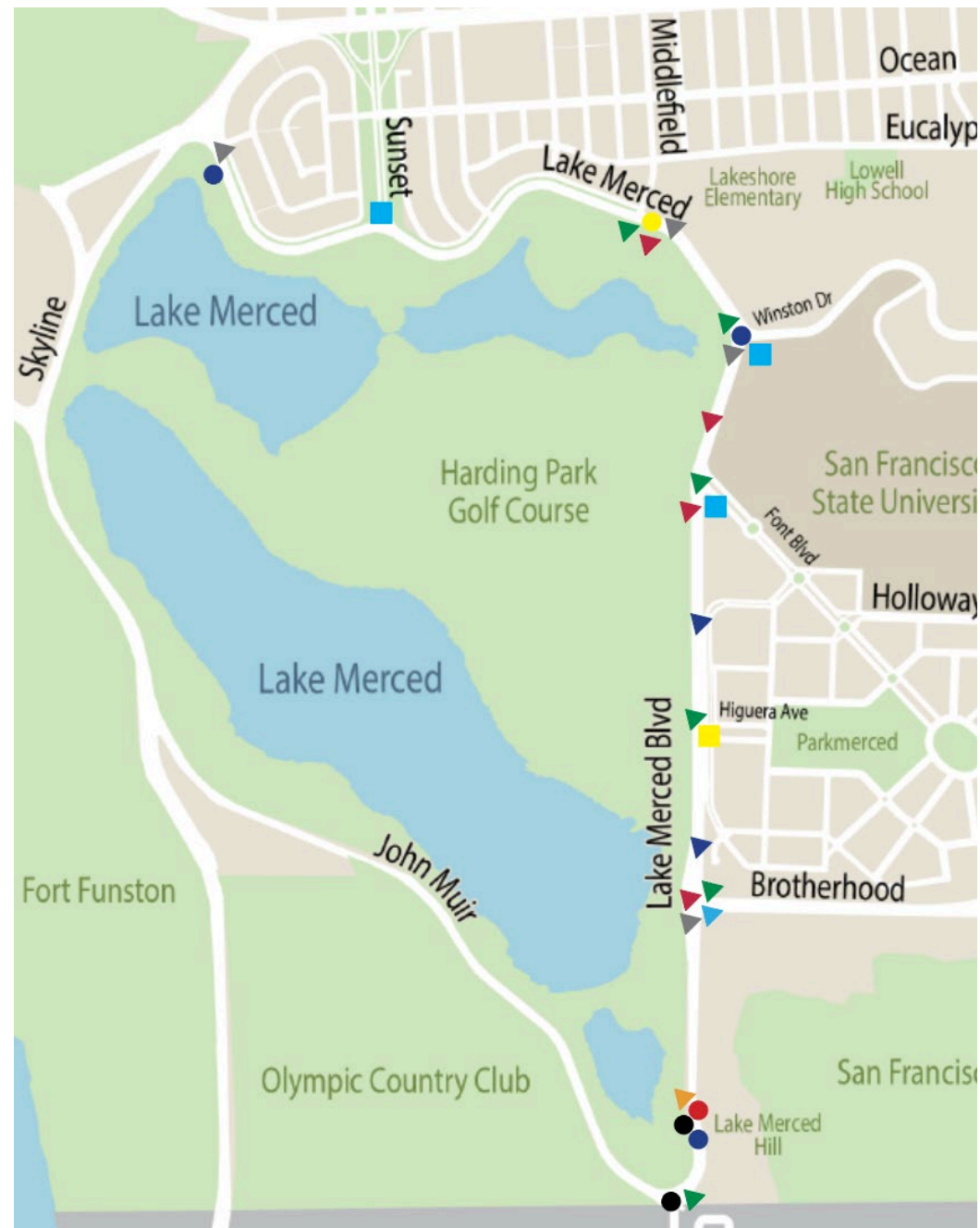
Intersection Improvements

Priority Level

- ▶ High Priority/Near-Term Improvements
- ◻ Medium Priority/Long-Term Improvement
- Low Priority/Long-Term Improvements

Recommendation

- Close slip lanes
- Install/improve pedestrian refuge islands
- Widen or add sidewalks
- Install lighting (pedestrian or street level)
- Upgrade traffic signal heads
- Additional walk time
- Install signage
- Upgrade crosswalks



Implementation

High Priority Recommendations

- Lake Merced Quick-Build Project (initiating construction spring 2022)
- Parkmerced development (slated to start construction in summer 2022)

Medium Priority/Low Priority Recommendations

- Improvements will require additional planning, design, and funding beyond the scope of the Lake Merced Quick-Build.

This CBTP has recorded the desired improvements so that funding sources can be identified in the future.

Thank you!

For additional project information, visit [SFMTA.com/LakeMercedWalk](https://www.sfmta.com/LakeMercedWalk).

