



Folsom Streetscape Project

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Folsom Streetscape Project?

The Folsom Streetscape Project is a transformative Complete Streets project that will substantially improve traffic safety and livability in San Francisco's South of Market (SoMa) Neighborhood.

The project includes the following transportation safety improvements 1. Bicycling infrastructure improvements, which include a permanent two-way separated bikeway protected by a concrete island, traffic and bicycle signals, travel lane reduction of generally three and four travel lanes to two eastbound vehicle travel lanes with a transit only lane, resurfaced roadway, and protected intersections 2. Pedestrian infrastructure improvements, which include raised crosswalks, curb ramps, sidewalk bulb-outs and midblock signals, traffic signal upgrades, ADA compliant passenger loading zones with wheelchair ramps, and street and pedestrian level lighting; 3. Civic Amenity Zones, which include new trees, planters, street furniture, decorative crosswalks at alleys, and historic plaques; 5. Muni service and infrastructure improvements, which include new transit boarding islands and bus shelters; 4. Upgraded stormwater infrastructure and utilities that also include landscaping that capture stormwater runoff.

2. How does this project benefit my community?

The Folsom Streetscape Project is a central component to San Francisco's 2018 Central SoMa Plan that includes additional housing and jobs over the next 25 years. The project supports the Plan through an improved street design that better serves the neighborhood's growth and shift from a manufacturing community to an entertainment, cultural, and economic hub.

3. The project includes a "road diet," which will reduce generally three to four travel lanes to two travel lanes. Has staff analyzed the outcome of implementing a road diet on Folsom Street?

A road diet is an innovative roadway reconfiguration that improves traffic safety, increases the area's quality of life, and can advance the area's economic growth. Consequently, this street safety improvement will reduce vehicle speeds and minimize severe and fatal collisions between drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users. The project team has analyzed the outcome of implementing a road diet on Folsom Street and vehicle travel times and traffic diversion to adjacent streets will not severely impact the neighborhood. One of the project's goals is to ensure pedestrian and bicyclist safety throughout the day; a road diet will ensure that traffic safety protections are available past the AM and PM peak hours.

4. Where does my input fit into this project?

The project's outcome is the result of community outreach effort, with over 400 people

attending open houses, 1,300 survey responses, and individual meetings with more than 100 businesses and 20 community groups. The project planning phase began in 2016 and the project team held initial stakeholder meetings to introduce the project, before staff developed conceptual designs. These meetings allowed the project team and stakeholders to develop conceptual designs, build foundations of trust, and establish shared project goals. Throughout the detailed design phase, the project team continued to actively engage community groups to update the project details, which also include placemaking elements within the project area.

5. Why are we starting construction now?

Planning for the Folsom Streetscape Project began in 2016 and was legislatively approved in 2019. Since 2019, the project team has developed detailed design, gathered additional funding, completed federal environmental approvals, and finalized the contract to begin construction. They also observed the schedules of other projects occurring within and around the project area to coordinate the construction start date. The time is now to improve Folsom Street for all roadway users of this diverse and vibrant neighborhood.

6. What is the construction timeline?

Construction is expected to begin in March 2024 and conclude in late 2026.

7. Who will be leading the construction phase?

San Francisco Public Works will lead the construction phase. Public Works and the SFMTA will collaborate to provide construction updates and address any stakeholder questions and concerns. Prior to construction, the project team will connect with businesses and residents to answer questions and respond to concerns. During construction, bi-weekly/monthly construction email updates will be sent to residents and stakeholders.

8. How will the SFMTA successfully deliver this large streetscape construction project?

The project team has partnered with SF Public Works' Streetscape Program team to deliver the Folsom Streetscape Project. This team has delivered several SFMTA projects such as Page Street Neighborway Project, Upper Market Corridor Safety Improvements Project, 19th Avenue Combined City Project and Lombard Street Vision Zero Project. To learn more about the SF Public Works Streetscape Program, please watch a [webinar](#) hosted in September 2021.

9. What will construction look like?

Construction on Folsom Street will not take place along the entire corridor at the same time, but essentially be broken out in multiple segments:

Segment 1 – 11th to 8th streets (scheduled to start March 2024)

Segment 2 – 8th to 5th streets

Segment 3 – 5th to 2nd streets

10. Will pedestrian pathways and access to driveways and commercial buildings be maintained during construction?

Generally, yes. Given that this is a complete streets project, you will see a lot of work not only on the roadway but also the sidewalks. For example, we are widening the sidewalks at some areas along Folsom Street as well as conducting sewer upgrades and other roadway work. Pedestrian pathways and driveways will generally be maintained, but if there is a need to close a section of the sidewalk or driveway, SF Public Works will provide updates to residents and businesses within the area, so please sign up to receive updates at <https://www.sfpublicworks.org/FolsomSOMA>.

11. How will you provide street access to residents living on one-way streets?

The SFMTA has a traffic circulation and enforcement section under the Streets Division. The team reviews and approves all proposed circulation measures that the contractor will propose. As a result, all teams will work together to ensure street access is maintained throughout the construction phase.

12. There are several small businesses and entertainment venues on Folsom. Explain the strategy to provide access for these businesses during construction?

Generally, access will be maintained by the contractor. If needed, the contractor will install temporary steel plates or wooden bridges to maintain access.

13. How will this project minimize the potential flooding issues in this area?

As part of the Folsom Streetscape Project, underground sewer and drainage infrastructure will be upgraded. In accordance with the City's Green Streets policies, stormwater runoff will be captured by landscaping that will allow the water to permeate into the ground, helping with groundwater recharge, minimizing potential flooding issues, and reducing the impact on the City's sewer system. This will help ensure the sewer system capacity is not over-burdened and does not leak untreated wastewater into the San Francisco Bay.

14. Are midblock crosswalks going to be signalized?

Yes, the following midblock crosswalk locations along Folsom Street will be signalized:

- Folsom and Falmouth
- Folsom between 5th and 4th streets