



Temporary Emergency Transit Lanes



With the economy reopening, traffic congestion is quickly returning and is projected to be above pre-COVID-19 levels. Meanwhile, every day about a hundred thousand people, many of them essential workers, continue to rely on Muni during his pandemic. These are the people most at risk when traffic congestion comes roaring back and gridlock threatens our streets. From our bus operators to grocery store and health-care providers, we are committed to getting essential workers to their destinations safely. Without action, transit dependent San Franciscans will bear the costs of traffic congestion, like an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 on slower, more crowded buses.

Transportation is Required for Economic Recovery

Without transportation, there is no recovery. Our economy cannot function without employees being able to get to work and customers being able to access shops, restaurants and services. Muni must be an effective option that moves people who are dependent on transit while reducing traffic congestion for those who need to drive, and the delivery of goods, that our economy needs to get back on its feet.

Protecting Muni Customers with Transit Lanes

Creating temporary emergency transit lanes helps protect public health by reducing crowding and improving Muni customer travel times as buses are kept out of traffic. Transit lanes allow buses to complete routes in less time and return back into service more quickly, providing more service with the same number of buses. That means with our limited resources, Muni can pick up customers more frequently to reduce crowding and provide more space onboard to physically distance. Customers also reduce their possible exposure to COVID-19 when their travel time is shortened.

The SFMTA Board approved initial temporary emergency transit lanes on June 30, 2020.

They directed that future temporary transit lanes can be approved by the City Traffic Engineer's Office following a public hearing process.

For More Information

[SFMTA.com/TempLanes](https://www.sfmta.com/TempLanes)

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Temporary Transit Lanes

Using ridership and travel time data, temporary emergency transit lanes benefit customers on four initial Muni routes which are critical to neighborhoods with high percentages of people of color and low-income households.

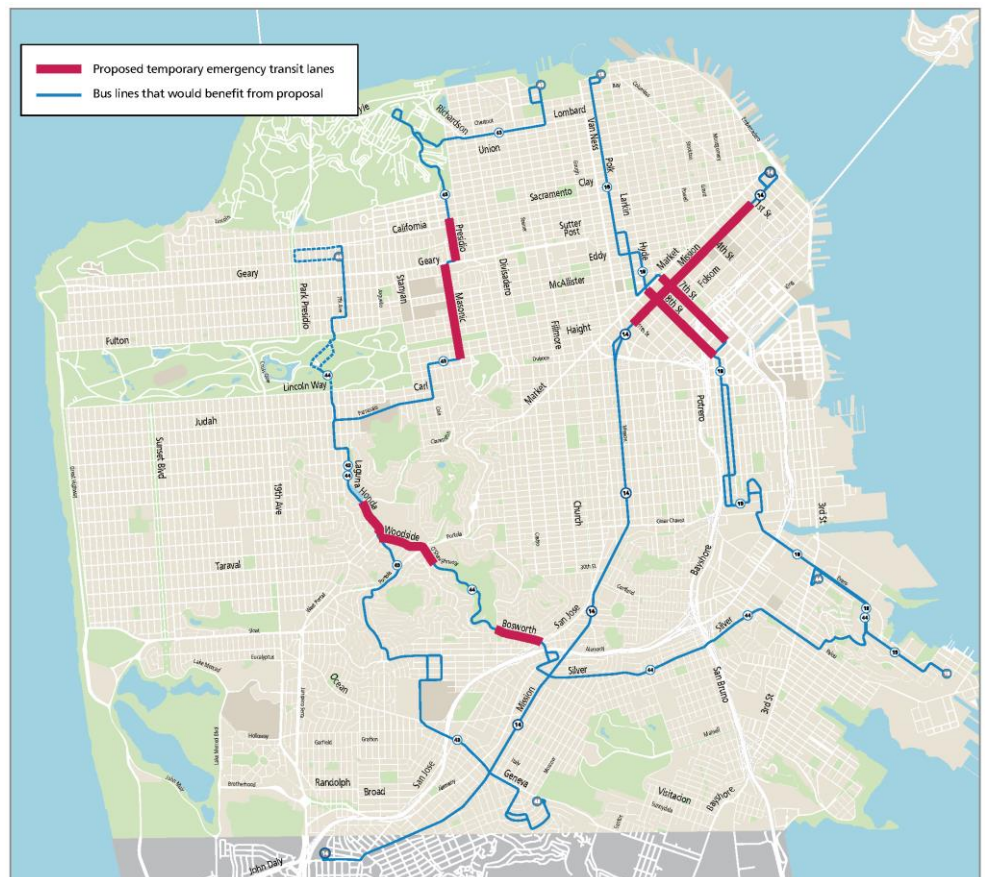
- 14 Mission: Mission Street in SoMa
- 19 Polk: 7th and 8th Streets in SoMa
- 43 Masonic and 44 O’Shaughnessy: Locations on Presidio, Masonic, Laguna Honda, Woodside, Bosworth streets

These key neighborhoods include Ingleside, Outer Mission, Excelsior, Visitacion Valley, Bayview, Mission, SoMa and the Tenderloin. Since improvements support more frequent service on the entire line, all passengers will benefit, even if the transit lane isn’t in their neighborhood. By design, the temporary emergency transit lanes will be striped only with white paint and identified with “Bus/Taxi Only” stenciling making them easily reversible. As a temporary measure, these lanes would be automatically removed 120 days after the emergency order is lifted, unless there is a public process to make a lane permanent. Additional temporary emergency transit lanes can be approved following a public hearing process.

On-the-Ground Evaluation and Real-Time Engagement

To prevent congestion from putting our customers at greater risk and paralyzing our economy, we cannot delay. It is critical that we install temporary emergency transit lanes starting in August, before traffic congestion returns in force. The urgent nature of this emergency calls for putting temporary measures into place, directly on the street. This approach allows the city to respond quickly to protect public health and support economic recovery while we work with the community to evaluate and adjust the temporary transit lanes in real time.

We will work with community-based organizations to ensure traditionally marginalized communities are prioritized in the decision-making. Community-based organizations, stakeholders and neighbors will be involved in shaping the framework and process for evaluating and adjusting the emergency transit lanes in real time. Based on public feedback and ongoing, on-the-ground data monitoring of the temporary transit lanes, we can tweak – or even remove lanes – to meet the needs of the community and Muni customers.



Map of initial temporary transit lanes and the bus lines that benefit.

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