

# Panhandle Social Distancing and Safety Project (COVID-19 Project)

In response to congestion on the northern Panhandle Path and the Public Health Order to socially distance during the COVID-19 pandemic, the SFMTA installed a parking-protected bikeway on Fell Street adjacent to the Panhandle between Baker Street and Shrader Street. The project reduced the number of travel lanes on Fell Street from four to three lanes to accommodate the new protected bike lane. The protected bikeway is located curbside, with a three-foot access aisle to access the floating parking.

## Evaluation Findings



Post-project **vehicle speeds have dropped** (between 5-14%) on Fell Street from pre-project conditions.



Data collected demonstrates **bicyclists diverting** (27% on average) from the northern Panhandle Path to the new Fell Street protected bike lane, allowing for more social distancing and less pedestrian-bicyclist conflicts on the northern Panhandle Path.



Vehicle travel time decreased **up to 4 seconds on the weekdays and increased up to 12 seconds on the weekends** after the new protected bike lane was installed. Afternoon peak queues in the left turn pocket at Fell Street at Masonic Avenue were not observed to be continuous and most queues fully flushed out every traffic signal cycle.



Among all observations of people biking on Fell Street rather than on the Northern Panhandle Path, **98% of people biking biked in the bike lane or in the buffer zone** versus the vehicle travel lane or sidewalk.

### Date of Completion

- July 2020

### Project Extents

- Fell Street from Baker Street to Shrader Street

### Data Collection Time Frames

- Pre-project data collection: June 2020
- 1-month post-data collection: August 2020
- 3-month post data collection: October 2020
- 6-month post data collection: February 2021

### Project Elements

- Protected bike lane
- Road diet (four lanes to three)

### Key Evaluation Metrics

- Vehicle speed and travel time
- Vehicle queuing
- Bicycle counts on path and new bike lane
- Bicycle positioning



Fell Street (before)



Fell Street (after)

## Next Steps

The project team will continue to monitor the Panhandle Social Distancing and Safety Project. For more information about ongoing SFMTA efforts happening on Fell Street and the Panhandle, please visit: [SFMTA.com/Panhandle](https://www.sfmta.com/Panhandle)