



San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
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PROMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSPORTATION

November 18, 2024

Chair Rafael Mandelman,
SF County Transportation Authority
1455 Market Street, 22nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Support for Item 8 SFMTA 13th Street Safety project

Dear Chair Mandelman and commissioners,

On behalf of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, I am writing to support the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA) request of \$3,350,000 in Prop L funds to fund the 13th Street Safety project.

Thirteenth Street borders two low-income neighborhoods undergoing transformational change and growth, the Mission and South of Market. It's a key east-west corridor for people biking and walking to locations like the Caltrain Station, Oracle Park, and hospitals in Mission Bay. In 2015, we actively supported bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements along 13th Street through the Division/13th Street Safety Project. However, the 2015 project stops at Folsom Street, leaving a three block gap between Folsom and Valencia Street along the corridor.

The project corridor is part of San Francisco's Vision Zero High Injury Network, which comprises 12% of streets that disproportionately account for 68% of the city's severe and fatal traffic collisions. Between 2007 to 2012, there were 106 collisions along 13th Street, including two traffic deaths. In a more recent five-year period, 99 collisions occurred on this stretch with over a third of them involving pedestrians and people on bikes. Too many lives have been lost and too many collisions have occurred on this street.

Currently, the bike lane on 13th Street disappears on Folsom Street, leaving people on bikes competing with fast moving vehicles merging on and off the freeway. Filling this gap would create the **first, continuous, east-west protected bike lane** south of Eighth Street and the only east-west separated bike lane in the Mission. Most importantly, filling this gap will connect two of our most highly trafficked bicycle corridors, Valencia and Folsom Street, thus getting us closer to the important goal of a city-wide, interconnected network of car-free and people-prioritized streets.

The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition fully supports closing the gap on 13th Street and urges the commission to approve the SFMTA's request to fund its construction. We look forward to 13th Street becoming safer for SoMa and Mission residents and those biking and walking along the corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Amable".

Claire Amable
Director of Advocacy
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition