

FHWA's Livable Communities Case Study Series



San Francisco - Livable City - Highly Connected Streets to Support Livability.

As stated by Secretary LaHood, livability is investing resources in a way that recognizes the unique character of each community. The next three case studies are urban examples of highways role in support of livable communities.

In San Francisco, officials are working to provide an interconnected network of express bus and HOV lanes, taking full advantage of their freeway system. This includes converting a traffic lane in each direction on the Bay Bridge for this purpose. A converted lane on the Bay Bridge will have enormous benefits for ridesharing, which already represents 13% of commuters into the San Francisco area. A dedicated rapid bus system will also reduce traffic on San Francisco's streets. The Livable City's strategy for reclaiming the central city includes:

- A street reclaiming program that is turning one-way to two-way street conversions with widened sidewalks and completed bicycle networks,
- "Get Transit Moving" with transit-priority measures by improving connections, creating accessible transit, and creating and/or improving plazas and parks, and
- Reclaiming streets and parking lots for public spaces.

The San Francisco Livable City's complete streets campaign works at three scales: citywide reform, neighborhood planning, and individual projects. San Francisco is working citywide to improve streets standards; improve the effectiveness, responsiveness, and coordination of city departments; and increase funding opportunities for complete streets projects. At the neighborhood scale, they are working to empower every neighborhood to create its own complete streets plan and to secure the funding and bureaucratic support to implement neighborhood plans. San Francisco is also engaged in innovative projects all over the city to create complete streets and demonstrating what is possible.

San Francisco is working to ensure that city streets, which cover over 25% of San Francisco's land area, turn into well-designed, maintained, safe, and attractive public spaces that support walking, bicycling, and public transit. Complete neighborhoods exists where walking, bicycling, and transit are the best choices for most trips; where public spaces are beautiful, well designed, and well maintained; and where housing is more plentiful and affordable. The citywide strategy in San Francisco includes:

- Reclaiming the Central City,
- Providing Great Street Networks,
- Building Neighborhood Centers ,
- Providing Home Zones,
- Developing a Green Network,
- Improving Roadway standards,
- Improving planning and public participation, and
- Creating stable funding and improve project coordination.

Creating more livable communities through transportation choices

