

BETTER MARKET STREET

Public Life Public Space Survey





CREDITS

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Neil Hrushowy at the San Francisco Planning Department was instrumental in coordinating the 2011 Market Street Public Life and Public Space survey. We are grateful to Neil and the excellent surveyors that he provided.

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PUBLIC LIFE SURVEYS

- 1. Pedestrian and cyclist survey
- 2. Stationary activity survey

How are public spaces used?

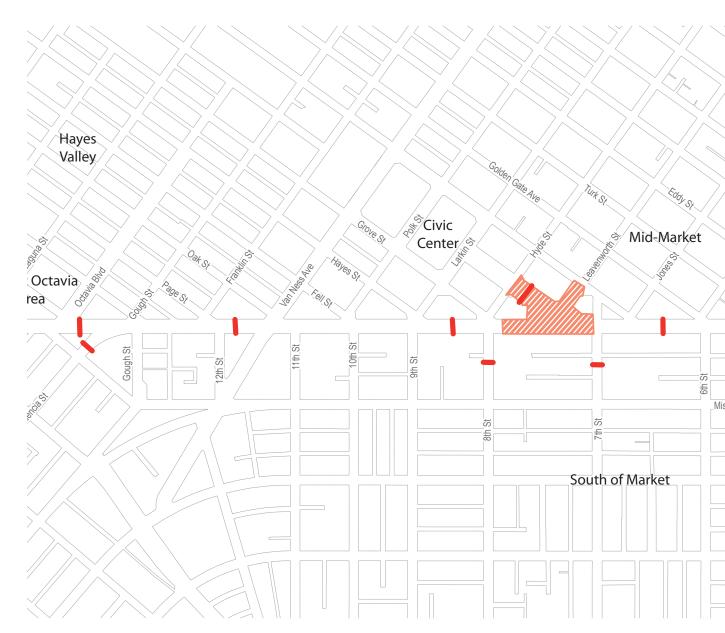
The purpose of the Public Life Survey is to examine how public spaces are used. It provides information on where people walk and stay either as part of their daily activities or for recreational purposes. This can form the basis for future decisions, about how the streets and spaces should be upgraded. How to make them easy and pleasant places to visit, not simply traffic conduits.

People walking and cycling

A large number of pedestrians walking and cycling in the city does not necessarily indicate a high level of quality. However, a high number of people choosing to spend time in the city indicates a lively city with strong urban quality.

Stationary activities

The study also provides information on how many people sit, stand, or engage in other stationary activities in the city, and where they do it. These stationary activities are good indicators of the quality of the urban spaces.





PUBLIC LIFE

People



Age and gender

A comfortable street often has a good blend of stationary users: even ratios of men and women, and a balance of people of all ages.

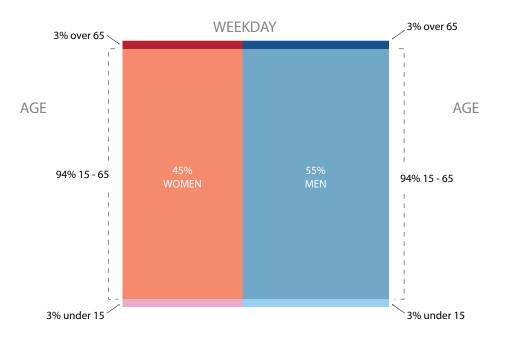
The figures on the right represent data collected at multiple sites along Market Street during all hours of the day throughout the summer of 2009 by the San Francisco Planning Department.

(www.bettermarketstreetsf.org/docs/MarketStreetReport.pdf).

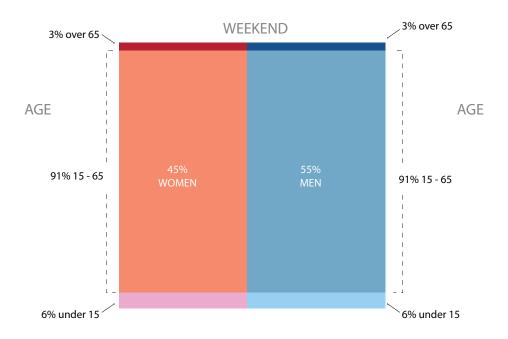
Significantly fewer women were recorded along Market Street than men, along with an under representation of children and people over 65 years old.

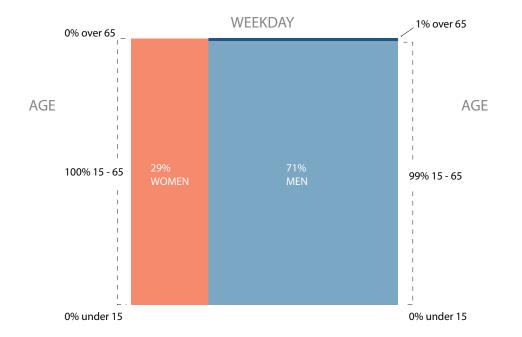


A surveyor recording pedestrians on Market Street

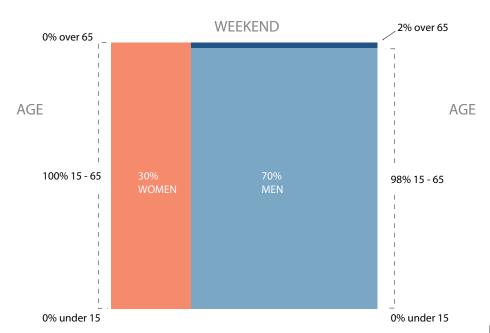


GENDER





GENDER



PUBLIC LIFE

Cyclists



Age and gender

A good thermometer for measuring how safe a street feels to cycle in is the mixture of people who actually ride bikes on a street. A safe street for cycling is inviting for people of all ages, and there is an equal mixture of men and women cycling.

At three sites along Market Street (Market at Van-Ness, Market at 7th St, and Market at Spear St), surveyors recorded the apparent age and gender of hundreds of cyclists passing by. The figures to the left represent the average of these recordings.

From this information, we see that Market Street's cycle mixture is out-of-balance, with 99% of cyclists between the ages of 15 and 65, and under 30% of the cyclists are women. This indicates that Market Street feels unsafe for cycling.

PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY

Pedestrians

Thursday, March 10, 2011

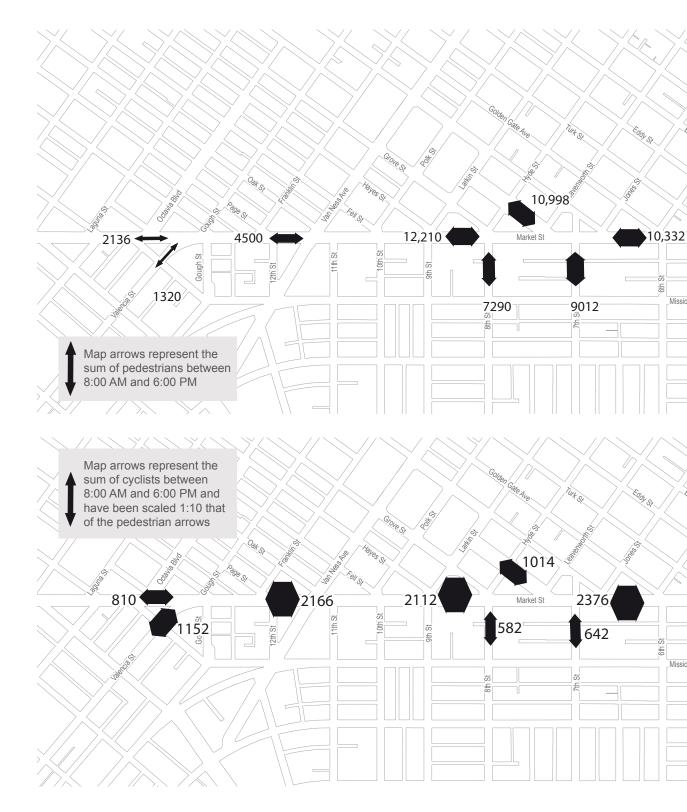


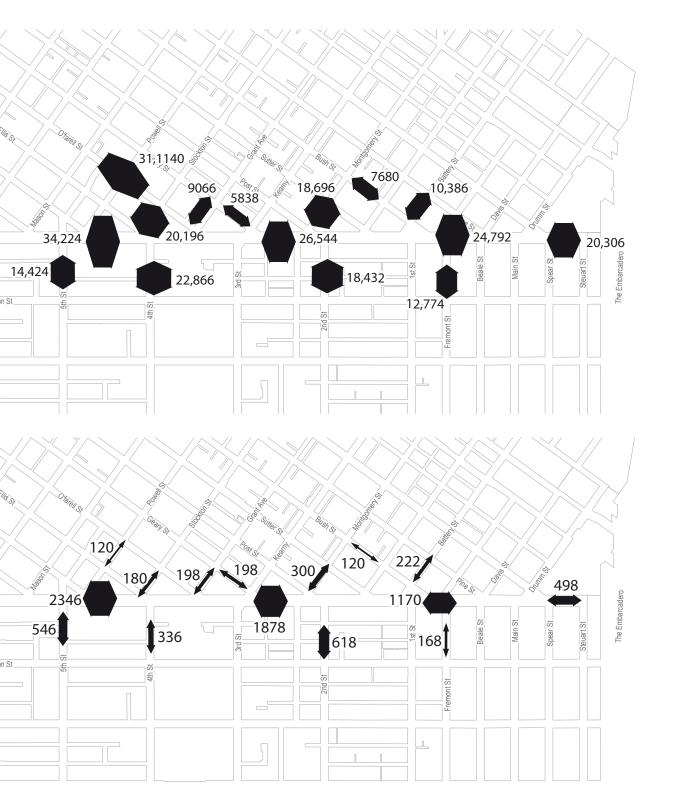
Weather: Mix of rain and sunshine, windy, high in the low 50's

Cyclists

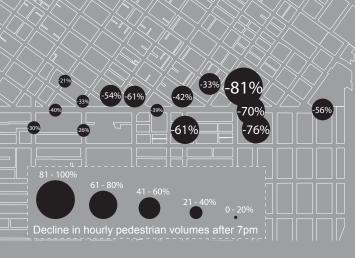
Thursday, March 10, 2011







Evening Activity



Comfort and Safety

In general, there were significant declines in pedestrian activity after dark, especially in the business district where we saw 70 - 81% declines in pedestrian volume (Appendix A).

PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY

Pedestrians

Saturday, April 2, 2011



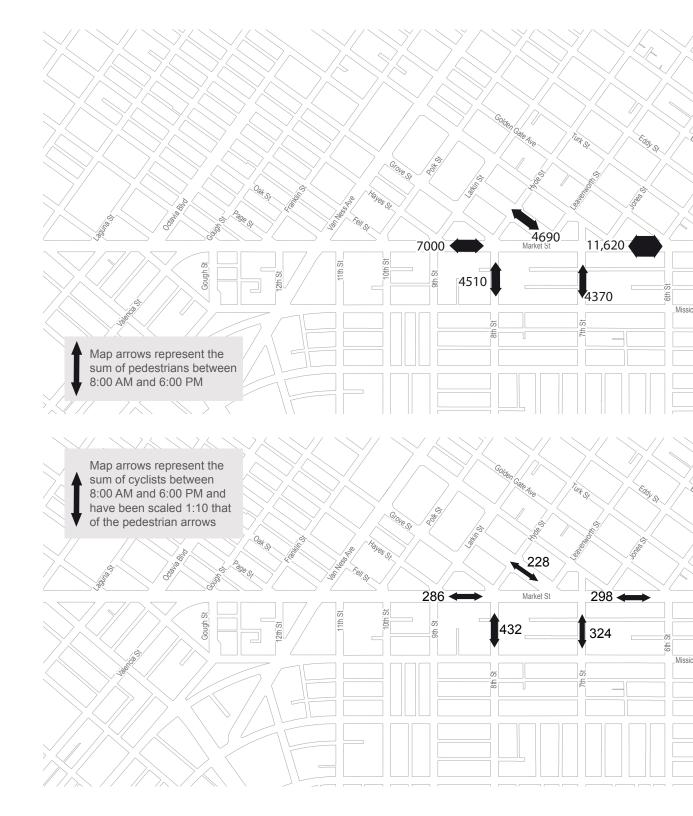
Weather: Clearing to mostly sunny in the afternoon, windy, high in the low 60's

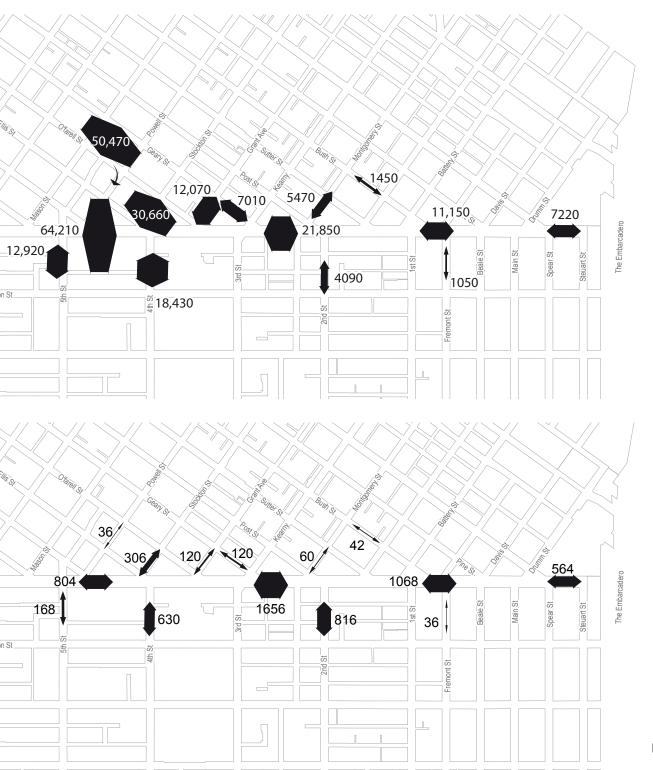
Cyclists

Saturday, April 2, 2011

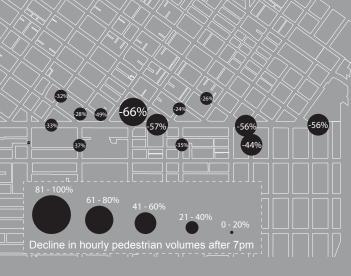


The Saturday survey extent extended to 10th St





Evening Activity



Comfort and Safety

There were significant declines in pedestrian activity after dark, even during the weekend (Appendix A).

Better M

STATIONARY ACTIVITY: Locations

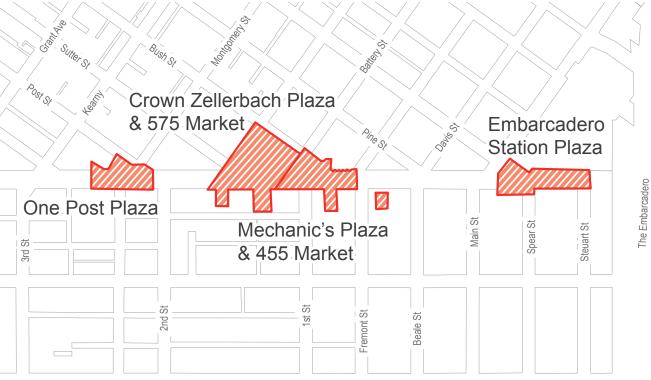
Survey Method

A method for evaluating the number of people participating in stationary activities, or "staying," has been developed in previous Public Life Surveys by Gehl Architects in other cities around the world. This method was used here. Every hour, surveyors recorded the stationary activities taking place at certain locations within and around Market Street. The activities that were recorded every hour --on a fresh map--were then tallied and are compared to other survey sites here.









Sunken Plazas

Human preference

Plaza activity analysis along Market Street has revealed that in San Francisco, most people prefer to be above ground. The San Francisco Planning Department recorded the position of people in plazas (at-grade or sunken) during the summer of 2009. Very few people were observed in the sunken plazas, and a great number of people were seen spending time above ground. As revealed in the figures to the left, this was the case even when the amount of sunken land was comparable to the amount of land at-grade.

(www.bettermarketstreetsf.org/docs/MarketStreetReport.pdf)



More people were observed at street-level that in sunken plazas.

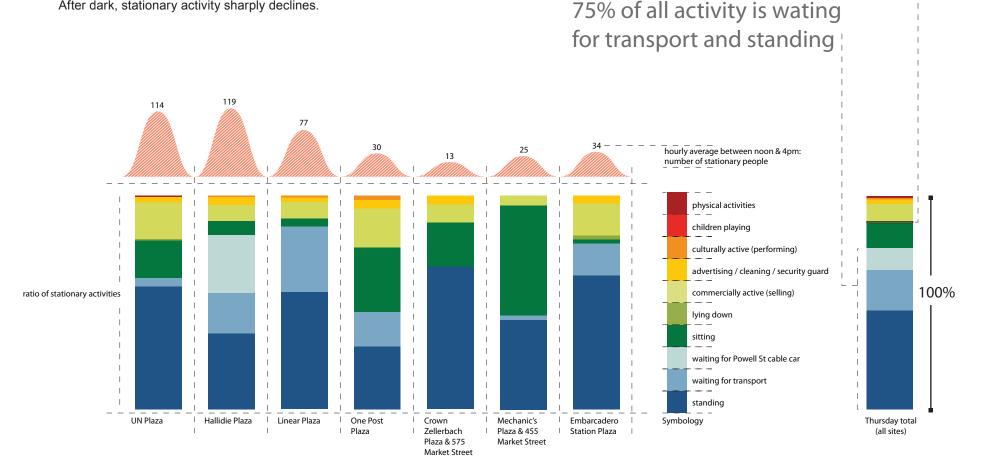
STATIONARY ACTIVITY:

Weekday, urban DNA

Although standing and waiting for transportation are by far the most popular activities all along Market Street, there is a great deal of variation in the volume of people using different spaces in the study area, and at different times of the day. Generally, the central portion of the study area has the greatest volume of activities.

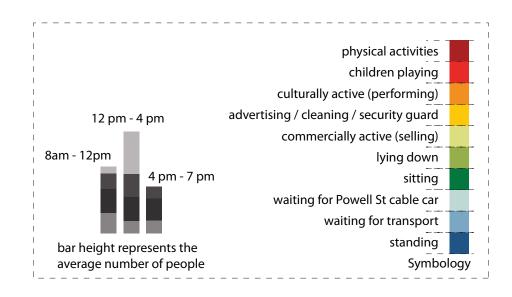
After dark, stationary activity sharply declines.

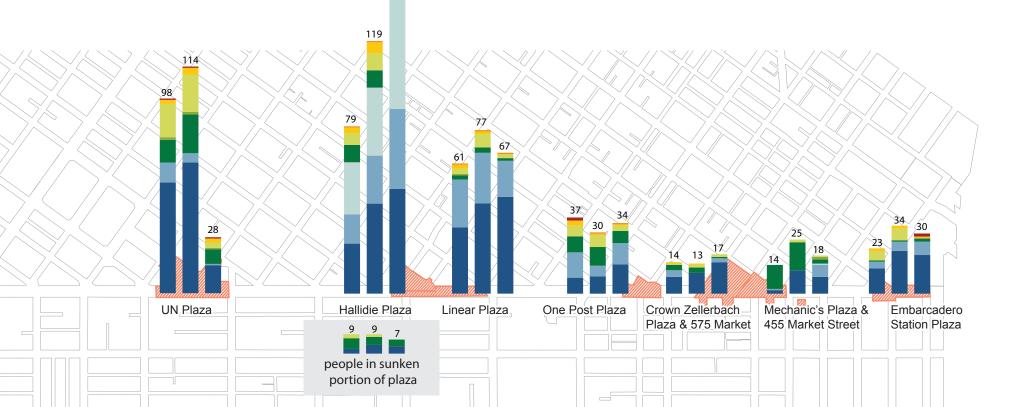
<1% of people are lying down





People will sit even if it means inventing a seat



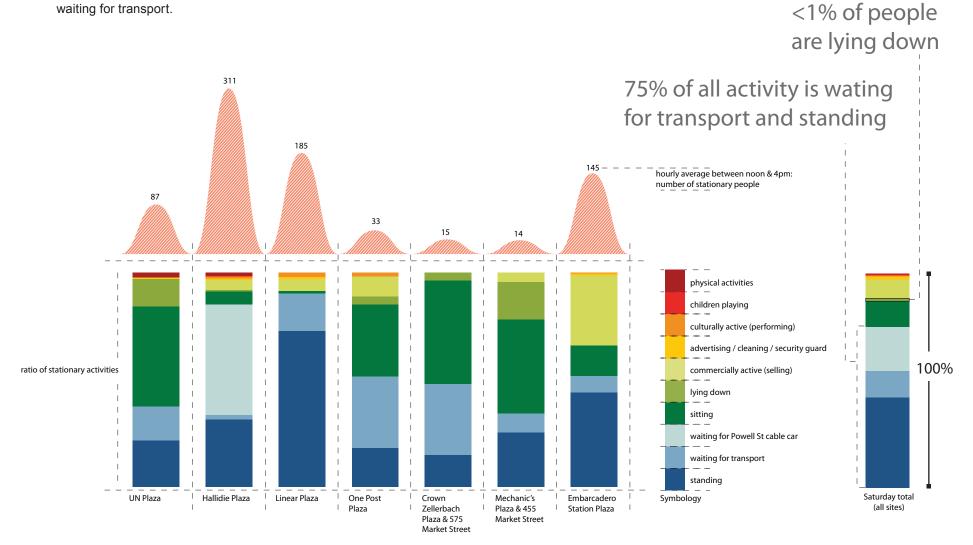


160

STATIONARY ACTIVITY:

Weekend, urban DNA

Although the volume of activity increases during the weekend, the mixture of activities remains very much the same -- most people are standing or waiting for transport.



PUBLIC SPACE

12 Quality criteria

PROTECTION

1. Protection against **Traffic & Accidents**

- traffic accidents
- fear of traffic
- other accidents

2. Protection against crime & violence (feeling of safety)

- lived in / used
- streetlife
- streetwatchers
- overlapping functions in space & time

3. Protection against unpleasant sense experiences

- wind / draft
- rain / snow
- cold / heat
- polution
- dust, glare, noise

C 0 М

F 0 R Т

4. Possibilities for WALKING

- room for walking
- untiering layout of streets
- interesting facades
- no obstacles
- good surfaces

5. Possibilities for STANDING / STAYING

- attractive edges »Edgeeffect«
- defined spots for staying
- supports for staying

6. Possibilities for **SITTING**

- zones for sitting
- maximizing advantages primary and secondary sitting possibilities
- benches for resting

7. Possibilities to SEE

- seeing-distances
- unhindered views
- interesting views
- lighting (when dark)

8. Possibilities for **HEARING / TALKING**

- low noise level
- bench arrangements »talkscapes«

9. Possibilities for PLAY / UNFOLDING / **ACTIVITIES**

invitation to physical activities, play, unfolding & entertainment - day & night and summer & winter

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10. Scale

dimensioning of buildings & spaces in observance of the important human dimensions related to senses, movements, size & behaviour

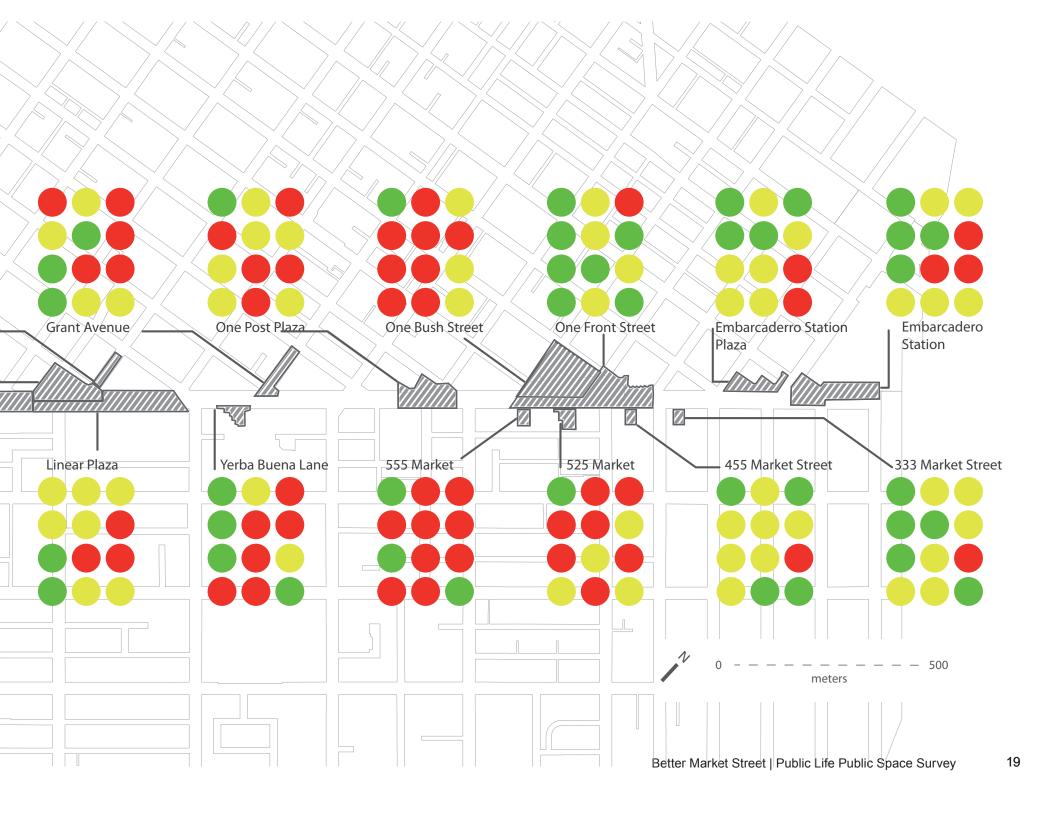
11. Possibilities for enjoying positive aspects of climate

- sun / shade
- warmth / coolness
- breeze / ventilation

12. Aestetic quality / positive senseexperiences

- good design & good detailing
- views / vistas
- trees, plants, water









APPENDIX A

1. Market St SW of Steuart St



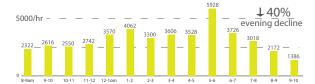
2. Market St SW of Fremont St

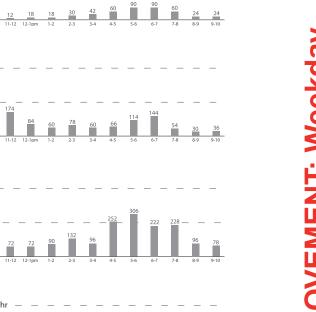


3. Market St NW of Annie St



4. Market St NE of Powell St





MOVEMENT: Weekday

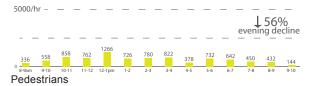




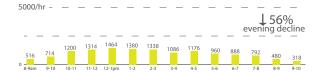
500/hr

Cyclists

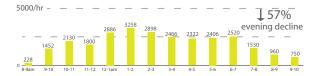
1. Market St SW of Steuart St



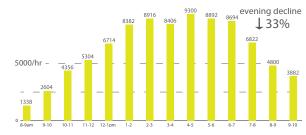
2. Market St SW of Fremont St



3. Market St NW of Annie St



4. Market St NE of Powell St





Market Street, NE

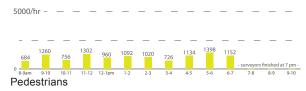


Cyclists

500/hr

500/hr

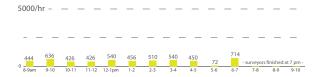
5. Market St, between 6th St & McAllister St



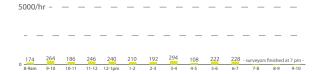
6. Market St, between 8th St and 9th St

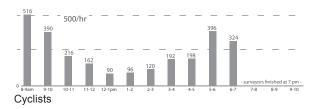


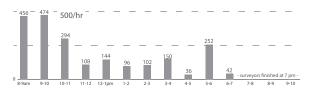
7. Market St, between Franklin St & Van Ness Ave

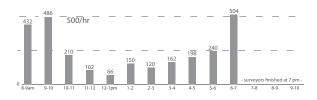


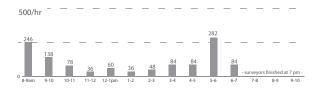
8. Market St, between Octavia Blvd & Valencia St











MOVEMENT: Weekday

Market Street, SW

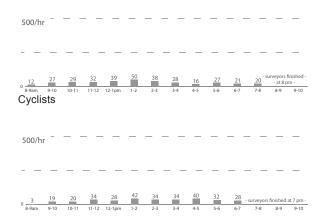


5. Market St, between 6th St & McAllister St



6. Market St, between 8th St and 9th St

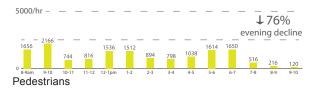




MOVEMENT: Weekend



9. Fremont St, E of Market



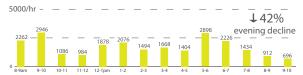
10. Battery St, N of Bush St



11. Bush St, W of Montgomery St

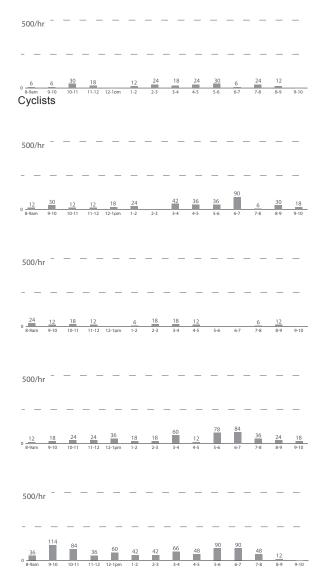


12. Montgomery St, N of Post St



13. 2nd St, SE of Stevenson St



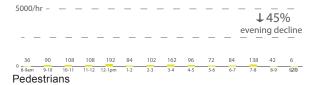


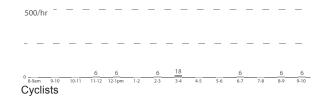
MOVEMENT: Weekday

Side Streets, NE

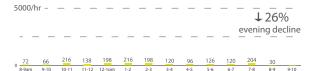


9. Fremont St, E of Market





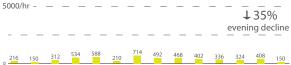


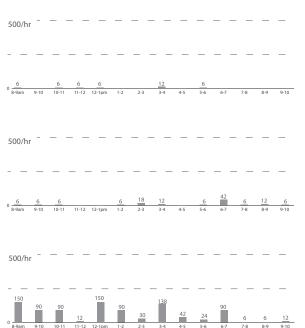


12. Montgomery St, N of Post St



13. 2nd St, SE of Stevenson St

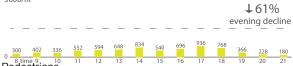




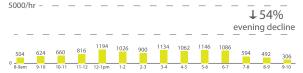




14. Geary St, E of Kearny St



15. Grant Ave, N of Market St



16 4th St, between Stevenson St & Jessie E



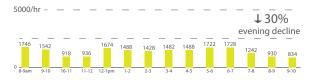
17. Stockton St, N of Market St

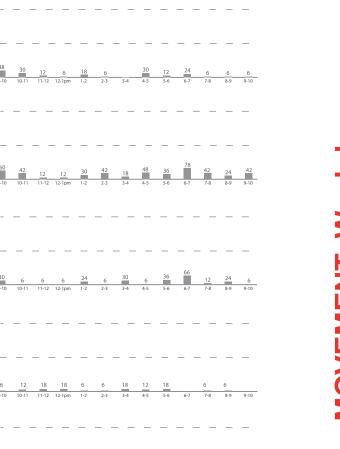


18. Powell St between Ellis & O'Farrel St



19. 5th St, between Stevenson St & Mint Plaza



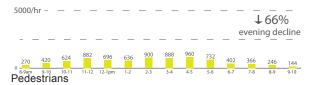


18%

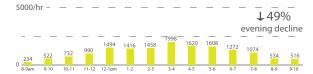
South of Market



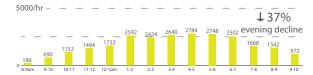
14. Geary St, E of Kearny St



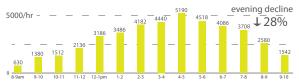
15. Grant Ave, N of Market St



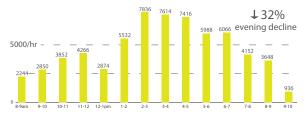
16. 4th St, between Stevenson St & Jessie E



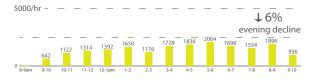
17. Stockton St, N of Market St



18. Powell St between Ellis & O'Farrel St



19. 5th St, between Stevenson St & Mint Plaza



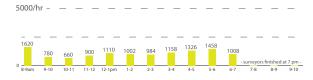
Weekend Table 1970 Meekend 1970

Side Streets, NE Weekend (continued)

20. 7th St, between Stevenson St & Mission St



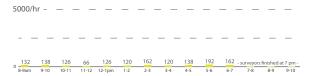
21. UN Plaza, E of Hyde St Mission St

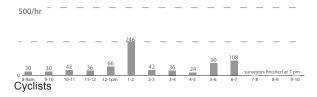


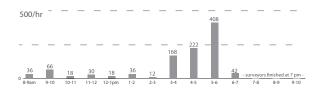
22. 8th St, between Stevenson St & Mission St

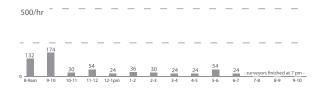


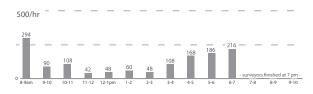
23. Valencia St, between McCoppin St & Market St









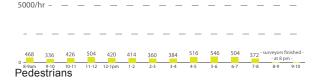


MOVEMENT: Weekday

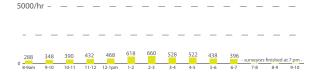
Side Streets, SW



20. 7th St, between Stevenson St & Mission St

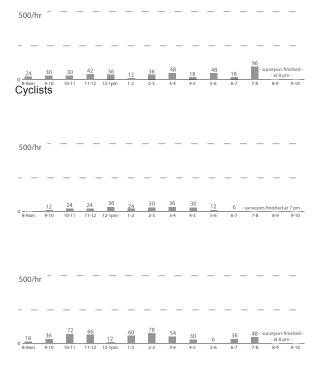


21. UN Plaza, E of Hyde St Mission St



22. 8th St, between Stevenson St & Mission St



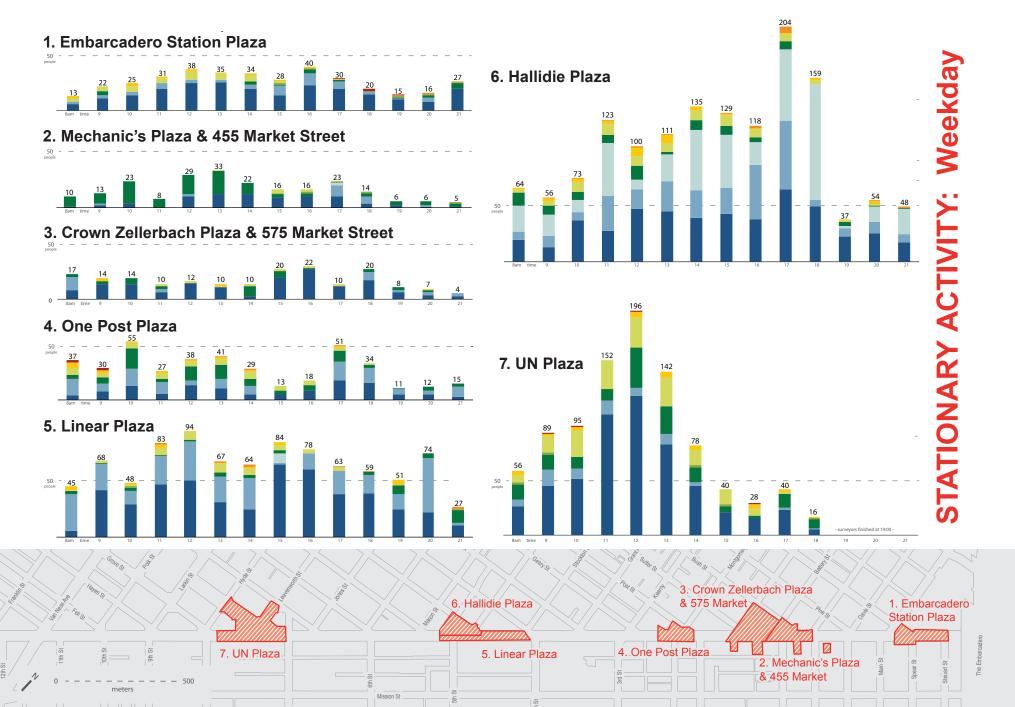


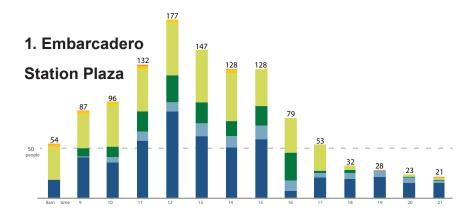
MOVEMENT: Weekend

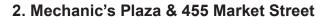
Side Streets, SW

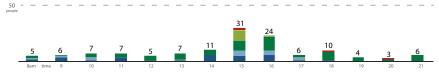


APPENDIX B

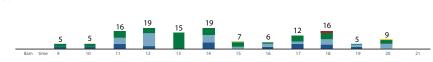








3. Crown Zellerbach Plaza & 575 Market Street



4. One Post Plaza

