

BETTER MARKET STREET EXISTING CONDITIONS & BEST PRACTICES

Part One: Existing Conditions



Better Market Street

Existing Conditions and Best Practices

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Prepared for:

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San Francisco Planning Department

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

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Existing Conditions & Best Practices: Overview

Purpose

The Better Market Street Existing Conditions & Best Practices documents lay a foundation for the informed, inspired, and integrated design of Market Street which will follow. It is a resource of layered information, drawn from a variety of design and transportation sources, enriched by new investigation and organized to focus on this study area and its key challenges and opportunities. It looks in detail at the Market Street corridor, considers Market Street in the context of the City and surrounding districts, and steps back to consider international best practices.

As the Better Market Street project moves into the next phase of concept alternatives preparation, the Existing Conditions & Best Practices documents will provide an easy reference for use by the City Project Team, Consultant Team and others. As the findings of each chapter suggest specific opportunities for improvement and highlight specific problems to be solved, they will help to frame the detailed evaluation of alternatives.

The multi-faceted nature of the document reflects the role of Market Street as San Francisco's multi-modal "Main Street" and the region's premier transit corridor. The Existing Conditions & Best Practices documents are a product of Tasks 2 and 3 of the Better Market Street Phase One project. They focus on the section of Market Street between the Embarcadero and Octavia Boulevard.

Approach

Preparation of the Existing Conditions & Best Practices documents engaged not only the City and Consultant teams, but many others who have contributed substantially and on whose shoulders this resource book rests. City teams have been working for years to understand and systematically record the mobility picture for surrounding and overlapping districts. Planning and urban design teams have created extensive mapping resources and in 2008 began the work of a Public Life Public Space study now completed with the Existing Conditions & Best Practices documents. Numerous interested citizens who care about Market Street enough to be trained for the 2011 survey team and carefully observe the comings and goings on the street have made it possible to interject interesting and compelling new information into this work.

A parallel effort opened the first round of public engagement for Better Market Street including workshops, webinars and an online survey which were completed during the course of work on these documents. The participation was impressive in the level of interest and most particularly the time taken to submit detailed comments for the team's consideration. A separate document, Round One Outreach: Findings and an appendix with all comments received, is available in conjunction with the Existing Conditions & Best Practices documents.

Through site observations and review of past and current studies and base information prepared by the City of San Francisco and in consultation with City staff, the Consultant Team identified, investigated and further understood those elements of Market Street which constitute a "Great Street" – its context, urban form, character and operations on all levels and modes. The product of this effort, Existing Conditions & Best Practices, forms a "catalogue", an easy-to-use reference book, which can be accessed and referred to as needed.

Organization and Content

The Existing Conditions and Best Practices documents are organized into Part One and Part Two, respectively. The table on the opposite page summarizes the content of the documents. The table also refers to the Scope of Services for the Better Market Street project indicating the tasks and subtasks related to each of the documents' sections.

Part One: Existing Conditions

Part One: Existing Conditions is organized as follows:

Urban Form, Public Space and Streetscape – discusses the broader urban design context of Market Street to better understand the potential role of the street in terms of urban form and structure, districts, destinations, land use and the interface with transportation conditions and potentials. This section also discusses the characteristic elements of sidewalks, existing and potential open spaces, street furnishings and wayfinding.

Multi-Modal Operations – discusses the full range of operations and modes, and the way the street and pedestrian spaces are used, in terms of pedestrian, bicycle, transit, vehicular traffic, parking, delivery and taxis, safety and hot spots. This includes consideration of new information in areas such as the Public Life Public Space study and the just completed Speed and Delay findings.

Relevant Studies and Projects – summarizes adopted and proposed policy directions for the street as well as existing and proposed private and public sector projects that may affect how the street is used.

Underground Utilities – identifies and locates the utility systems under Market Street, including planned refurbishment projects.

Part Two: Best Practices

The Best Practices discussion is keyed to those issues identified by the City's Project Team and the Consultant Team as applicable to Market Street, as follows:

Public Space/Pedestrian Realm

Pedestrians at Multi-Modal Intersections

Transit and Bicycle Integration

Loading and Delivery Management

Great Streets – Best Practices concludes with a discussion of Great Streets elsewhere, demonstrating fully integrated multi-modal streets that may provide lessons for Market Street.

For both Existing Conditions and Best Practices, each section incorporates a general introduction, a summary of key findings, a discussion of findings, applications to Market Street (in Best Practices) and other information, including study methodology, references and sources, as appropriate.

Appendix

The Appendix includes:

- Gehl Architect's Public Life Public Space Survey, providing access to detailed data which underpins Section 2.2 Multimodal Operations – Pedestrian and links to the broader urban design analysis;
- Gehl Architect's Public Life Public Survey – Cycling Findings; and
- A transportation-related Inventory of Acquired Data.

Tasks 2 and 3 Deliverable	Associated Scope Tasks
Existing Conditions & Best Practices	Task 3.6
Part One - Existing Conditions	Task 3
Overview	
Introduction to Existing Conditions	
1 Urban Form, Public Space and Streetscape	
1 Overview and Key Findings	
2 The Context of Market Street	Task 3.2.B; Task 3.5.A
3 Urban Form and Structure	Task 3.5.A
4 Pedestrian Realm	Task 3.2.B; Task 3.5.A
5 Open Space Destinations	Task 3.2.B
6 Streetscape Elements	Task 3.2.B
7 Signage and Wayfinding	Task 3.2.B
2 Multimodal Operations	
1 Overview	
2 Pedestrian	Task 3.3.A; Task 3.3.B; Task 3.5.B
3 Bicycle	Task 3.2.C; Task 3.3.B; Task 3.5.B
4 Transit	Task 3.2.C; Task 3.3.B; Task 3.5.B
5 Vehicular Traffic	Task 3.2.C; Task 3.3.B
6 Parking	Task 3.2.C; Task 3.3.B
7 Delivery and Taxis	Task 3.2.C; Task 3.3.B
8 Safety	Task 3.3.B
9 Hot Spots	Task 3.3.B
3 Relevant Studies and Projects	Task 3.1
4 Underground Utilities	Task 3.2.D

Tasks 2 and 3 Deliverable	Associated Scope Tasks
Existing Conditions & Best Practices	Task 3.6
Part Two - Best Practices	Task 2
Overview	
Introduction to Best Practices	
1 Public Space/Pedestrian Realm	Task 2.3
2 Pedestrians at Multimodal Intersections	Task 2.4
3 Transit and Bicycle Integration	Task 2.1
4 Loading and Delivery Management	Task 2.2
5 Great Streets	Task 2
Appendix	
A Public Life Public Space Survey	Task 3.3.A
B Public Life Public Space - Cycling Findings	Task 3.3.A; Task 3.3.B
C Inventory of Acquired Data	Task 3.3.B

Note: Base Maps prepared as part of Tasks 3.2.A used for all other tasks.

Existing Conditions Introduction

Part One: Existing Conditions presents the analyses of existing conditions in terms of urban design, street character and multi-modal operations. This document covers a wide range of information and analysis – urban design and operations, available and newly assembled data, findings of the Public Life Public Space study, and an array of key findings that will help to target the work of alternatives preparation. In addition to the discussion of existing plans incorporated into the subject matter chapters, the third chapter of Part One provides a one-stop reference document with summary descriptions of existing plans, studies and projects relevant to Market Street. The final chapter identifies underground utilities in the Market Street corridor.

Part One – Existing Conditions focuses on issues and opportunities important to the redesign of Market Street, setting the stage, in consort with Best Practices, for development of concept alternatives. The urban design, transportation and engineering teams worked collaboratively to produce each of these chapters as they will in application of these findings into the project's next steps.

Content and Organization

Identified by the City's Project Team and the Consultant Team as applicable to Market Street, the major topical areas of the Existing Conditions document include:

Urban Form, Public Space and Streetscape

– The document begins from a big picture perspective with a discussion and analysis of urban form, focusing on the key relationships of Market Street to the City as a whole, and presenting the urban design characteristics that define the urban structure of the corridor. This is followed by a focused discussion of pedestrian realm, open space destinations and streetscape elements. This section consists of:

- Overview
- The Context of Market Street
- Urban Form and Structure
- Pedestrian Realm
- Open Space Destinations
- Streetscape Elements
- Signage and Wayfinding

Multimodal Operations – The second chapter brings the state of the art information and analyses from diverse sources into one location for easy reference, and goes on to provide key findings which result and will need to be applied to the new design for modal operations along Market Street.

This section consists of:

- Overview
- Pedestrian
- Bicycle
- Transit

- Vehicular Traffic
- Parking
- Delivery and Taxis
- Safety
- Hot Spots

Relevant Studies and Projects – The third chapter is a compiling of brief descriptions and findings from each of over thirty documents and projects that have and will affect Market Street.

Applicable references and sources of information are cited within each topical area section within each of the three chapters described above.

Underground Utilities – The final chapter identifies and locates existing utilities under Market Street and planned refurbishment projects.

Perkins+Will Consultant Team

The principal authors of the Existing Conditions document consist of:

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