

## Chapter 1. Overview

### 1.1 Neighborhood Transportation Planning Program

The Tenderloin-Little Saigon Transportation Study is a community-based transportation plan designed to prioritize community transportation needs and develop near and mid-term improvements in the Tenderloin and Little Saigon neighborhoods. The study is part of the MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program and the Authority's Neighborhood Transportation Planning program. The goal of both programs is to find consensus within communities on transportation problems and preferred solutions. Each NTP study:

- partners with community-based organizations (CBOs) to conduct outreach;
- works with the community to identify top priority transportation needs; and
- develops top priority improvements through technical analysis and outreach.

Collaboration with residents and all stakeholders is essential to the process, which includes extensive interaction between the public and the technical team.

Support for the study was provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission through its Community-Based Transportation Planning program, which focuses on improving transportation in low income and minority neighborhoods. The Tenderloin was selected as one of its first recipients. Funding also came from San Francisco's Proposition K sales tax. Recommended projects have been grouped into short- (1 to 2 years) and medium- (3 to 5 years) term phases in order to achieve visible and meaningful change as soon as possible.

### 1.2 Methodology

A key element of the Neighborhood Transportation Planning process is the integrated approach that involves the San Francisco Transportation Authority, a technical advisory committee consisting of implementing agency partners working alongside members of the community, and a consulting team that includes both Technical Consultants and Community Based Organizations serving as outreach consultants. By creating opportunities for collaboration between residents, neighborhood organizations, implementing agencies and technicians, the project will have benefits that go well beyond the traditional planning and engineering study.

The Tenderloin Housing Clinic, the Southeast Asian Community Center, and Asian Neighborhood Design, three community-based organizations (CBOs) with strong ties to the Tenderloin community, served as outreach consultants on the study. The study also utilized traditional planning and engineering analysis in a variety of specialties including transit planning, urban design, and traffic engineering to develop solutions that are implementable within the study's timeframe. The Technical Consulting team was led by Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates and included Fehr & Peers, a traffic engineering

consultant and Community, Design and Architecture, an urban planning firm. Agency partners on the Technical Advisory Committee included MUNI, the Department of Parking and Traffic, the Department of Public Works, the Planning Department., the Department of Public Health, and MTC.

### 1.3 Study Area

For purposes of the study the Tenderloin was defined as the area bounded by Van Ness Avenue, Market Street, Powell Street, and Post Street (see Figure 1.1). The community identified the core residential area bounded by Larkin, Ellis, Taylor, and McAllister as a priority for focus.

**Figure 1.1 – Study Area**

