

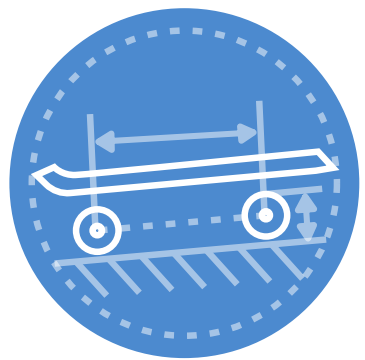
Skateboarding for Transportation

**Reducing Transit Insecurity
with Small-Wheel Accessibility**



Aaron Breetwor 11/14/2023

Summary



Skateboards as Design Vehicle

Why Skateboards?

Utility and Sensitivity

Insight



Impediments to Mode Adoption

Public Policy

Public Space

Product Design

Public Perception



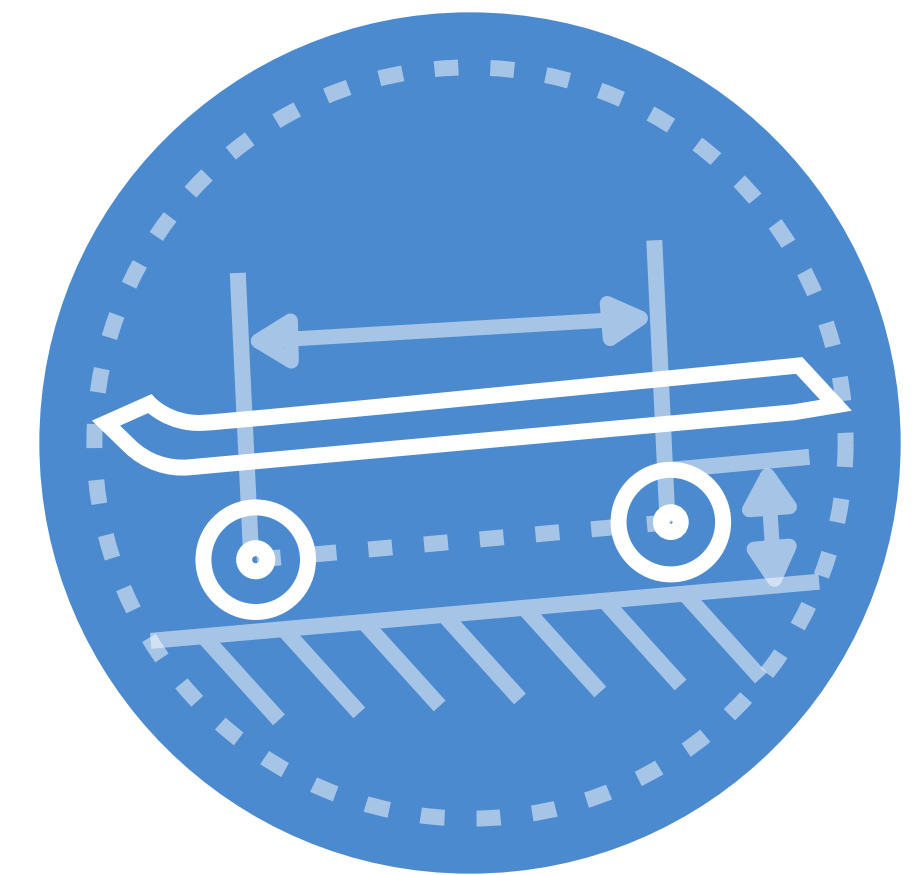
Next Steps

Pro-Social Policy

Appoint Authority

Invest in Innovation

Skateboards as Design Vehicle





Similar wheel sizes of wheelchairs and skateboards (LA28)



Parked Lime scooter on 16th Street at Shotwell



Children's bikes on MUNI bus ([SF Bike Coalition](#))



Bay Sessions 2 on MUNI



KC, age 11, skating to school



Soft Wheel Skate School at Cesar Chavez Elementary



Driveway lip on Shotwell



Children falling at curb cut on Folsom



Rolled curb in Oakland

Impediments to Adoption



IMPEDIMENT TO ADOPTION

Public Policy

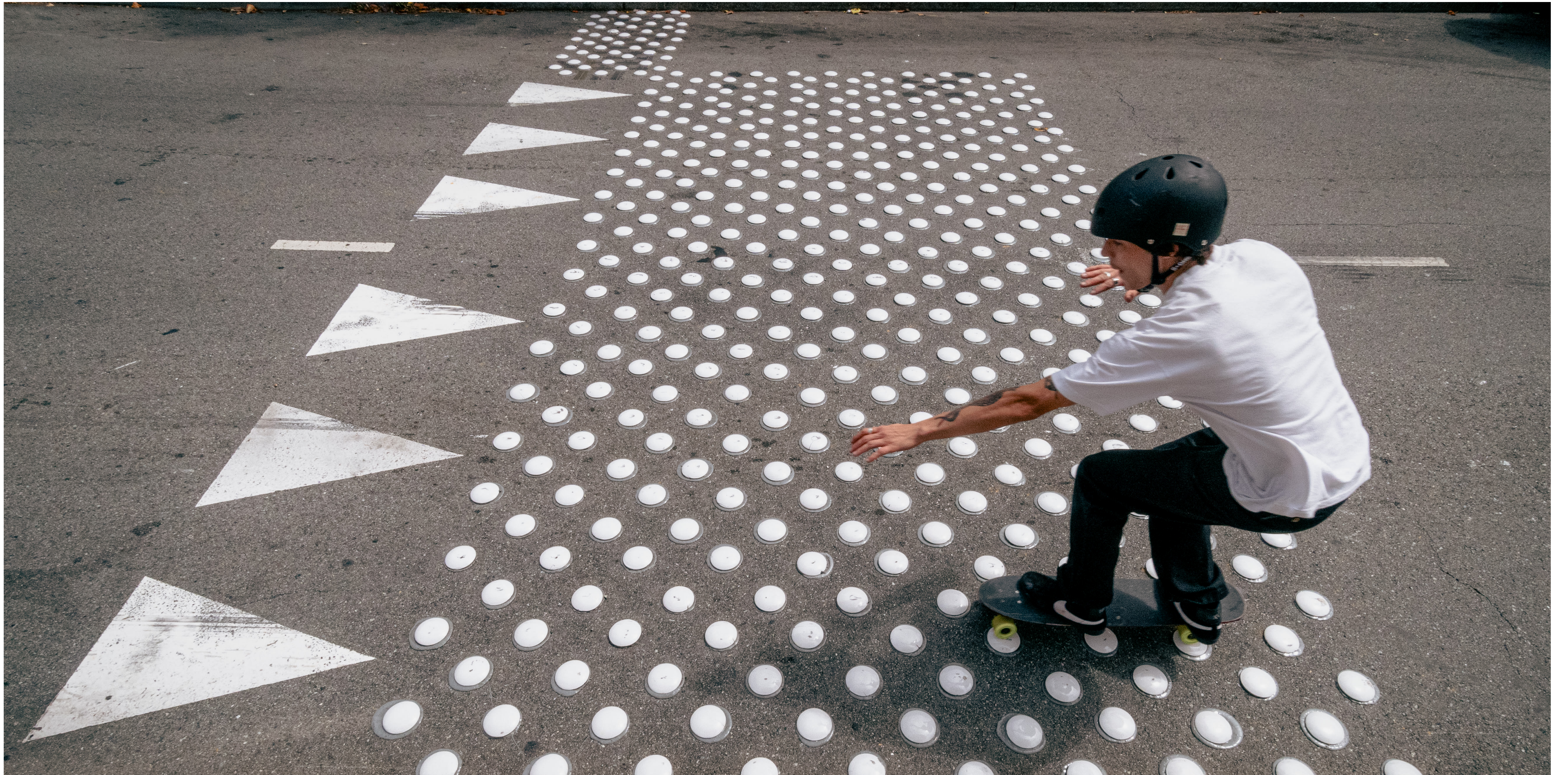
City Law Prevents Skating...

- After sunset
- Before sunrise
- On any street
- In any business district





SFMTA Active Communities Plan Bicycle Network Audit, Page Street



Anti-skateboarding infrastructure on Dolores Street, District 9

IMPEDIMENT TO ADOPTION

Public Space

Skating now allowed in these low-turbulence spaces:

- Tennis/Basketball courts
- Embarcadero waterfront
- Schoolyards



Side way cracks on Valencia at 14th Street

Law and Rule Infractions

- No dogs, skateboards, roller skating or bicycles allowed.



Four empty tennis courts at Mountain Lake Park—23,000 square feet



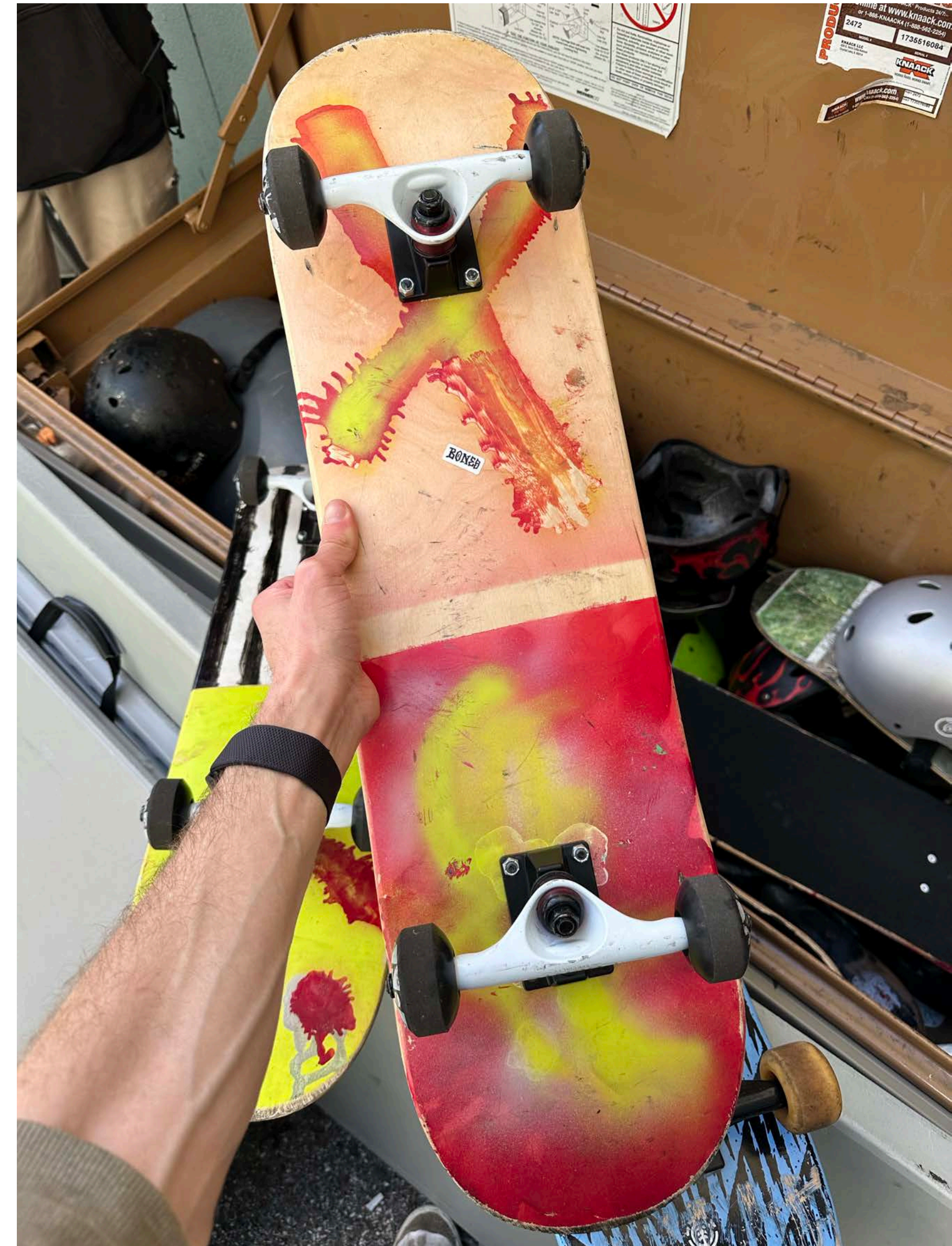
SFMTA Active Communities Plan Bicycle Network Audit, Embarcadero

IMPEDIMENT TO ADOPTION

Product Design

Skateboards optimized for tricks have...

- Small, hard wheels
- No wheelwells (typically)
- Short wheelbases
- Two kicktails



Skateboard from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



Lara Botto at Potrero del Sol Skatepark

IMPEDIMENT TO ADOPTION

Product Design

Skateboards optimized for transportation have...

- Larger, softer wheels
- Wheelwells to prevent wheelbite
- Longer wheelbase (sometimes)
- Only one kicktail (sometimes)



Soft wheel skateboards



Paloma Peralta on the Williamsburg Bridge, NYC

IMPEDIMENT TO ADOPTION

Public Perception

Recreation *And* Transportation

- Between life stages
- Between home, school, businesses and parks
- On streets *and* side ways
- Supporting walking, transit and first/last mile



Alesandro at James Lick Middle School



Shopping at Rainbow Grocery

In spite of the challenges...

8.8M

**Skateboarders in America
(2.6% of total population)**

48M

**Miles traveled annually by
skateboard in California**

30K

**Daily trips to and from
Los Angeles transit stops
by skateboard**

80%

**Portland intersections
reporting daily use
by skateboard**

1. Sports & Fitness Industry Association Single Sport Report on Skateboarding (2021)
2. Extrapolation from the California Household Travel Survey (2012)
3. Extrapolation from rider surveys conducted by LA Metro (2013)
4. City of Portland (2014)

Next Steps



Pro-Social Policy

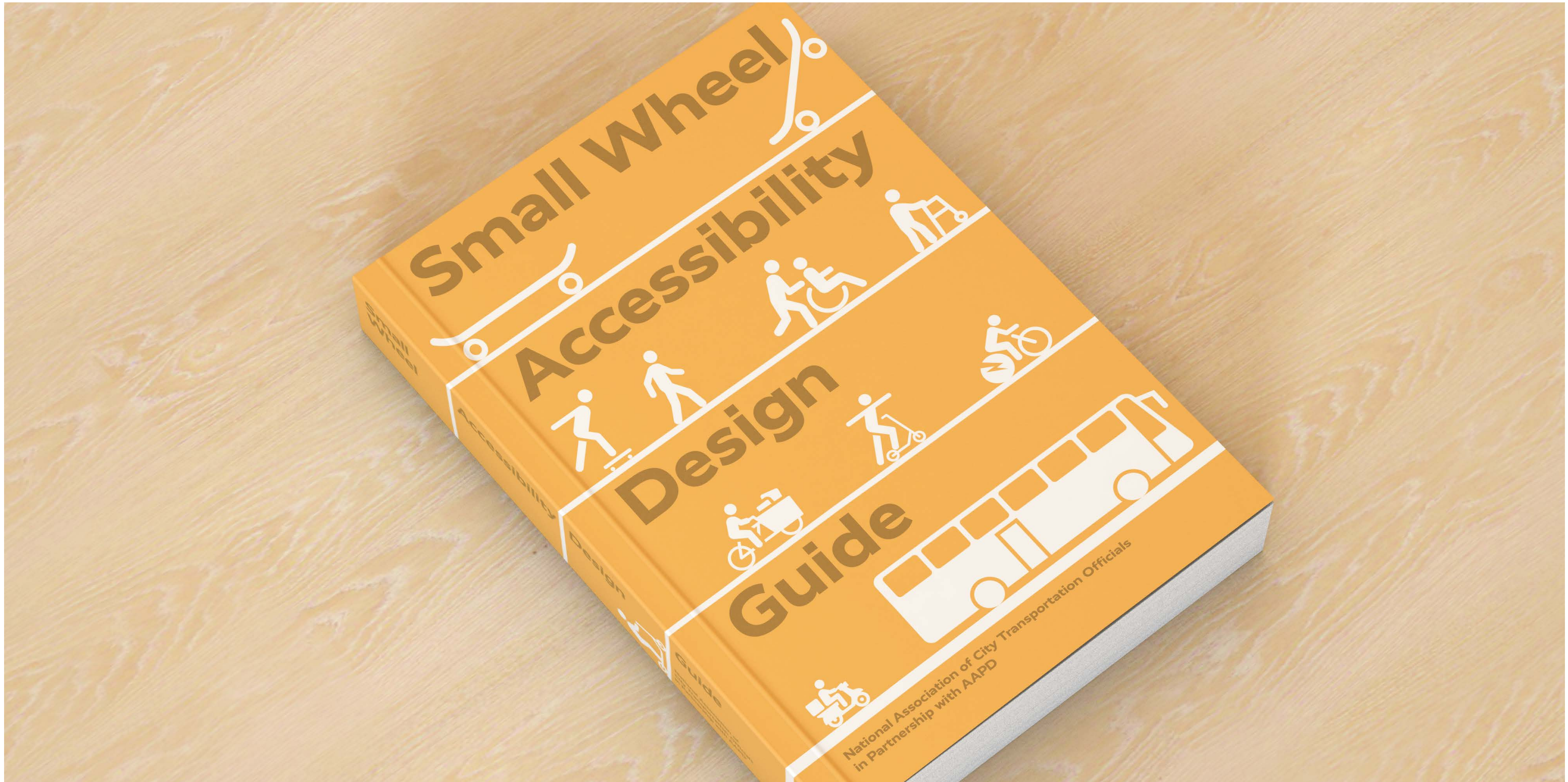


Soft Wheel Skate School at Cesar Chavez Elementary

Appoint Authority



Invest in Innovation



Designing a more equitable future



Welcome Home

Thank You!

**For further discussion
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