

Walter U Lum Place Public Space Study



San Francisco
County Transportation
Authority

Transportation Authority Board - Agenda Item 6
July 08, 2025

Study Overview

Examine various scenarios for a people-first Walter U Lum Place and design strategies to connect the alleyway with Portsmouth Square.

Recommends a concept design that responds to community input, addresses trade-offs between pedestrian and loading access, and could be compatible with Portsmouth Square renovation



Walter U Lum Place, October 2024

Outreach

Two rounds of outreach guided concept development and refinement

- Steering committee
- Multilingual surveys
- Community meetings
- Merchant focus groups



Project staff presenting at Community Tenant's Association meeting, June 2024



Project staff at a pop-up event, November 2024

Concept Development

Three potential design concepts

- Developed based on technical analysis and outreach findings
- Test physical solutions for the alleyway
- Get feedback on community interest in design features



Overview of three potential design concepts, shared in round 2 outreach

Recommended Concept

Main Features

- Widened, ADA-accessible sidewalk
- Stepped curb
- Modified loading lane
- Expanded, raised crosswalk at Clay Street
- Common paving materials and pattern with Portsmouth Square
- Option for temporary street closure
- Arts and culture opportunities through street furnishings



Top: Rendering of recommended concept, open to vehicle traffic

Bottom: Rendering of recommended concept, closed to vehicle traffic with street festival

Implementation Plan

- Detailed design and construction cost estimates
 - Detailed design: \$870,000
 - Construction: \$4,350,000
- Potential funding sources
- Timing needed to align with Portsmouth Square renovation



Pedestrians on Walter U Lum Place, 2023

Thank you.

sfcta.org/walter-u-lum

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