Transportation Access Matters!
Past, Present, Future

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Big Ideas

• History
• Geometry
• Intersections
• The Future
History
Disability Rights Movement

• Bay Area birthplace of Disability Rights Movement

• 1973
  • Rehabilitation Act
  • Section 504
    • Any entity receiving federal funding cannot discriminate based on disability

• 1977
  • Section 504 not taken effect
  • Demonstrations across the US
Disability Rights Movement (cont’d)

• 1980
  • First accessible Muni buses
  • Beginning of SF Paratransit

• 1980’s
  • Demonstrations at APTA meetings

• 1990
  • Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

• 1992
  • Designated network of accessible rail stations/stops to meet ADA Key Station requirements

• 1994
  • First ramped taxis in San Francisco
Other Improvements by SFMTA

FREE MUNI for Seniors and People with Disabilities

To qualify for free Muni rides, you must be low-to-moderate income and either be a senior or person with a disability. Program begins March 1, 2015.

For more information and to apply for the program visit www.sfmta.com/freemuni or call 311 (415.701.2311).
Geometry
Geometry: Making Civil Rights Real

• Make civil rights real in physical space
• Accessibility is everyone’s responsibility
  • Build in accessibility from Day 1
• People with disabilities are a valuable consumer base
  • “Nothing for us without us”
  • Engage consumers and use their feedback
• Beyond compliance, meet the needs of users
Geometry: Interventions

You also need interventions beyond feet and inches.
Intersections
The Curb Cut Effect

• Technology designed for people with disabilities can help everyone.

• When assistive technology is installed often enough, it becomes the norm.
Universal Design

“The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design”

– Ron Mace, Founder of Universal Design Center at UNC
7 Principles of Universal Design

1. Equitable Use
2. Flexibility in Use
3. Simple and Intuitive Use
4. Perceptible Information
5. Tolerance for Error
6. Low Physical Effort
7. Size and Space for Approach and Use

(Center for Universal Design, 2000)
People with Disabilities are Vulnerable in Multiple Ways

People with disabilities in San Francisco…

- Are more likely to not be working/unemployed
- Almost 50% earn less than $25,000/year
- 35% take public transit
  - Similar to the able-bodied population
- Over 1/5 of people who identified as Black/African-American identified as having a disability
  - Twice the rate of other racial groups, includes all ages

(Source: Table S1810 “Disability Characteristics,” 2013-2017 ACS 5-year Estimates)
Seniors are Vulnerable in Multiple Ways

Seniors in San Francisco…

- 37% identify as having a disability
- Almost a third of 65+ year olds are 80+
- 55% speak a language other than English
  - 40% of them speak English “less than very well”
- Over 80% of seniors not in the labor force
- Almost half of seniors are renters
  - 54% of renting seniors are rent-burdened*

*Spending 30% or more of income on rent

(Source: Table S0101 “Age and Sex,” 2012-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates; Table S0103 “Population 65 Years and Over in the US,” 2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates)
Seniors account for ~50% of pedestrian deaths, but comprise only 15% of the SF population.

Crowding → More frequent headways
Other Accessible Interventions

When we make things better for people with disabilities, we can meet a multitude of needs.
The Future
Fewer people driving is good for the future

• Less VMT

• Alternatives and choices
  • Historically limited for seniors and people with disabilities
  • Transportation is key for these communities
  • Latent demand
Demographics are Changing

• Seniors are fastest growing demographic
  • Living longer
  • Aging in place
• Tech savvy seniors
• Public all want convenience
Transportation is Changing

• Emerging mobility
  • TNCs Disabled Access
• New technology
  • Avs
  • Users and nonusers
• Be proactive, not reactive
Funding

• Be smart with current funding
• New funding sources
  • FASTER Bay Area
• Paratransit
  • Cost
  • Technology
• Affordability
Climate is Changing

• “New normal”
  • Extreme weather, rising temperatures, rain, etc.
  • Vulnerable people

• Build Resiliency into our transportation system
  • Better service now
  • Emergencies
Wrap Up - Big Ideas

- History
- Geometry
- Intersections
- The Future
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