

Healthy, Safe, & Vibrant SF General Obligation Bond Project Selection Criteria



February 24, 2025

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item

Action Item:

Consideration of project selection criteria for three components of the Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant San Francisco G.O. Bond:

- ▣ Pedestrian & Roadway Safety and Streetscape Enhancements
- ▣ Public Spaces
- ▣ Active Recreation

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Discussion Schedule

CPC Meeting Date	Agenda Item
February 24	Vibrant SF Bond: Project Selection Criteria – Action Item
April	Vibrant SF Bond: Bond Authorization & Issuance Request – Action Item

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond Background

CPC approved the Vibrant SF GO Bond Ordinance at the May 6, 2024 meeting

- ▣ The Committee directed staff to develop project selection criteria for the Street Safety Improvement Program and Modern & Accessible Public Realm Program.
- ▣ This includes:
 - ▣ Pedestrian & Roadway Safety and Streetscape Enhancements - \$63.9M
 - ▣ Public Spaces - \$41M
 - ▣ Active Recreation - \$5M

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond Criteria Development

Office of Resilience & Capital Planning staff developed criteria based on:

- ▣ Priorities described in bond ordinance and bond report
- ▣ Citywide capital planning funding priorities
- ▣ Insights offered by Public Works, SFMTA, Rec Park, and OEWD

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Core Criteria

All projects will be reviewed on:

- Capital Planning Funding Principles (5pts)
 1. Address Legal Mandate
 2. Improve Life Safety & Resilience
 3. Asset Preservation
 4. Included in Formal Program or Plan
 5. Economic Development
- Project Readiness (2pts)
 1. Schematic Design Complete
 2. CEQA Clearance

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond Core Criteria

Capital Plan Funding Principles	
Funding Principle #1 - Addresses Legal or Regulatory Mandate	
A	Proactively reduce the City's exposure to legal liability
B	Improvement is necessary to comply with a federal, state, or local legal or regulatory mandate
Funding Principle #2 - Protects Life Safety and Enhances Resilience, including Racial Equity	
C	Mitigates building seismic/infrastructure risks or improves building seismic/infrastructure performance
D	Improves building/infrastructure accessibility
E	Enhances resilience, including racial equity
Funding Principle #3 - Ensures Asset Preservation and Sustainability	
F	Timely maintenance and renewal of existing infrastructure
Funding Principle #4 - Serves Programmatic or Planned Needs	
G	Contributes to a formally adopted plan or action from the BOS or the Mayor
Funding Principle #5 - Promotes Economic Development	
I	Contributes to City's increased revenue generation
J	Reduces government operating costs
K	Contributes to improvements to government service delivery

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Pedestrian & Street Safety

- ▣ Bond Priorities (6 pts)
 1. Located in High Injury Network
 2. Located in Equity Priority Community
 3. Redesigns streets to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety
 4. Reduces potholes
 5. Replaces obsolete and deteriorating traffic signal infrastructure
 6. Seismically strengthens street structures

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond Pedestrian & Street Safety

Pedestrian & Street Safety Project Criteria	
Located in High Injury Network (HIN)	
A	Significant portion of project is located within the HIN in San Francisco
Located in Equity Priority Community	
B	Project improves transportation service and/or infrastructure located within an equity priority community as defined in the MUNI Service Equity Strategy
C	Project improves transportation service equity and/or reliability in San Francisco along a priority route identified in the MUNI Service Equity Strategy
Redesigns Streets to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety	
D	Infrastructure improvements in the public right-of-way that reduce traffic speed, improve visibility, and/or create protected spaces for active modes of transportation
Reduces potholes	
H	Timely maintenance and repaving of streets
Replaces obsolete and deteriorating traffic signal infrastructure	
I	Improves intersections with more visible signals for drivers
J	Improves pedestrian countdown signals
K	Replaces traffic signals
Seismically strengthens street structures	
L	Mitigates seismic risks or improves seismic performance of street structures

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond Public Spaces

- ▣ Bond Priorities (6 pts)
 1. Address decline in foot traffic in Union Square / Downtown
 2. Directly support the downtown retail storefront economy
 3. Address decrease in sales tax revenue
 4. Named in bond report
 5. Located in Union Square / Downtown
 6. Improve/modernize public space

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond Public Spaces

Public Spaces Bond Criteria	
Address Decline in Foot Traffic in Union Square/ Downtown	
A	Foot traffic data shows a significant decline from 2019 to present
Directly supports downtown retail storefront economy	
B	Total square footage of retail storefront within census block
Addresses Decrease in Sales Tax Revenue	
C	Sales tax data shows a significant decline from 2019 to present
Named in Bond Report	
D	Project is named in the bond report
Located in Union Square / Downtown	
E	Project located in Union Square or Downtown Area
Improves/ revitalize public space	
F	Projects will improve the pedestrian experience
G	Project improves a publicly accessible open space (park/plaza/public right of way area)

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Active Recreation

- ▣ Bond Priorities (5 pts)
 1. Rehabilitate & modernize park infrastructure/active recreation space
 2. Safety & accessibility improvements for public open spaces
 3. Improve geographical diversity of active recreational spaces across the city
 4. Includes electrical upgrades to increase active use of project space
 5. Investment in public open space to increase capacity for ticketed events

Vibrant SF G.O. Bond Active Recreation

Active Recreation Bond Criteria	
Rehabilitate & modernize park infrastructure/active recreation space	
A	Improvements will enhance visitor experience
B	Investments will drive activations, foot traffic, and additional economic activity
Safety & Accessibility Improvements of Public Open Space	
A	Increase access and safety around facilities, for example improved lighting around public park spaces
B	Remove ADA barriers and/or improve accessibility in or around recreational space
C	Repave connections to park spaces and public venues
Electrical upgrades to increase active use of project space	
D	Upgrade electrical connections and/or capacity of project location
Improves geographical diversity of active recreational spaces across the city	
E	Project located in a community that lacks adequate active recreational space
Investments in public open space to increase capacity for ticketed events	
G	Improvements will increase capacity for programmed events, including ticketed events

Questions and Comments?

onesanfrancisco.org

An aerial photograph of San Francisco, showing the city's dense urban landscape, the bay, and the Golden Gate Bridge in the distance. A semi-transparent blue rectangular overlay is centered over the city, containing white text. The text reads: "There is only one San Francisco. Let's take care of it." The background of the overlay features a faint, repeating pattern of the San Francisco City Hall building.

**There is only one San Francisco.
Let's take care of it.**





Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Appendix: Relevant Legislation Excerpts

3 K. Due to the high office vacancy rates after the COVID-19 pandemic, there has
4 been a significant increase in retail vacancy and a significant decrease in sales tax revenue in
5 the Union Square and downtown areas. This Bond will make capital improvements in and
6 around the Union Square and downtown areas that are designed to improve the pedestrian
7 experience as part of a complementary strategy to sustain and improve the downtown retail
8 storefront economy.

9 L. Infrastructure investment is a known and tested jobs stimulus strategy with a
10 strong multiplier effect, estimated at 5.93 jobs for every million dollars in construction
11 spending according to the REMI Policy Insight model.

12 M. Since 2005, the City has engaged in regular, long-term capital planning to
13 identify and advance shovel-ready projects that deliver improvements in line with adopted
14 funding principles that prioritize legal and regulatory mandates, life safety and resilience,
15 asset preservation and sustainability, programmatic and planned needs, and economic
16 development.



Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Appendix: Relevant Legislation Excerpts

3 D. **STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.** Up to ~~\$68,900,000~~ 63,900,000 of Bbond
4 proceeds will be used to pay the cost of certain street safety projects Citywide, including
5 **projects on the High Injury Network, and making investments to improve pedestrian, bicycle,**
6 **and traffic safety by repairing, constructing, and improving transportation infrastructure and**
7 **equipment, including traffic signal upgrades, constructing and redesigning streets and**
8 **sidewalks, and certain multimodal streetscape projects.**



Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Appendix: Relevant Legislation Excerpts

9 E. MODERN AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC REALM PROJECTS. Up to
10 \$46,000,000 41,000,000 of Bbond proceeds will used to improve and modernize public
11 spaces in the downtown San Francisco areas, which could include areas near Powell and
12 Market Streets, including accessibility improvements, and transit access and pedestrian
13 experience enhancements; up to \$25,000,000 of Bbond proceeds will be used to improve
14 accessibility, safety, and design at the Harvey Milk Plaza; and up to \$5,000,000 of Bbond
15 proceeds will be used to rehabilitate and modernize park infrastructure and improve active
16 recreational spaces.



Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Appendix: Relevant Bond Report Excerpts

This General Obligation Bond proposal features:

- **Pedestrian, Bicycle Safety & Streetscape Improvements**

This bond will allow the City to modernize streets to include important safety components to make streets more functional and joyful. This would include treatments such as protective barriers along bicycle lanes and bike safety features, pedestrian lighting and countdown signals, curb bulb-outs, tree planting, landscaping, and stormwater management features that reduce sewer overflows and street flooding. This may include intersection improvements and new and upgraded traffic signals for better traffic circulation and invest in safety improvements for people walking and biking to ensure safer access to the San Francisco Zoo and Ocean Beach in anticipation of additional traffic traveling on Sloat Boulevard after the Great Highway Extension closure.

\$63,900,000 is proposed to fund street safety and road repaving citywide to address maintenance now and avoid paying more to make these repairs in the future.

The proposed bond will:

- Redesign streets to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, contribute to sustainability, and promote economic activity
- Reduce potholes, which are dangerous for cyclists
- Seismically strengthen street structures
- Upgrade traffic, pedestrian, and transit signals and provide other safety features that improve accessibility, speed traffic flow, and decrease congestion
- Repair and widen sidewalks, bulb outs, and develop other pedestrian safety infrastructure



Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Appendix: Relevant Bond Report Excerpts



Downtown Improvements

Due to the high office vacancy rates after the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been significant increase in retail vacancy and a decrease in sales tax revenue in the Union Square and downtown areas. This Bond will make capital improvements in and around the Union Square and downtown areas that are designed to improve access to the area, increase foot traffic, and improve the pedestrian experience as part of a complementary strategy to sustain and improve the downtown retail storefront economy.

These investments may include projects such as:

- **Powell Street Improvements:**
Investments in the public right of way near the Powell and Market street intersections that improve the pedestrian experience, such as sidewalk and streetscape improvements.
- **Transit Accessibility Improvements:**
Bond dollars may be used to improve accessibility and connections between transit and the downtown area, such as accessibility or design improvements to the Hallidie Plaza.



Vibrant SF G.O. Bond

Appendix: Relevant Bond Report Excerpts

Modernizing Recreational Spaces

In order to ensure that San Francisco continues to be a vibrant, welcoming place for residents and visitors, the City must continue to invest the public realm in order to drive activations, foot traffic, and additional economic activity. In order to do so, the City plans to invest up to \$5 million from the Healthy, Safe and Vibrant San Francisco Bond to invest active recreational spaces that enhance visitor experience. These may include investments in public open spaces for more recreational programming that allow for ticketed events; increasing access and safety around facilities improving geographical diversity of these active recreational spaces across the City.

Specific investments could include:

- Safety improvements for public open spaces, such as improved lighting around public park spaces
- Accessibility investments, such as repaved connections to park spaces and public venues
- Electrical upgrades to increase the active use portfolio of our public open spaces