Creating our Own Champs Elysees

How can we make Market Street great?

Jeffrey Tumlin   **February 22, 2010**

Nelson\Nygaard consulting associates   SPUR

First, some history

- Laid out in 1847 by Jasper O'Farrell, a 26-year-old Irishman.

- Parallels the older Mission Rd., aiming for "Los Pechos de la Choca"

- O'Farrell was nearly lynched because of Market.

"When the engineer had completed his map of Market Street and the southern part of the city, what was regarded as the abnormal width of the proposed street excited part of the populace, and an indignation meeting was held to protest against the plan as wanton disregard for rights of landowners; and the mob, for such it was, decided for lynch law. A friend warned O'Farrell, before the crowd had dispersed. He rode with all haste to North Beach, took a boat for Sausalito, and thence put distance behind him on fast horses in relay until he reached his retreat in Sonoma. He found it discreet to remain some time in the country before venturing to return to the city."
Forgotten Pioneers, T.F. Pendergast

1890s

Photo: SF Public Library Photo Collection. www.sfpl.org

1906

1920s

Photo: SF Public Library Photo Collection. www.sfpl.org

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1940s

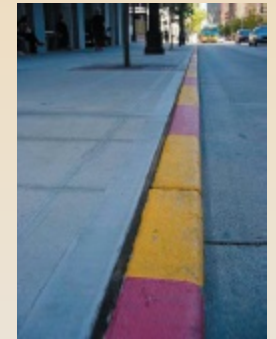Photo: SF Public Library Photo Collection. www.sfpl.org

1969-1972

12/3/69

Photo: SF Public Library Photo Collection. www.sfpl.org

A great street…

1. Invites participation
2. Feels safe and comfortable
3. Inspires and surprises
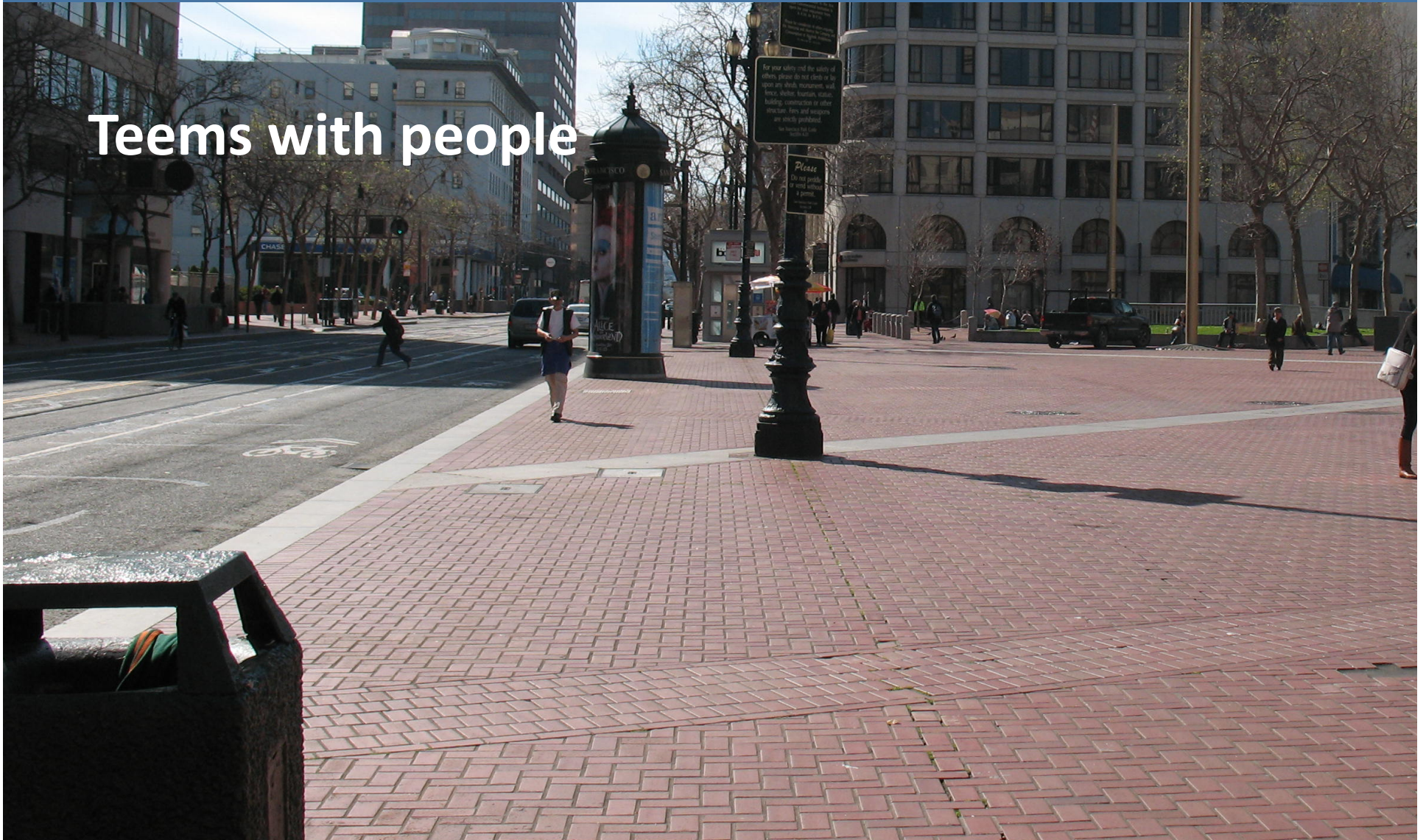4. Balances place and function
5. Accommodates constraints

1. Invites participation

Teems with people

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Teems with people

1. Invites participation

Offers transparency

1. Invites participation

Offers transparency
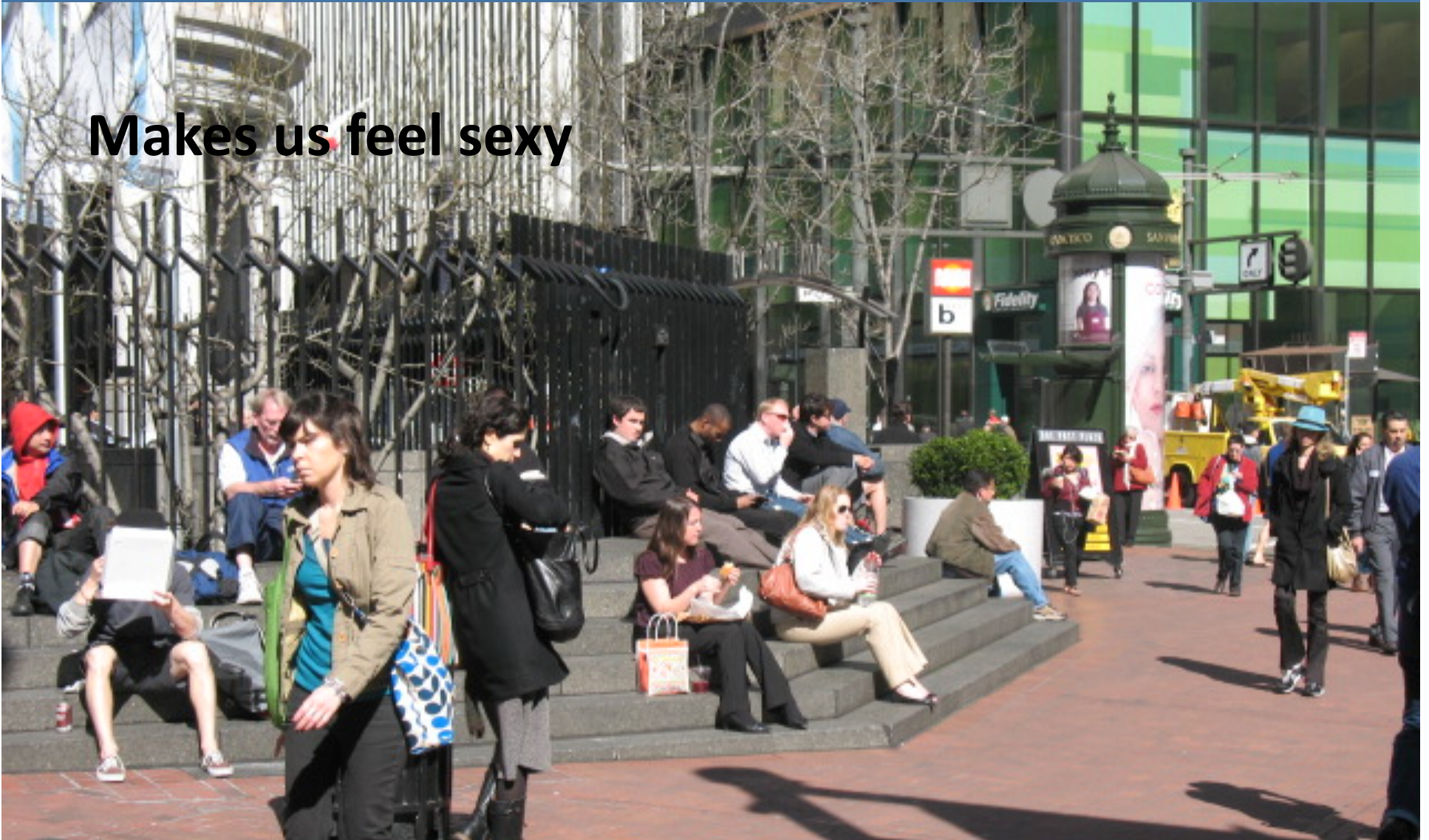
1. Invites participation

Challenges our assumptions

1. Invites participation

Makes us feel sexy

1. Invites participation

Makes us feel sexy

2. Feels safe and comfortable

Encourages unpurposeful walking

2. Feels safe and comfortable

Expands the social contract

2. Feels safe and comfortable

Appears well maintained

2. Feels safe and comfortable

Operates at pedestrian-safe speeds

Feels safe and comfortable

Provides gentle, interesting illumination

3. Inspires and surprises

Makes us think differently about ourselves

3. Inspires and surprises

Makes us think differently about ourselves

3. Inspires and surprises

Plays with light and shadow

3. Inspires and surprises

Plays with light and shadow

3. Inspires and surprises

Offers places that are snug

3. Inspires and surprises

...and places that are grand

http://www.sfcityscape.com

Thanks Steve Boland!

4. Balances place and function

Accommodates delivery and drop-off

4. Balances place and function

Accommodates delivery and drop-off
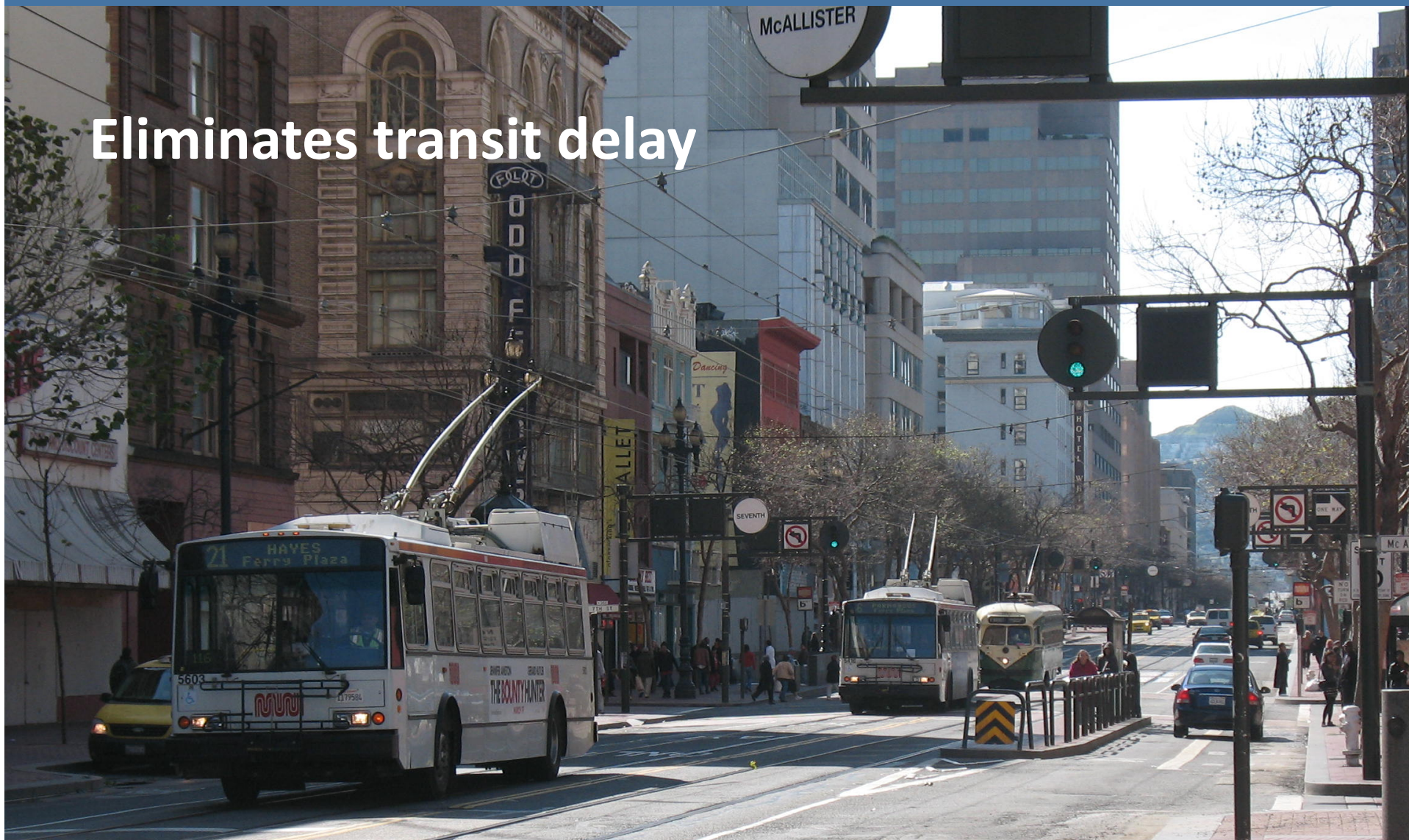
4. Balances place and function

Addresses streetcar tracks

Accommodates everyone at boarding islands

4. Balances place and function

Eliminates transit delay

4. Balances place and function

Provides safe pedestrian crossings

4. Balances place and function

Provides safety and comfort for all cyclists
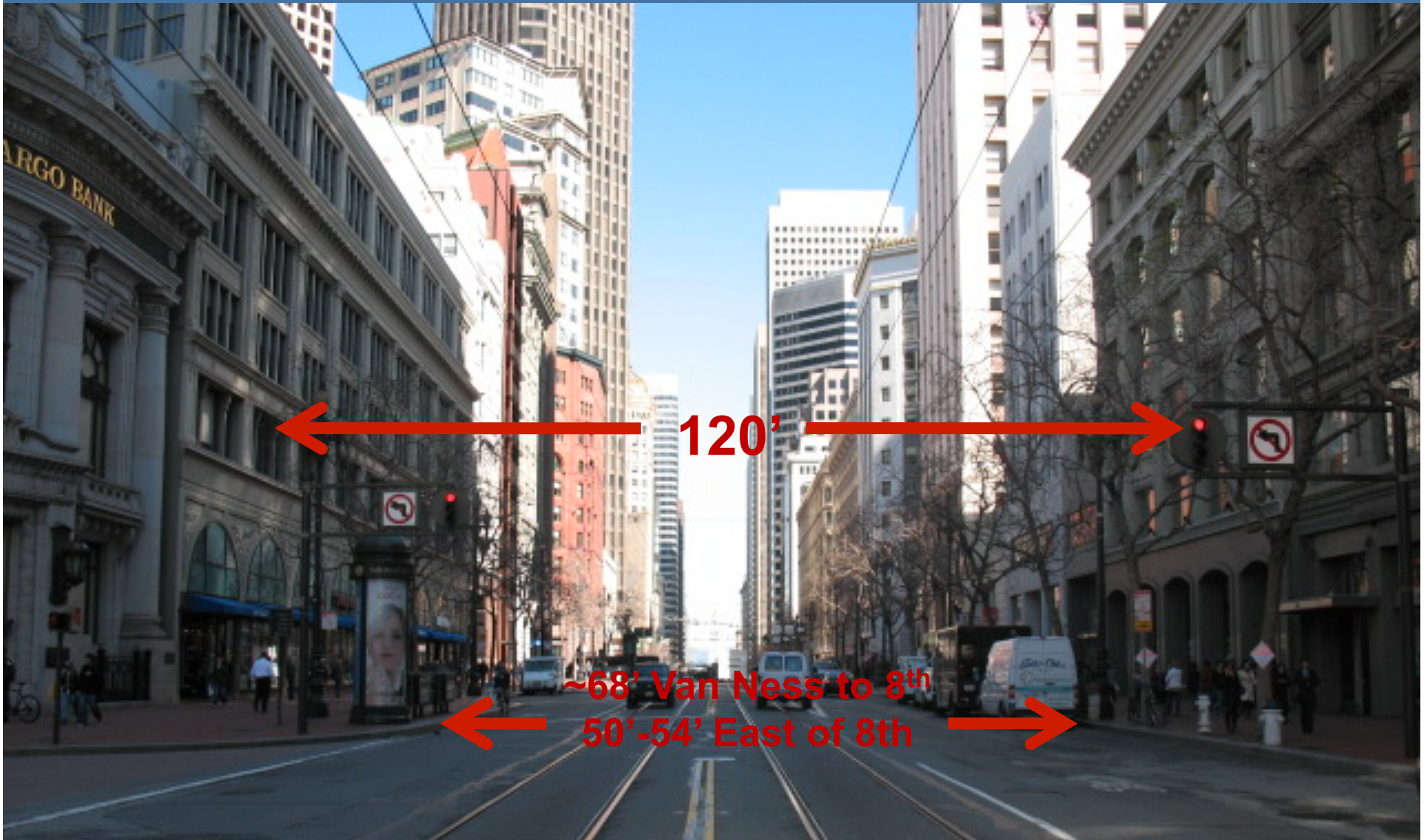
4. Balances place and function

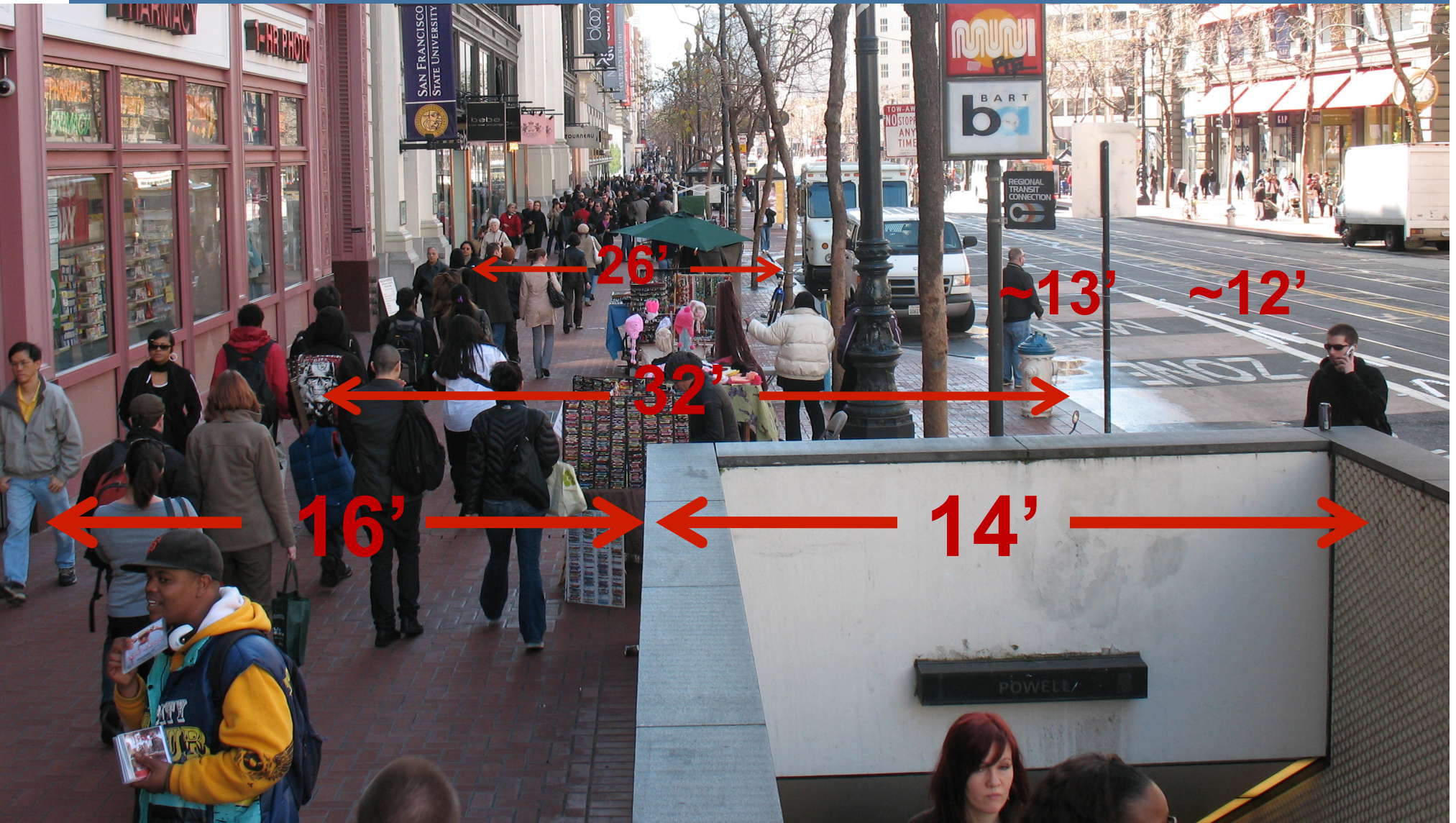**Maintains access to subway**

4. Balances place and function

Maintains access to subway

5. Recognizes constraints

120'

~68' Van Ness to 8th
50'-54' East of 8th

5. Recognizes constraints

6'
(Should be 8'-12')

5. Recognizes constraints

5. Recognizes constraints

1'-3'

13'

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Many successes

- Required right turns
- Separated bike lanes
- Improved landscape
- Outdoor seating
- A few successful plazas
- Art in storefronts
- Artists and food vendors

Some ideas….

- Stop buses every other block to speed service?

- Move boarding islands midblock to increase size and comfort?

- Make transit-only lane self-enforcing and extend?

- Separated cycle track west of 8th, traffic calming in outside lane east of 8th?

- Chicago-style landscaping

- Full spectrum and artful lighting

- Expand art, streetfood and seating programs

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