Lake Merritt Station Area Plan: CSG Meeting #10 Emerging Plan Framework



DYETT & BHATIA

Urban and Regional Planners

Vision

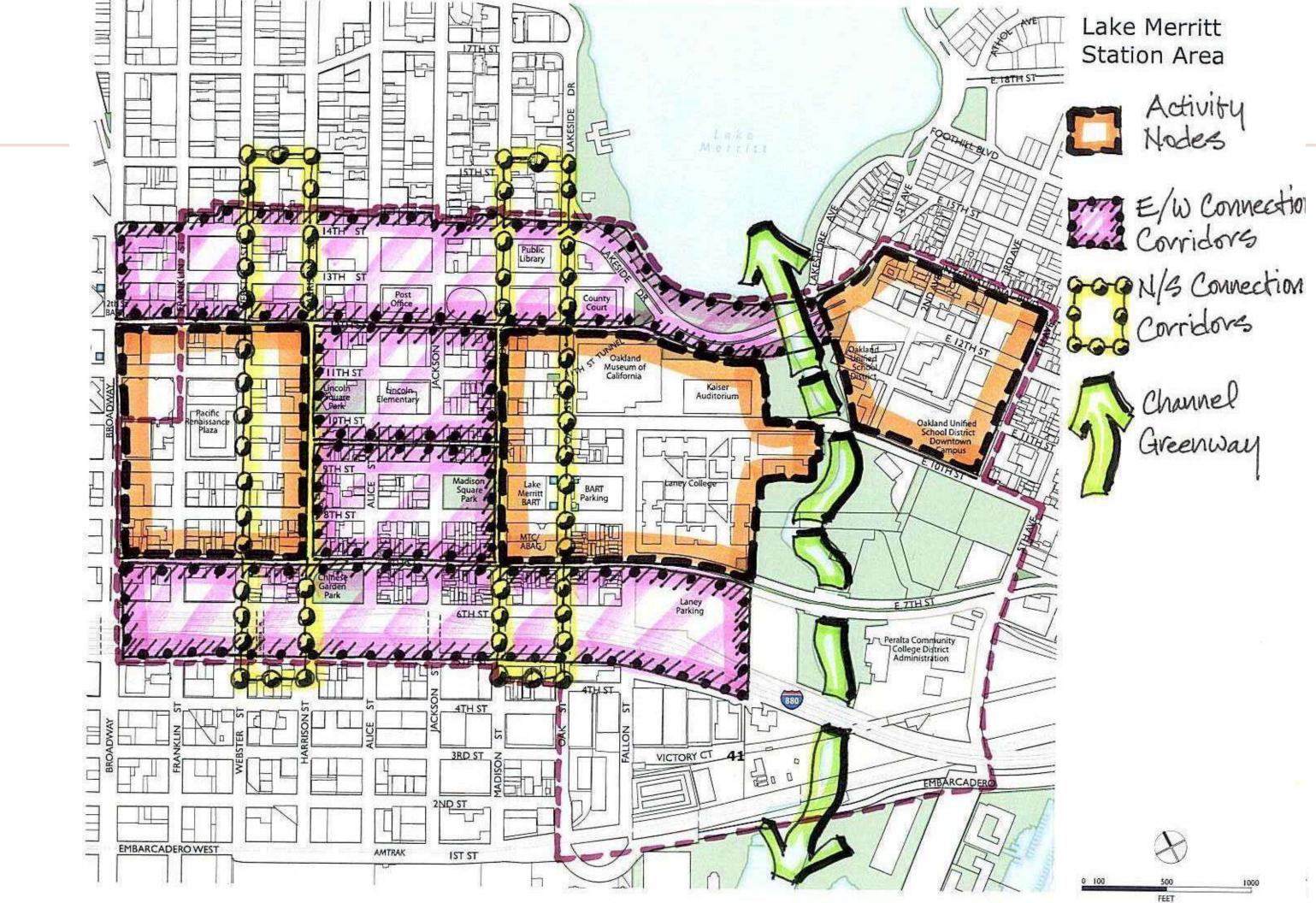
- Create a financially feasible, implementable plan that is the result of an authentic community engagement process and is inclusionary of all community voices.
- Create a more active, vibrant, and safe district to serve and attract residents, businesses, students, and visitors.
- Provide for community development that is equitable, sustainable, and healthy.
- Increase use of non-automobile modes of transportation.
- Increase the housing supply to accommodate a diverse community, especially affordable housing and housing around the BART station.

Vision

- Increase jobs and improve access to jobs along the transit corridor.
- Provide services and retail options in the station area.
- Identify additional recreation and open space opportunities.
- Celebrate and enhance the heritage of Chinatown as a cultural asset and a regional community destination.
- Establish the Lake Merritt Station Area as a model with innovations in community development, transportation, housing, jobs, and businesses and environmental, social, and economic sustainability, and greenhouse gas reductions.

Goals

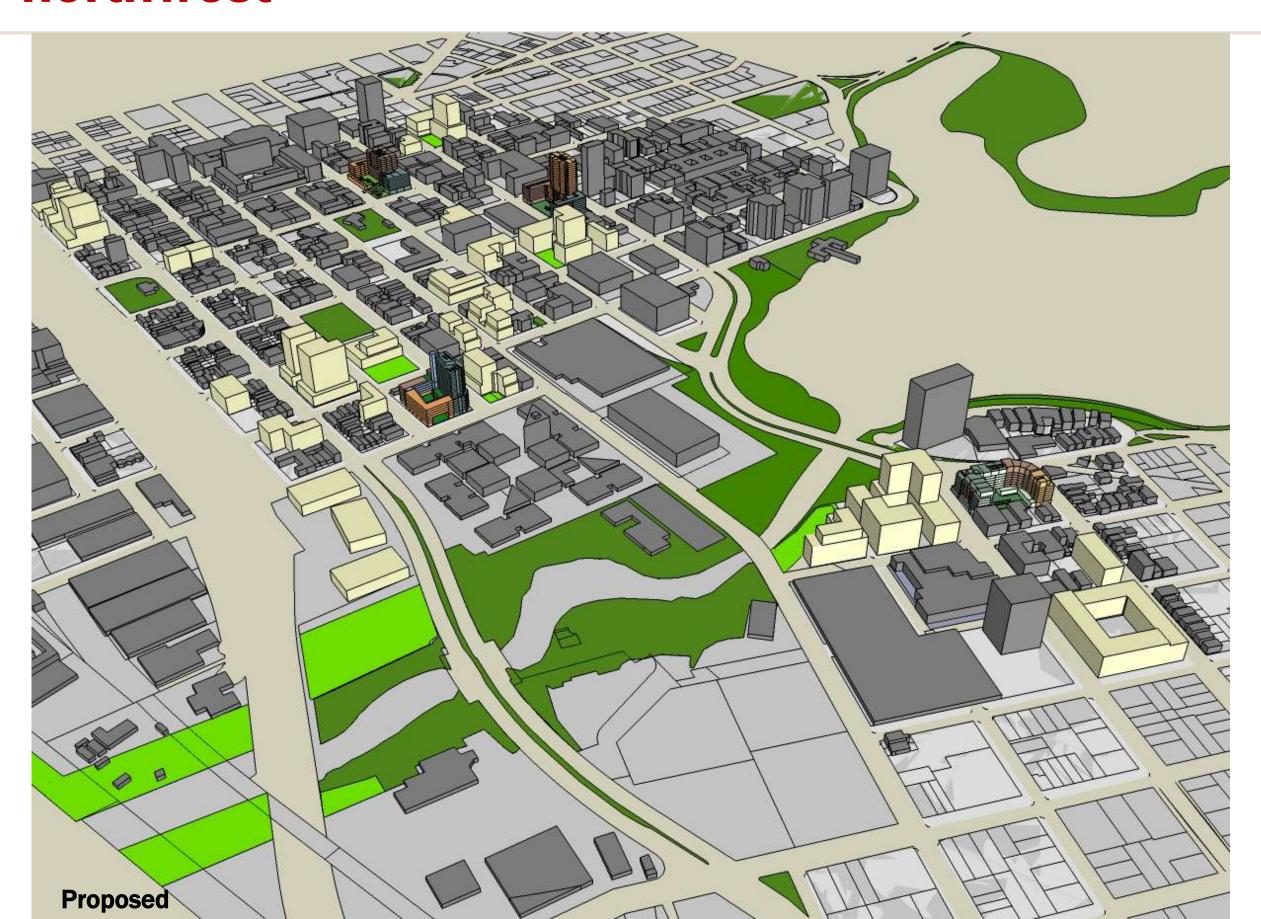
- Community engagement
- Public safety
- Business
- Jobs
- Housing
- Community facilities and open space
- Transportation
- Community and cultural anchor and regional destination
- Health
- Redevelopment of key publicly owned blocks near BART
- Green and sustainable urban design



3-Dimensional Views of Planning Area – facing northwest



3-Dimensional Views of Planning Area – facing northwest



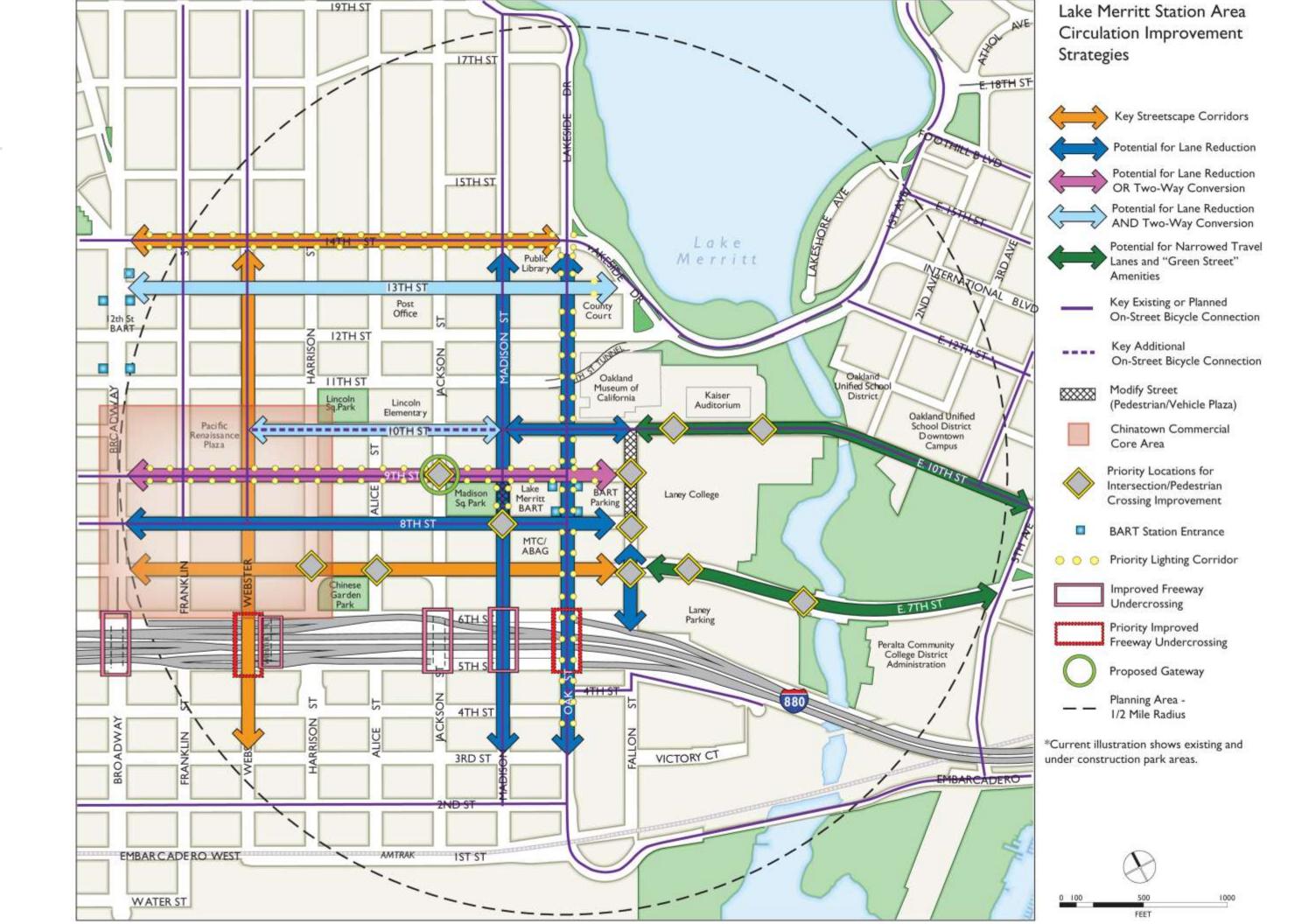
3-Dimensional Views of Planning Area – facing northeast



3-Dimensional Views of Planning Area – facing northeast



Overview of Land Use and Transportation Plan



Overall Transportation Improvements

- Major Priorities (from CSG feedback)
- Pedestrian-Oriented Lighting
- Pedestrian Improvements Bulb-outs and Sidewalk Widening
- Lane Reductions
- Two-Way Street Conversions
- Bike Lanes
- Street Trees

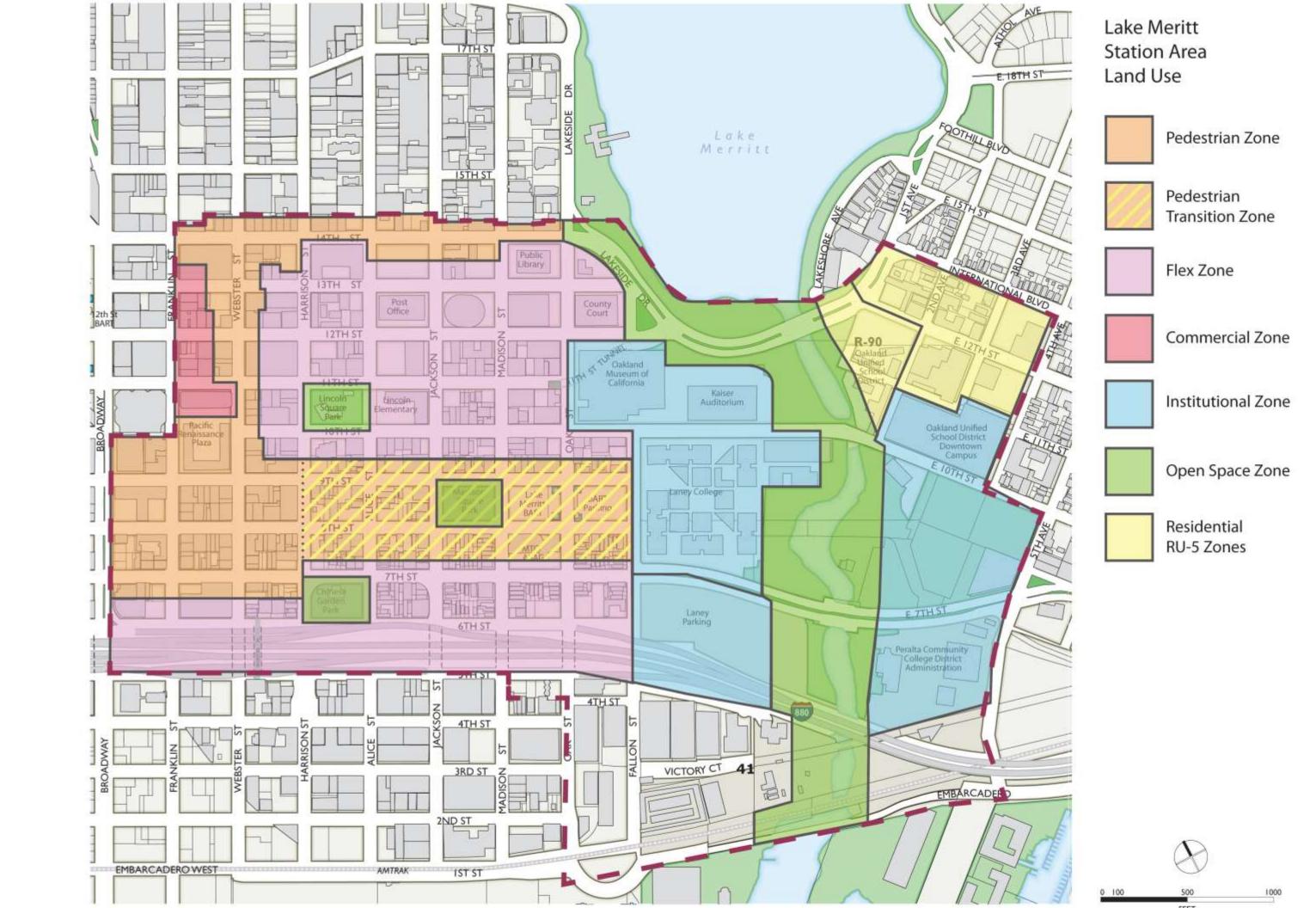
 Improvements are now shown related to each sub-area with feedback incorporated into identification of key agreements and options where there is a diversity of opinions.

Street Transportation Changes – Now and Later

- Five Year Paving Plan
 - Madison Street (2nd and 17th Sts.), Oak Street (2nd and 14th Sts.),
 8th and 9th Streets (Fallon and Harrison Sts.)
 - Striping work can easily be incorporated into paving projects
- Consider phasing transportation improvements:
 - Implement some physical changes sooner if eligible for construction
 - Traffic calming achieved via striping (bulbouts, reducing lanes, bike lanes)
 - Ensure current work does not preclude the possibility to make conversions
 - Apply for grants to study the feasibility of conversion to two-way traffic (requires complicated studies beyond the budget and scope of the Station Area Plan)
 - Implement second phase of improvements after trial period and/or studies
 - Conversion or sidewalk widening

Street Transportation Changes – Now and Later

- Other studies for the Station Area Plan
 - Franklin and Webster (have excess capacity)
 - Converting one block of Harrison to go two-way

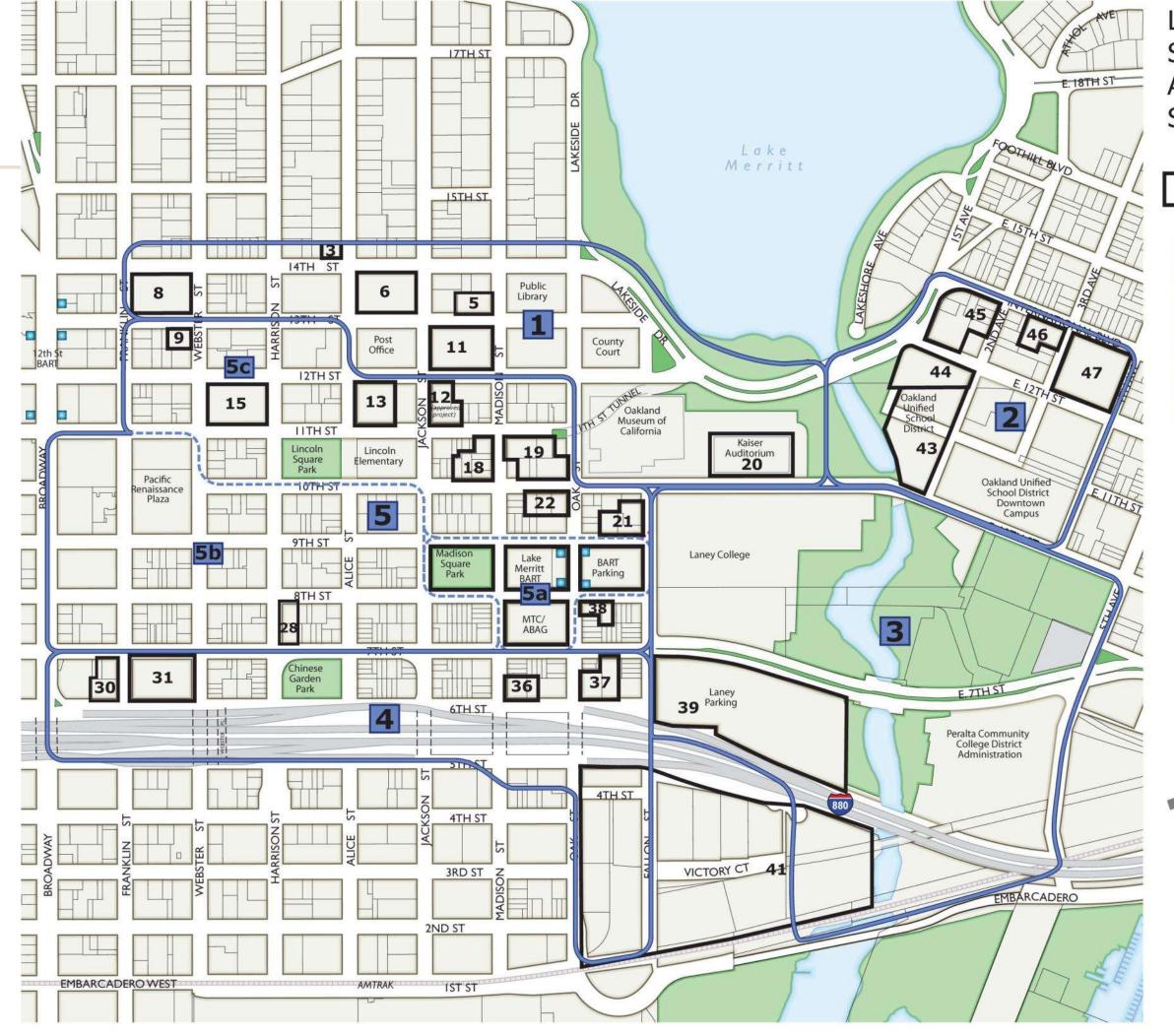




Other Key Topics to Cover

- Building Massing
- Community Benefits for Higher Buildings
- Affordable Housing
- Historic Resources
- Parks
- Other Specific Items

Study Areas

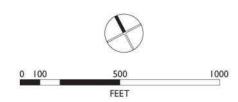


Lake Merritt Station Area: Areas of Study

- Opportunity Sites with Community Agreement or Vacant Sites
 - 1 14th St. Corridor
 - 2 East Lake Gateway
 - 3 Peralta/Laney College
- 4 I-880
- 5 Chinatown Core



July, 2011



Key Topics to Cover

- Big Ideas and Vision Agreed
- Identification of Key Questions to Be Resolved
 - Land Use
 - Transportation
 - Parks
- Transportation
 - Agreement for some improvements; others still have options to consider

Criteria for Prioritization

- Greatest benefit for community
- Capacity for improvements
- Feasibility of improvements
- Relative cost of improvements
- Grant/funding availability















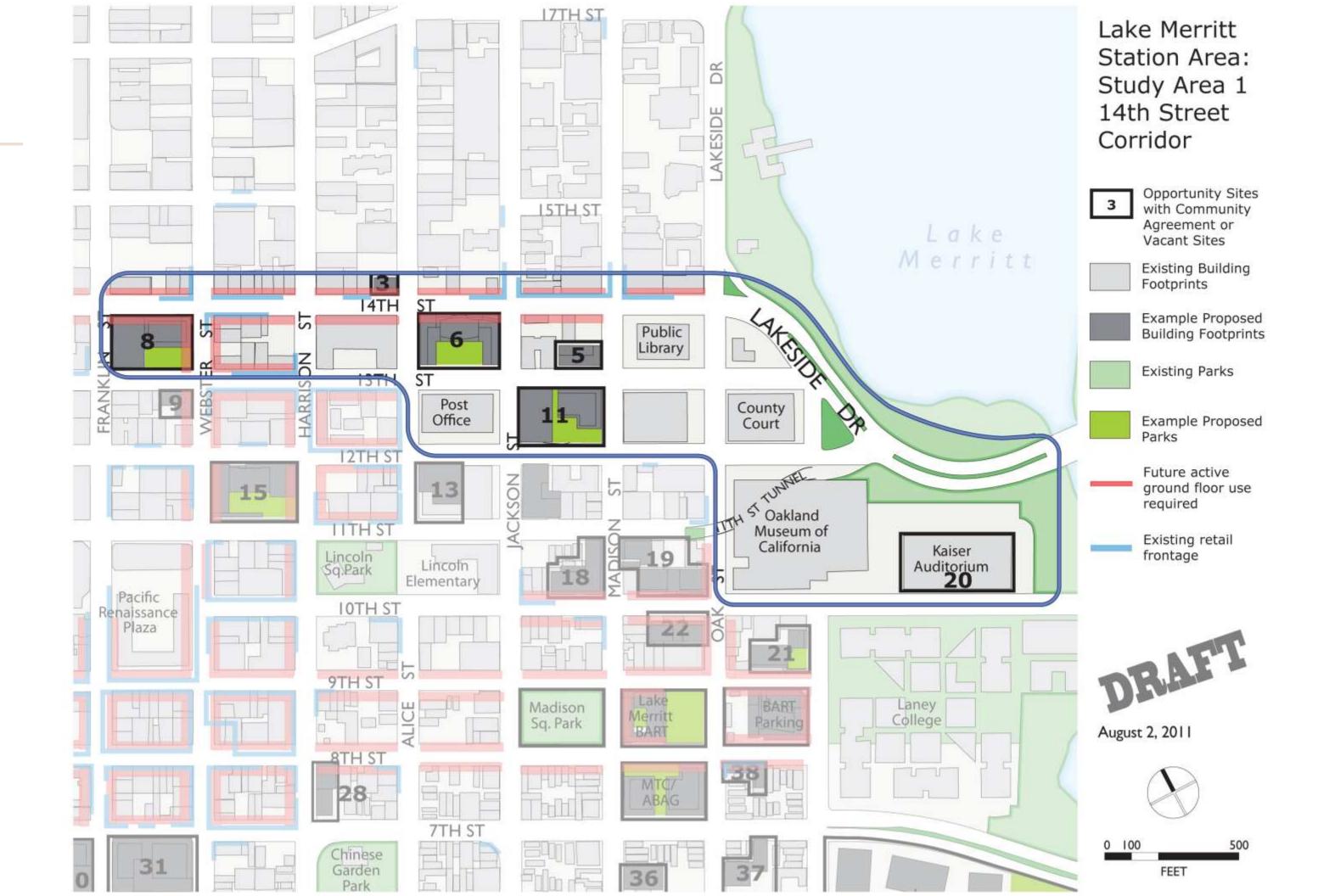












1. 14th Street Corridor: Big Ideas and Vision

Grand corridor that is key connection for the City and a vibrant pedestrian-oriented destination

- Educational/Cultural/Public Services spine along Oak and 10th Streets
 BART TOD, Laney College, Oakland Museum, Kaiser Auditorium,
 County Courthouse, Main Public Library
- 14th Street major connector between Eastlake (and beyond), Lake Merritt open space, Broadway (and beyond, including 12th Street BART)
- Increase vibrancy and safety by promoting active ground floor retail (including for new County or other office buildings)
- Alameda County government offices complemented with adjacent residential and cultural uses for an active area at all hours

1. 14th Street Corridor: Improvements

Agreement

- Improvements to 14th, Oak and 10th Streets are top priorities, while 13th
 Street is lower priority
- Oak Street

 remove a traffic lane and add a bike lane, lighting
- 10th Street (east of Oak St)— bike lanes
- 14th Street Decorative lighting, in-ground trees where feasible
- Alice Street
 – add street trees and corner bulbouts

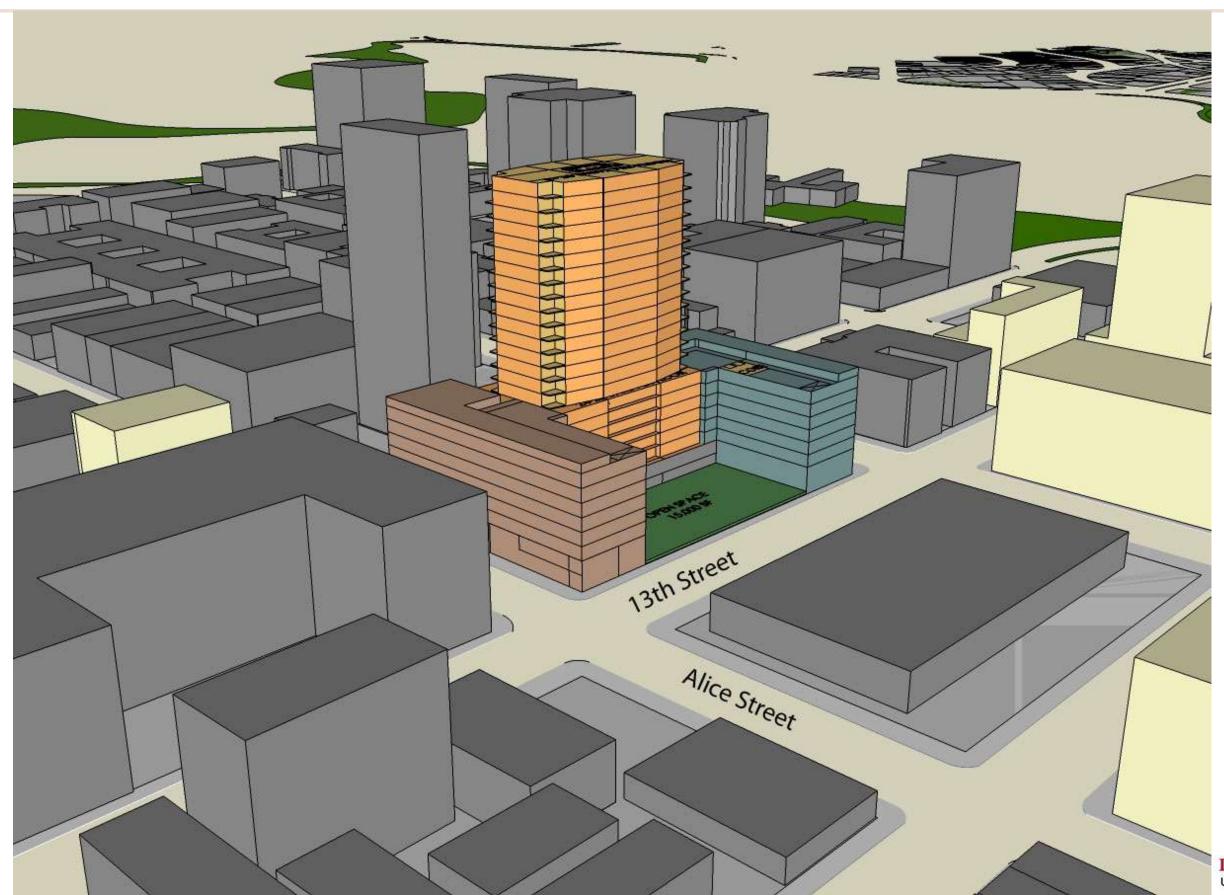
Key Questions

What type of building intensity, massing, zoning regulations will create the type of urban infill that will promote the desired economic vitality, vibrancy, activity?

1. 14th Street Corridor: Aerial View

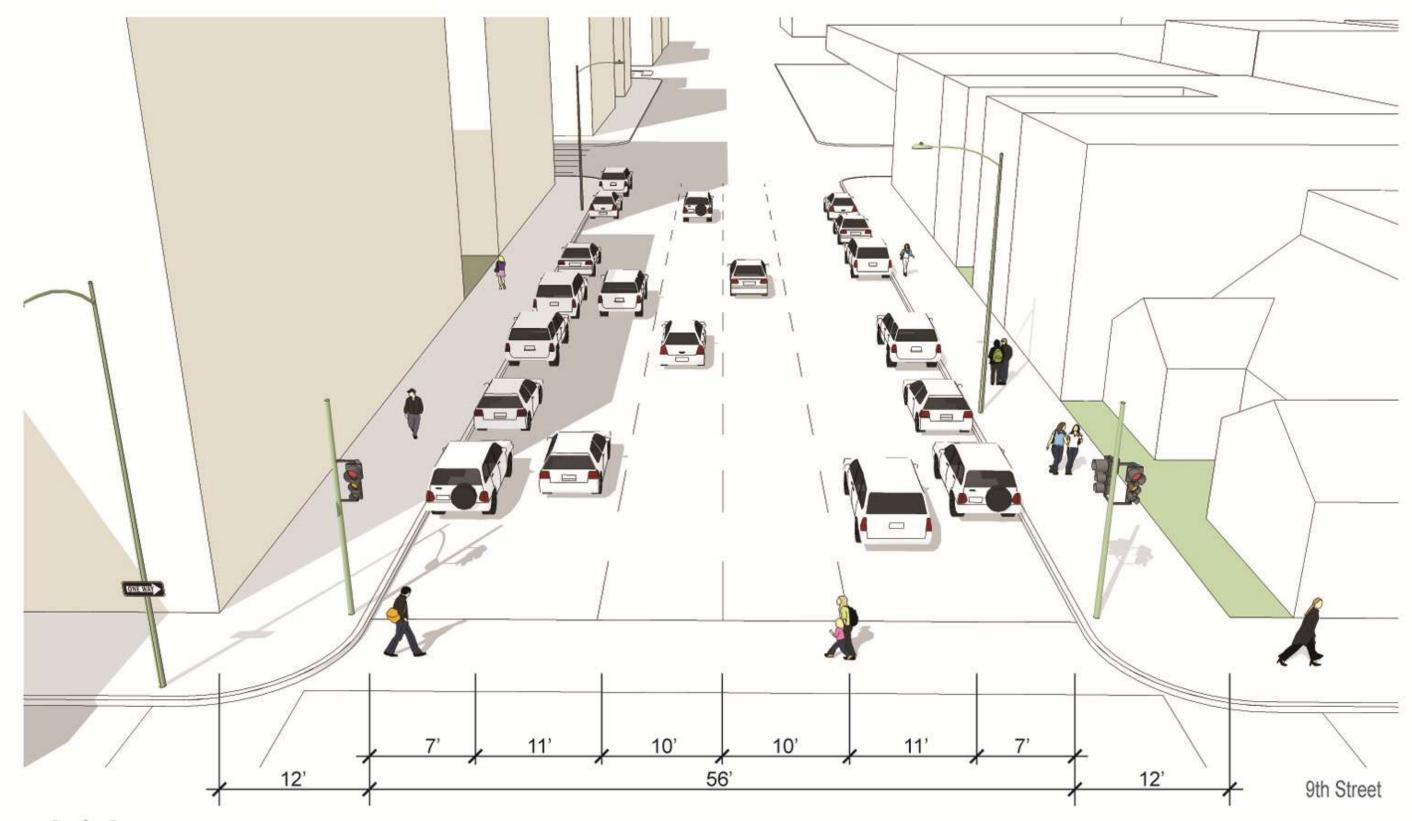


1. 14th Street Corridor: Project View

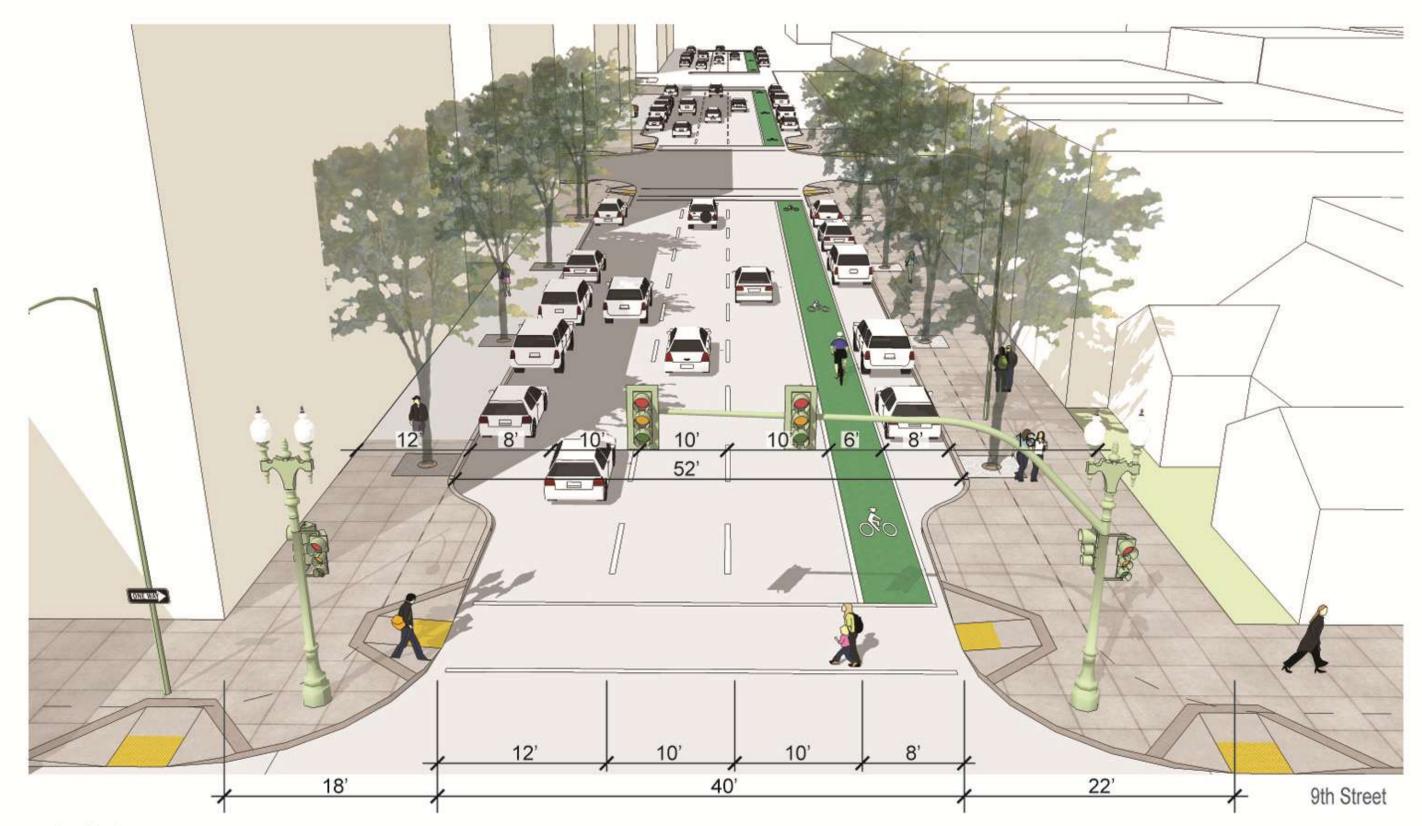


1. 14th Street Corridor: Project View

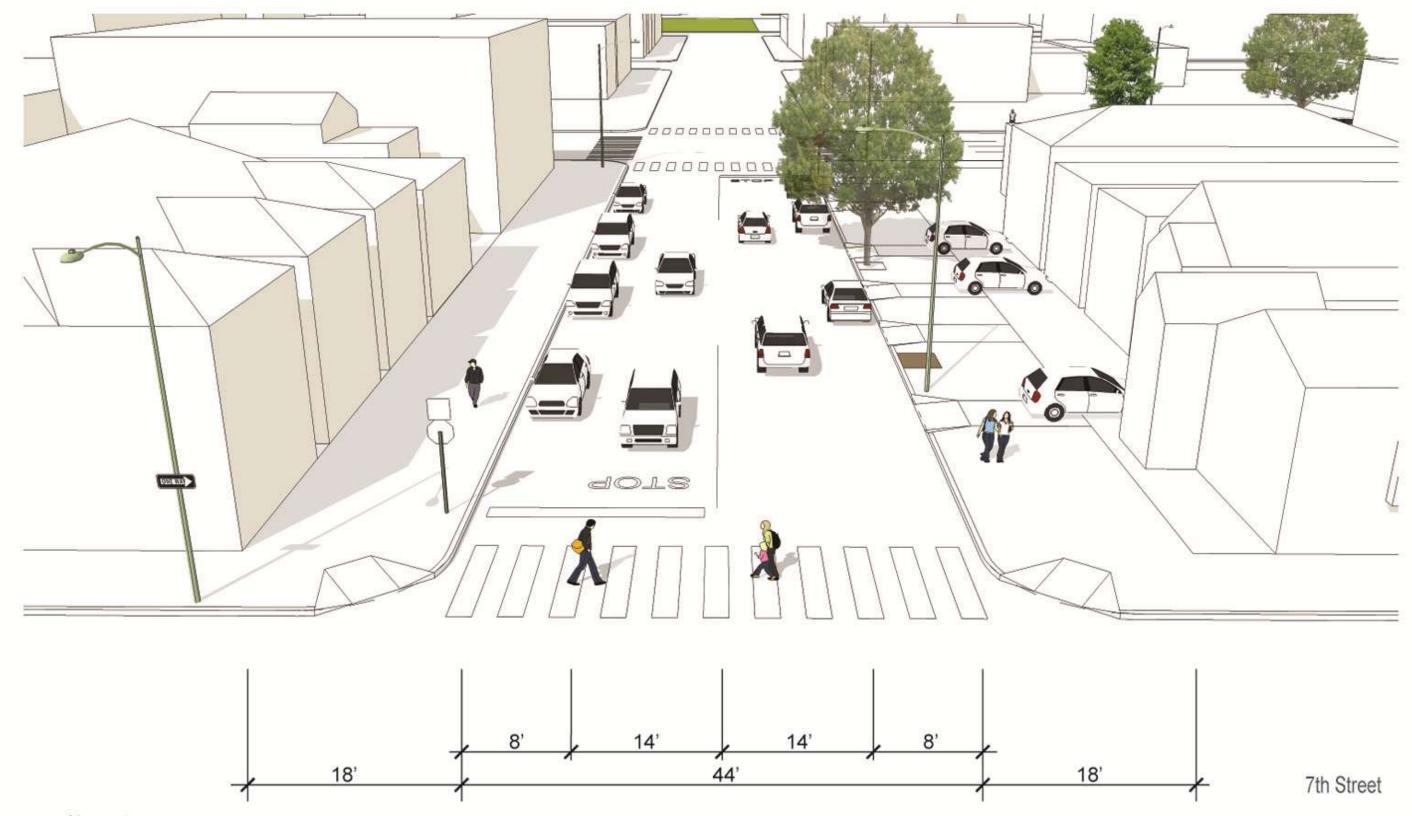




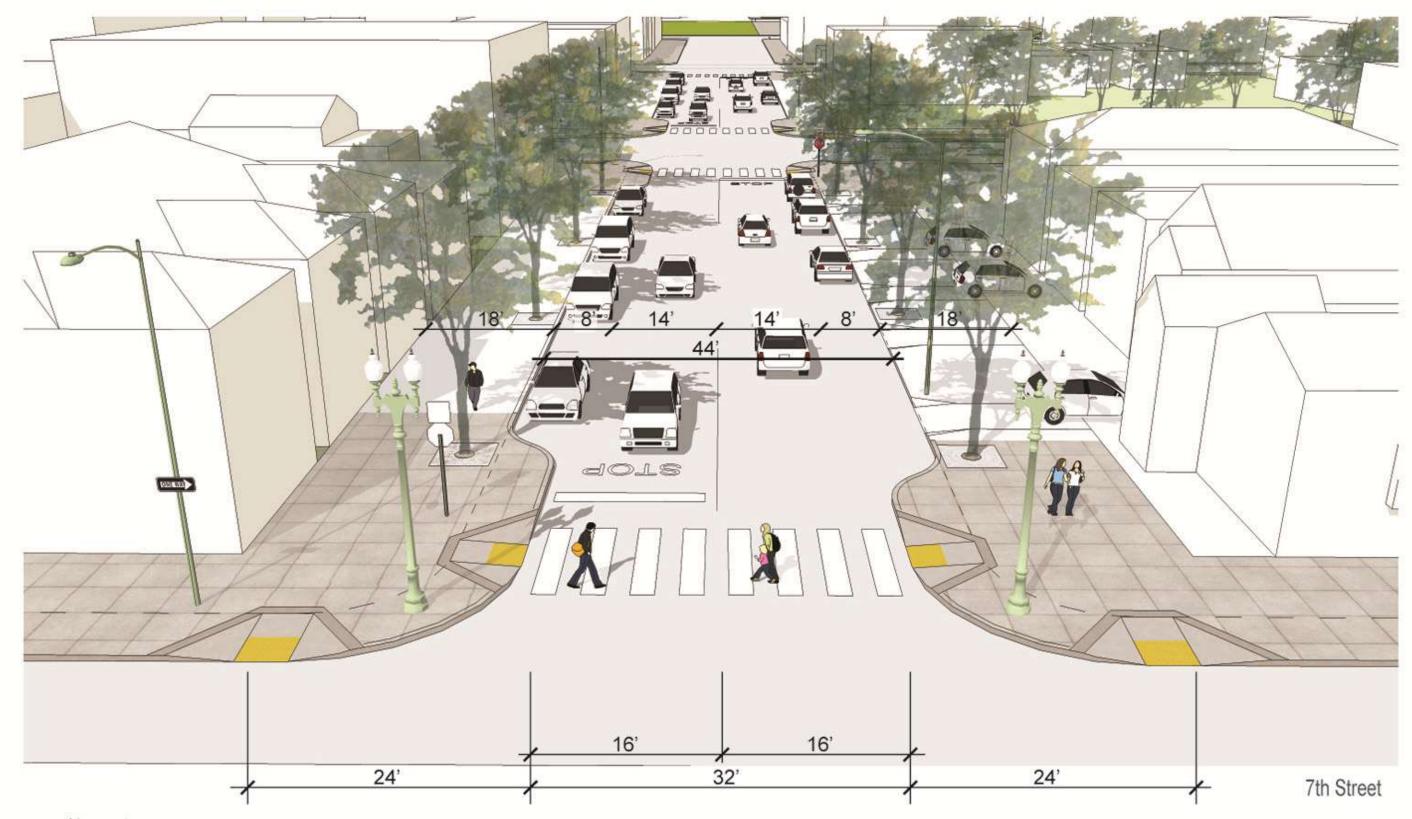
Oak Street Existing Looking North - 4 Lanes One-Way



Oak Street 4/3 Lane Reduction, Bike Lane, Widened Sidewalk (east side only)



Alice Street Existing Looking North - 2 Lanes Two-Way



Alice Street Sidewalk Improvements

2. East Lake Gateway

2. East Lake Gateway









2. East Lake Gateway









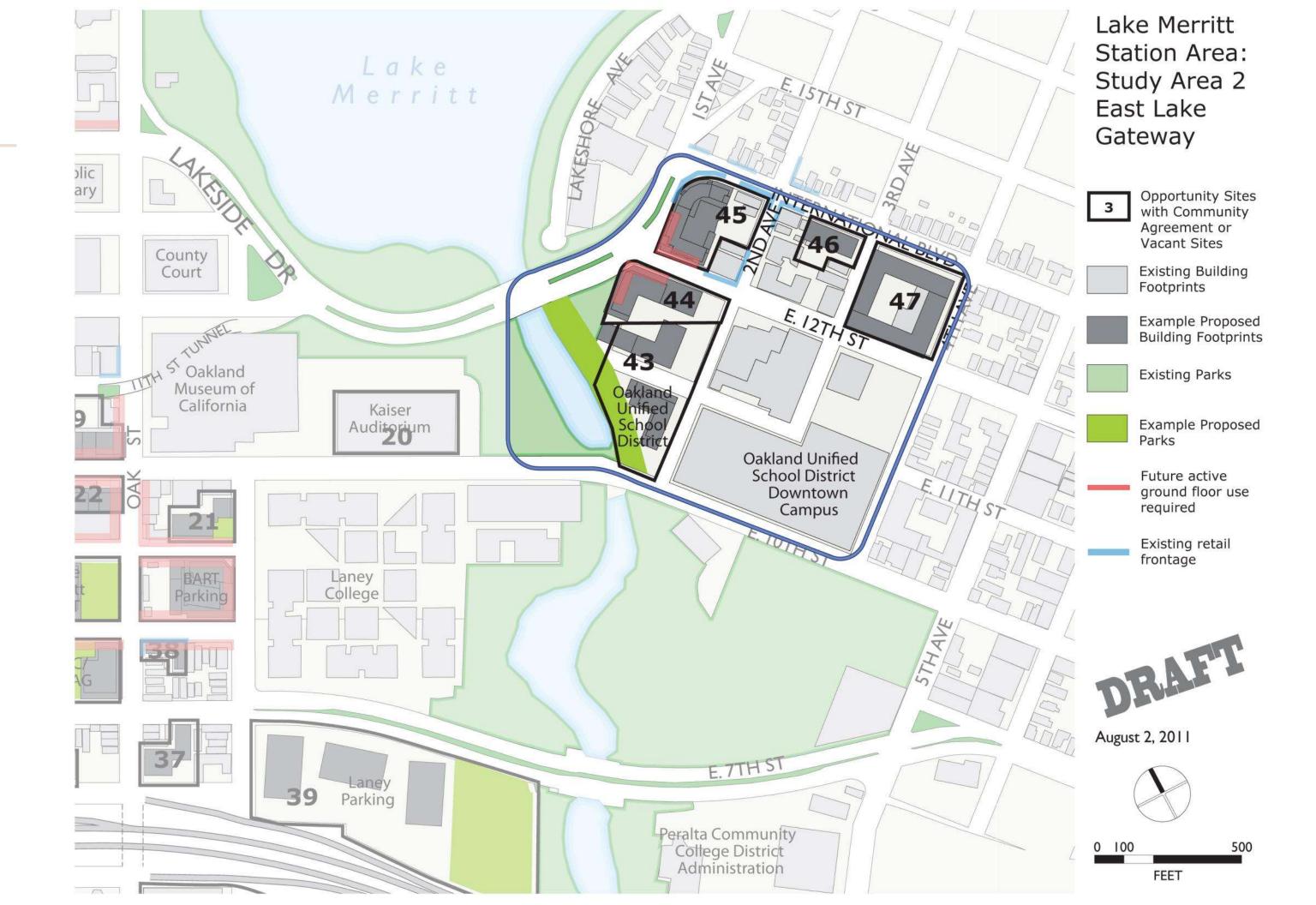
2. East Lake Gateway











2. East Lake Gateway: Big Ideas and Vision

A gateway linking Central and East Oakland to Lake Merritt, Laney College, and Downtown, as well as OUSD Educational Complex

- A residential district with active retail uses and some civic uses, connected to Laney, Eastlake Commercial, and Measure DD improvements
- Development in the area can create synergies with new OUSD facilities
- Leverage and further Measure DD improvements to the Channel and East 10th Street to link the area to Lake Merritt and adjacent cultural/educational uses, like Laney, Kaiser and Oakland Museum
- The area near International Boulevard and East 12th Street (at 1st Avenue) is a gateway to Central and East Oakland, Lake Merritt

2. East Lake Gateway: Improvements

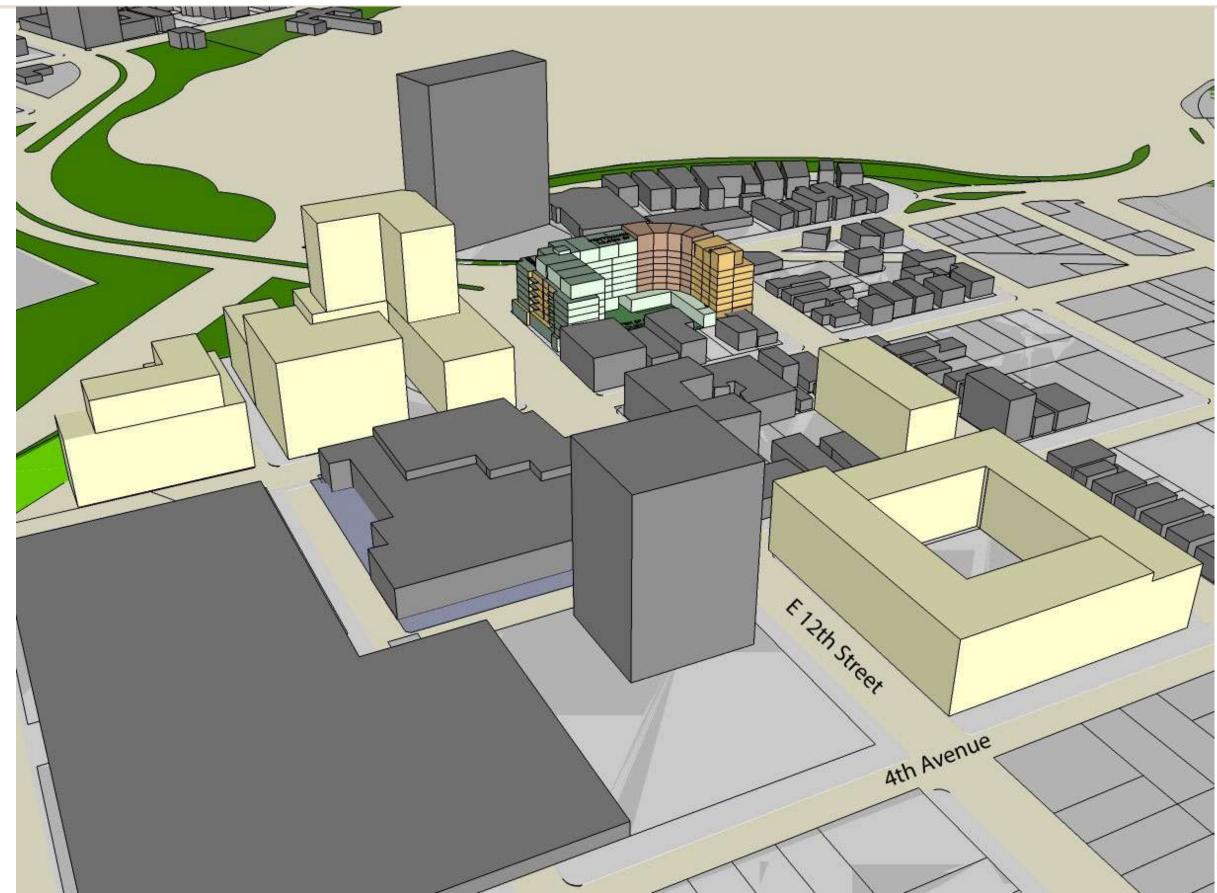
Agreement

- Encourage retail/destination potential in proposed locations
- Ensure new buildings connect rather than create a barrier
- 10th Street (east of Oak St) bike lanes, Measure DD bridge reconstruction

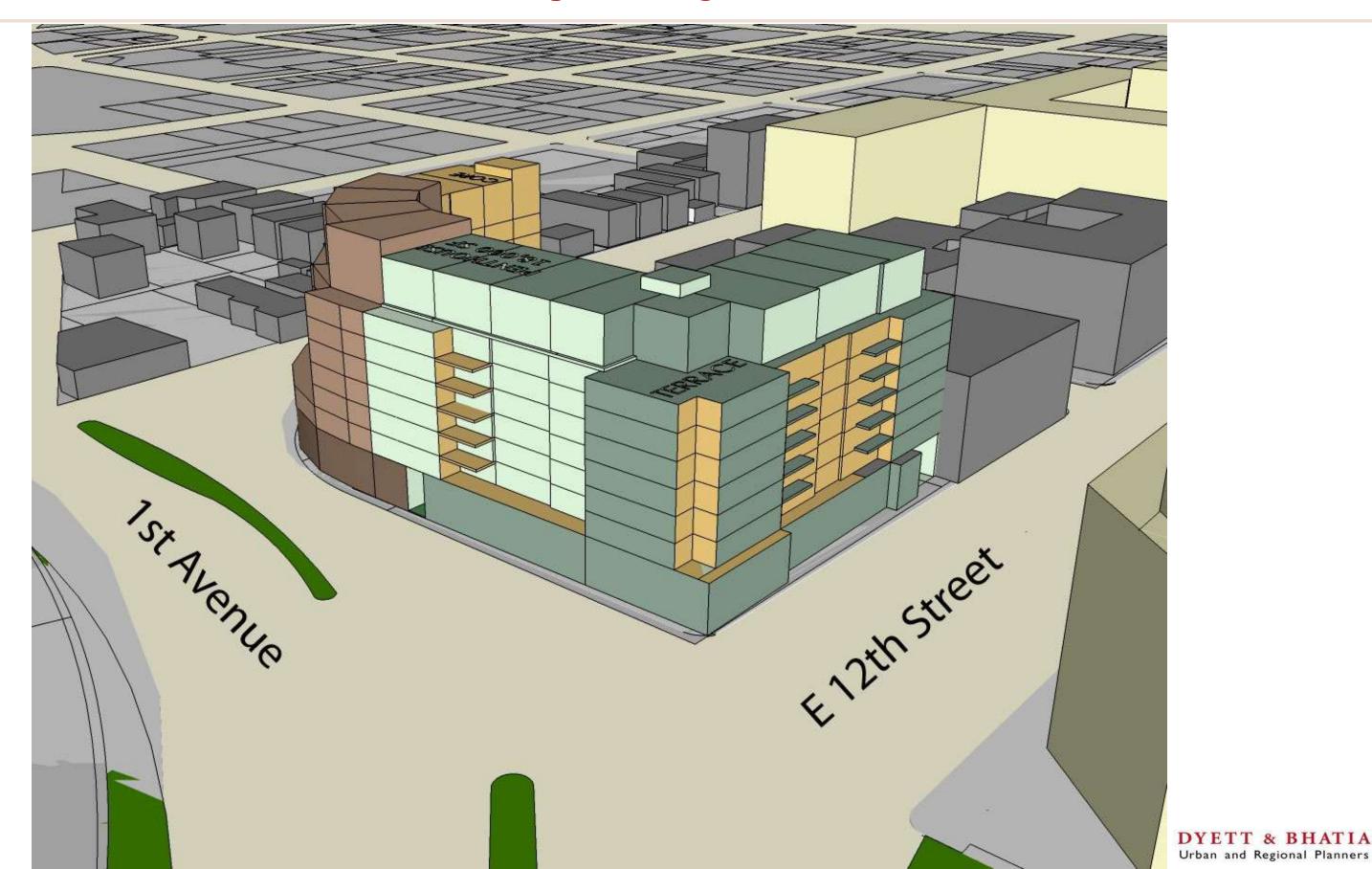
Key Questions

- Gateway design
 - Employ distinctive design to create a gateway into the area on sites 44 and 45
 - Design should be landmark quality with tower element to emphasize gateway.
- Setback from Channel for new buildings What distance?

2. East Lake Gateway: Aerial View



2. East Lake Gateway: Project View



3. Peralta/Laney College

3: Peralta/Laney College







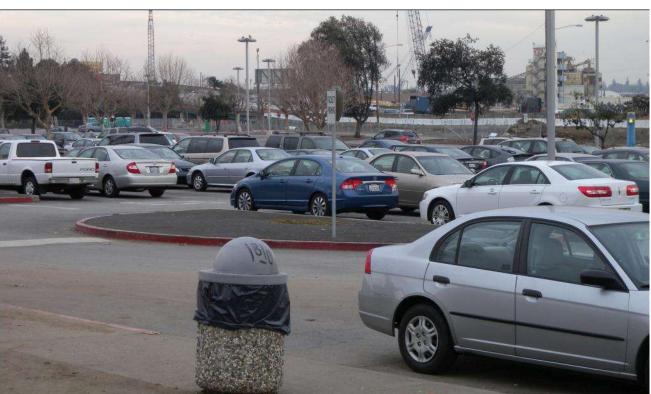


3: Peralta/Laney College









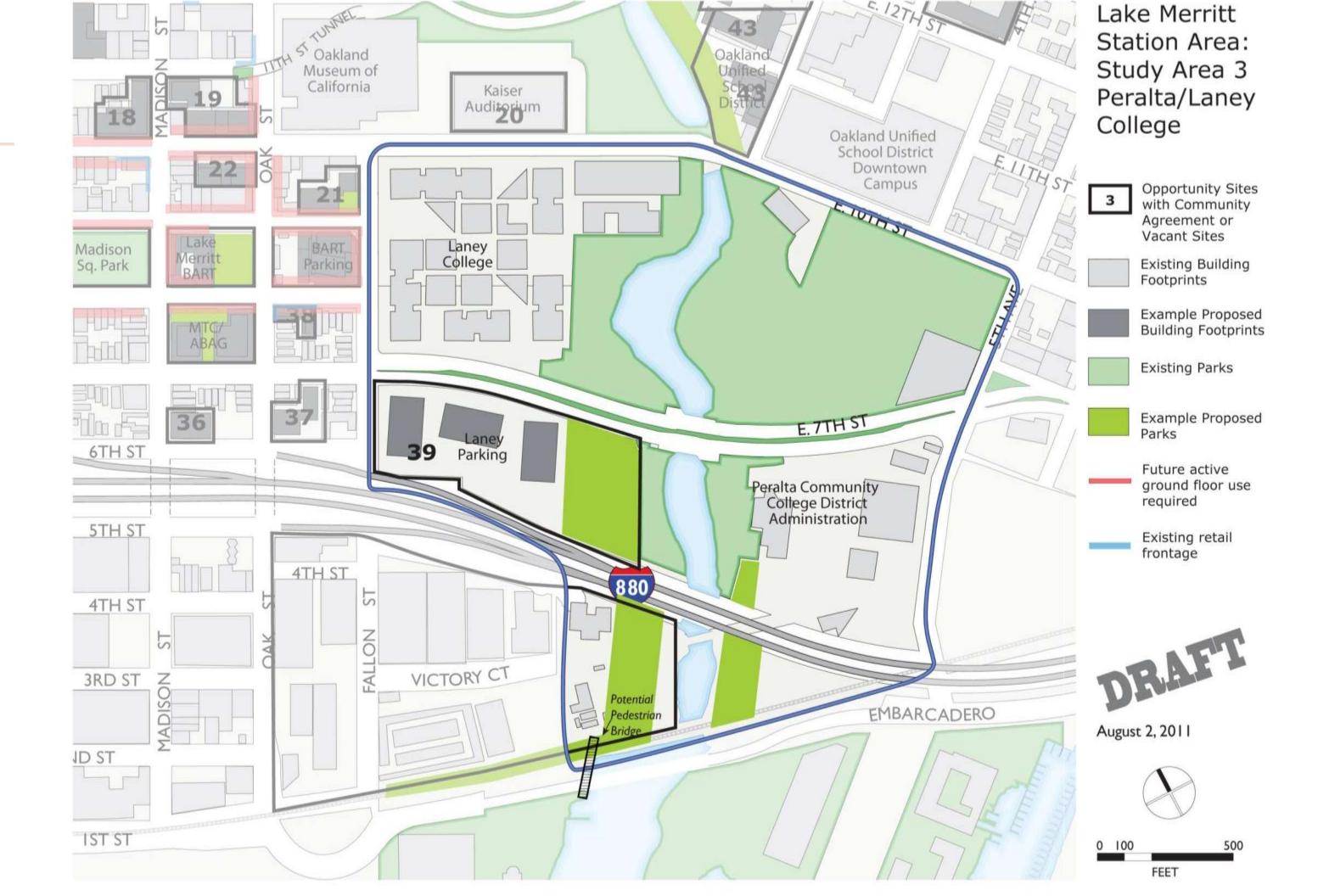
3: Peralta/Laney College











3. Peralta/Laney: Big Ideas and Vision

Enhance Connections and Highlight Community Assets

- Connect to surrounding area: the OUSD, Oak to 9th Development,
 BART Eastlake Commercial, Lake Merritt open space, and Bay Trail
- Connect the entrance to Laney College with the BART Station, creating a lively new community hub with retail, cultural assets, entertainment, etc.
- Leverage Laney Theater by connecting it to planning area's cultural entertainment spine through signage and street/access improvements
- Promote movement through and throughout the campus, connecting the neighborhood to the Channel, and promoting the College as a community facility
- Redesign the streets and intersections to be more pedestrian friendly

3. Peralta/Laney: Improvements

- Redevelop the Laney Parking lot with community uses, classrooms, and parking.
- Promote additional student housing in other locations
- Add open space along the Channel, and then connecting south to Bay Trail, with railroad track crossing eventually funded
 - This plan will continue with some new open space between the lake and the estuary; but recognizes that this is not the needed park space that serves the dense Chinatown neighborhood.
- 10th Street Planned Improvements east of Fallon Street bike lanes,
 Measure DD bridge construction
 - Lower priority is pedestrian improvements and greenery

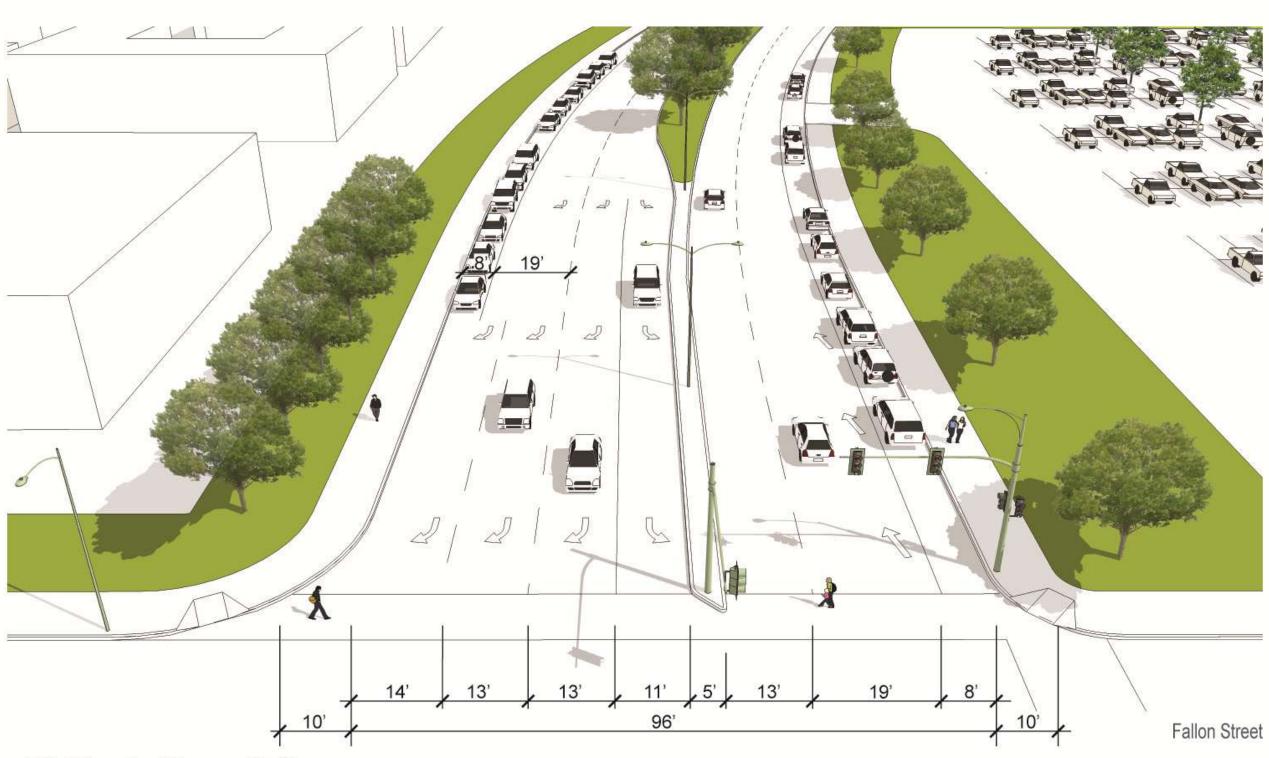
3. Peralta/Laney: Improvements

- 7th Street (east of Fallon Street)
 - Changes at the intersection
 - Additional pedestrian crossings: 7th and Fallon, mid-block entrance to college, existing crosswalk, and near channel
 - Add some or all signals at new pedestrian crossings.
 - Support for bulb-outs at crossings
 - Green street amenities not a priority
- Fallon Street Convert into a quiet circulation street that allows cars but also functions as a plaza on the side.
 - Alternative B (no median) was preferred by majority of CSG, but will present both options to larger community

3. Peralta/Laney: Aerial View

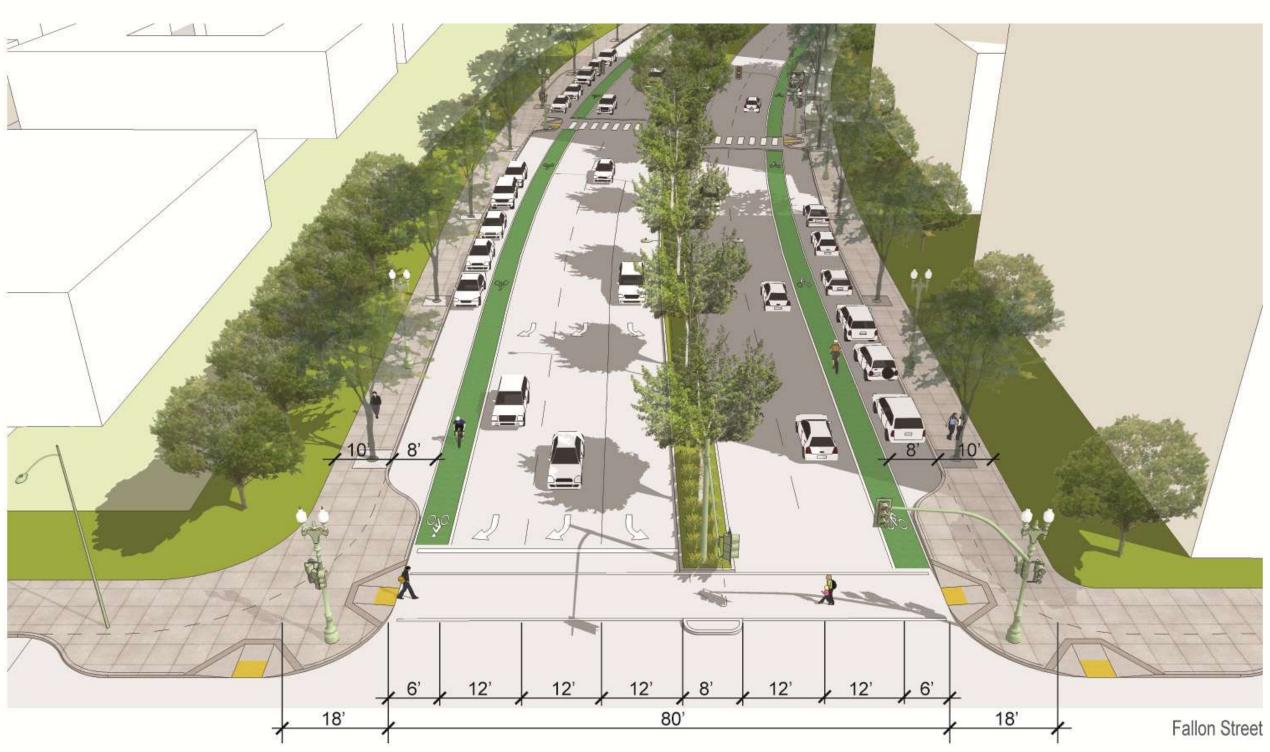


7th Street Existing



7th Street at Laney College Existing Looking East - 6 Lanes Two-Way

7th Street New (modified)



7th Street at Laney College Westbound 4/3 Lane Reduction, Eastbound Narrowed Lane, Widened Median, Bike Lanes

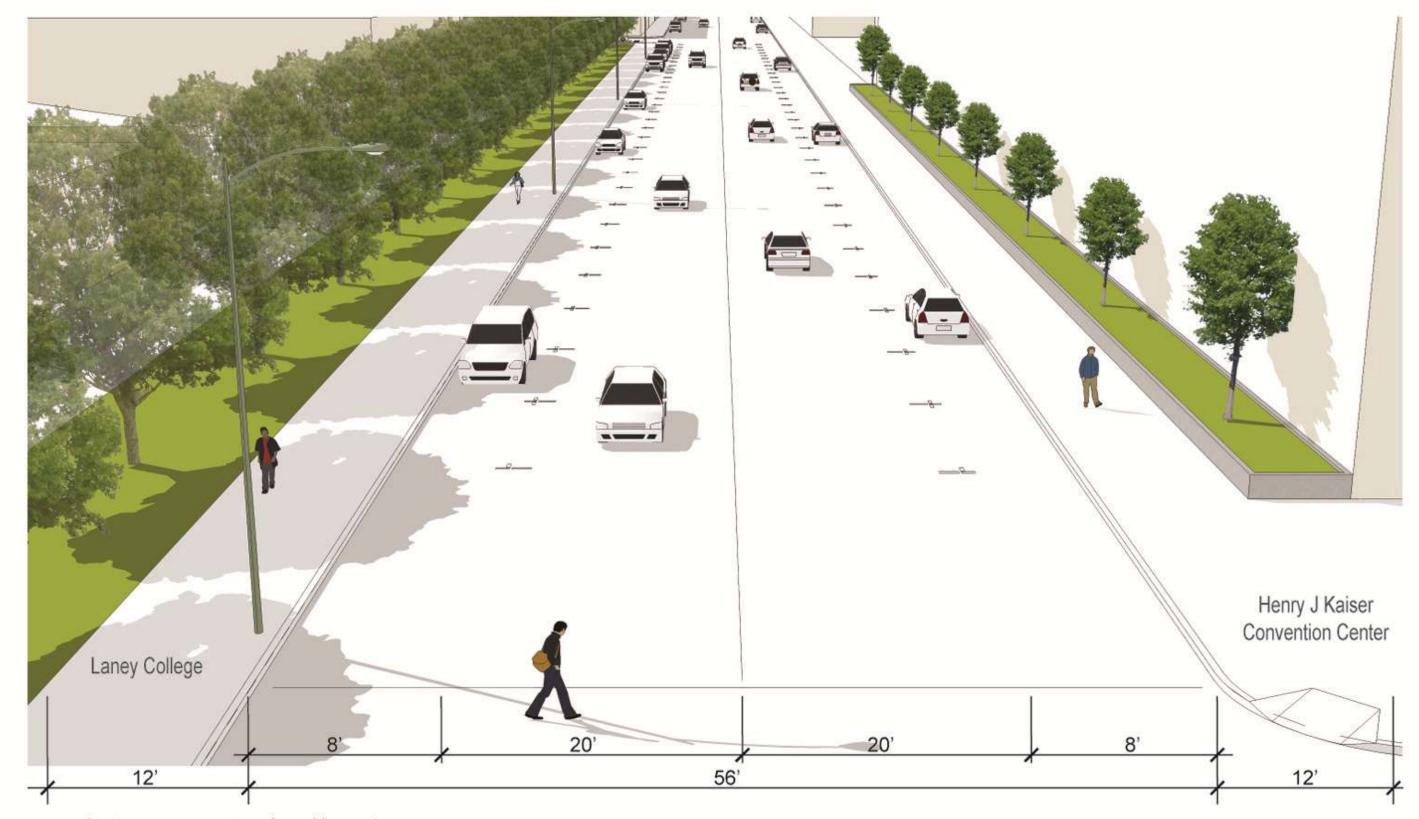


Fallon Street Existing Looking South - 2 Lanes Two-Way

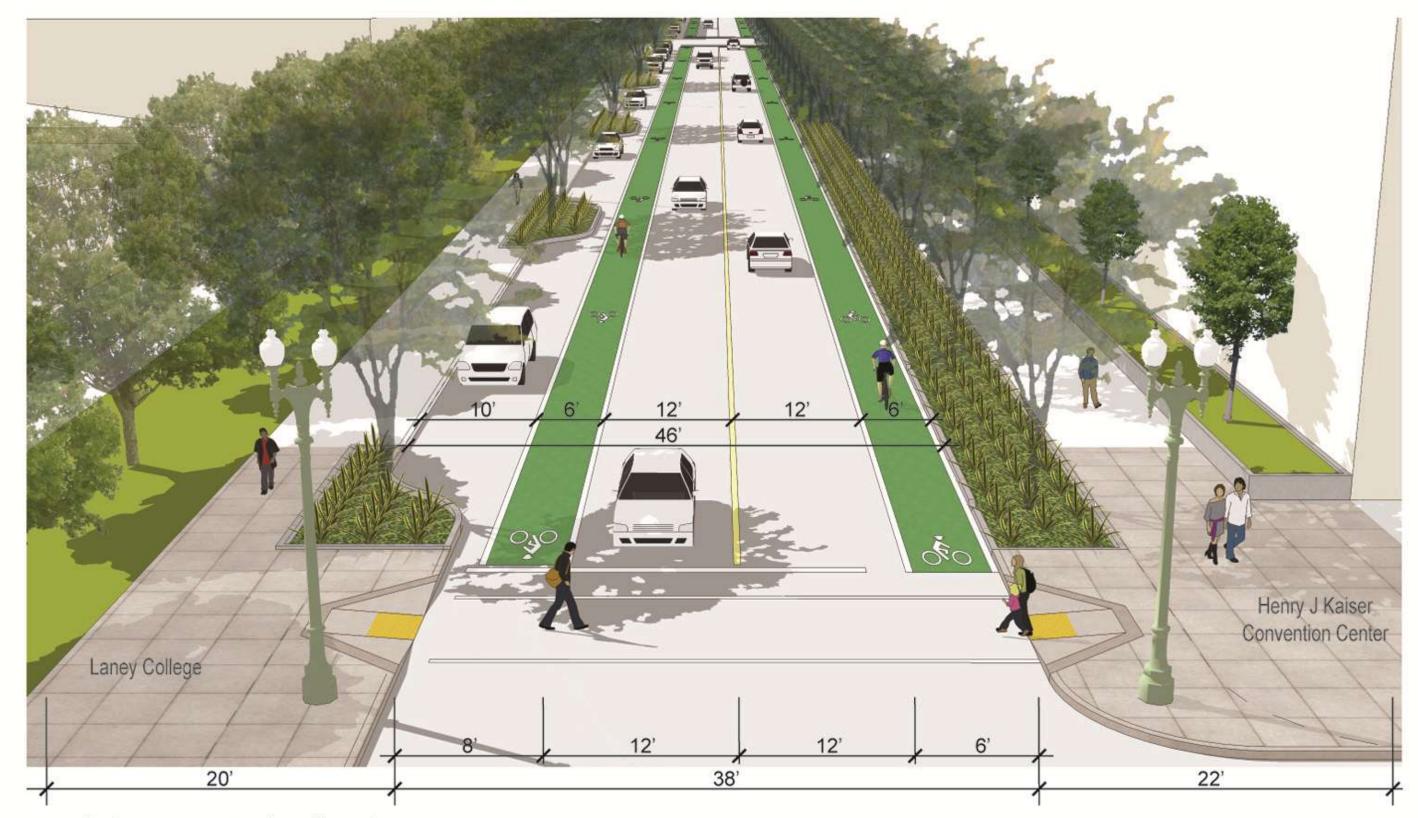


9th Street

Fallon Street - Plaza Option B Narrowed Lanes, Widened Sidewalks, Street Amenities at Frontage



10th Street East of Fallon Street Existing Looking West - 2 Lanes Two-Way



10th Street East of Fallon Street Narrowed Lanes, Widened Sidewalk, Bike Lanes, "Green Street" Improvements

4. I-880 Edge and Undercrossing

4. I-880





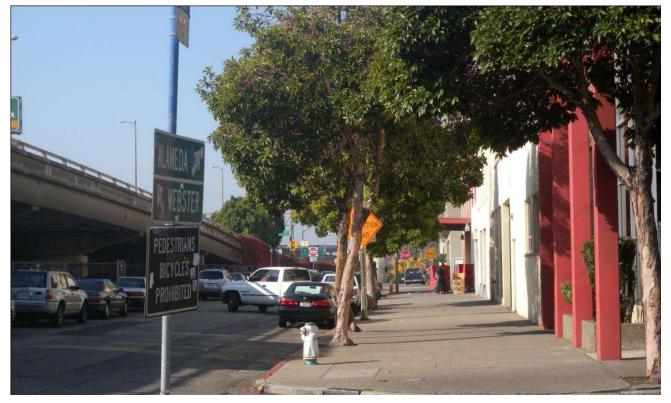




4. I-880











4. I-880: Big Ideas and Vision

- Mitigate the health and environmental concerns of I-880
- Activate the areas under the freeway
- Improve connections between waterfront and Jack London District and areas on the other side of the I-880 freeway (Chinatown, BART, Laney, County offices, Museum, etc)
- Improve pedestrian access to areas near the freeway (including locations on 7th Street)

4. I-880: Improvements

- Improve the Freeway Undercrossings for Pedestrian Safety and Comfort, including pedestrian oriented lighting
 - Priorities: Oak and Webster Streets
 - Improve all other crossings as funds become available and with meaningful community input and involvement
- Consider Improving Under Freeway Lots (second priority)
 - Promote active uses rather than parking or line parking with active uses. Explore appropriate active uses (including mobile restaurants, retail carts, markets)
- Improve usability of Harrison Square (Chinese Garden) Park
 - Improve safety of access –pedestrian crossing signal, slow traffic, provide bulb-outs
 - Diversify the type of programming available
- Work with Alameda CTC to minimize adverse impacts of freeway-related auto traffic

4. I-880: Improvements

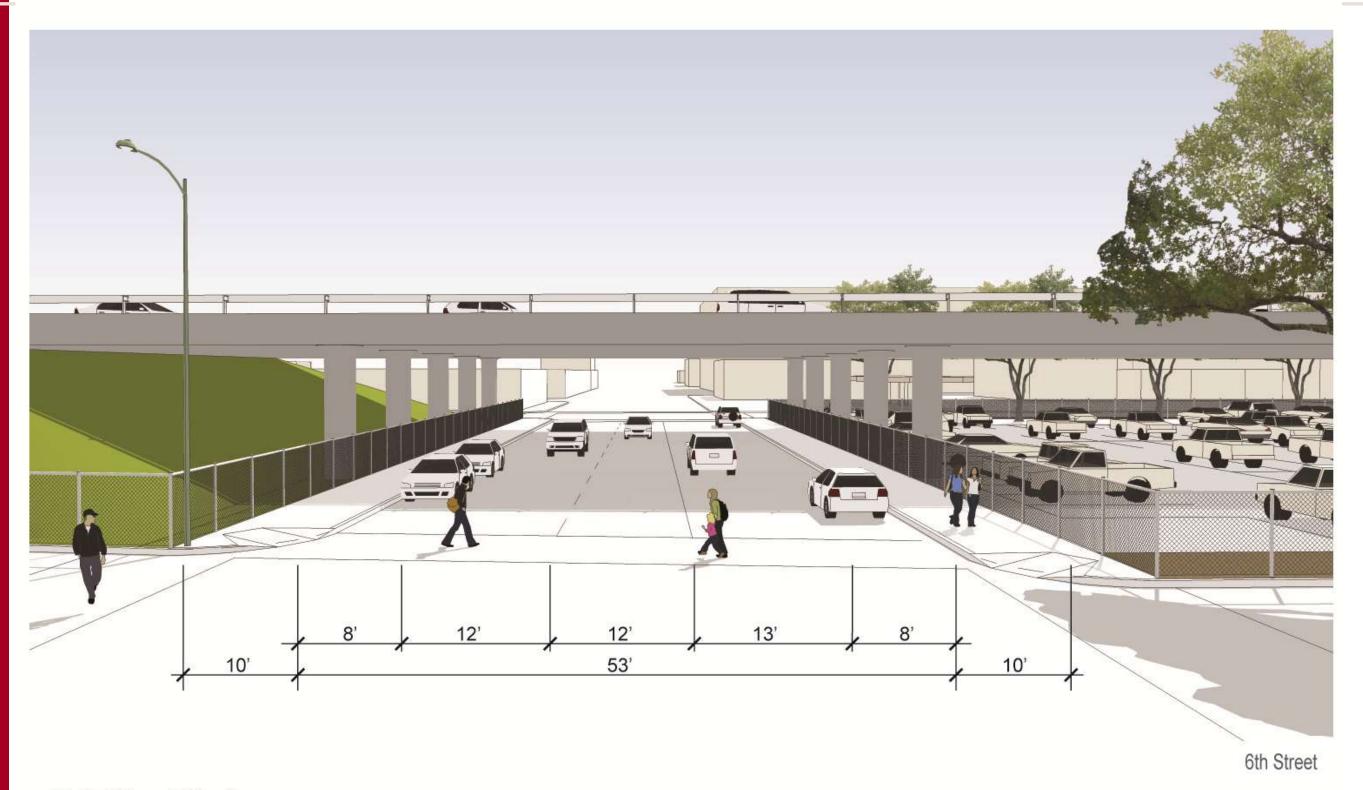
Develop Sites Near the Freeway

- Ensure new development incorporates air quality and noise controls
- Maintain clean indoor air quality (mechanical ventilation; building interiors under positive pressure; particulate filtration and carbon filtration as needed; air intakes away from pollution sources)
- Require HVAC system with filtration for sensitive use sites within 500 feet of a high traffic road if warranted by exposure analysis
- Locate courtyards, balconies and opening windows away from the freeway
- Consider installation of sound walls (or additional landscaping)
- Taller buildings that buffer the neighborhood from I-880 (Office and residential)
- Buildings should be facing 7th Street, with parking located closer to the freeway, wherever possible

4. I-880: Aerial View

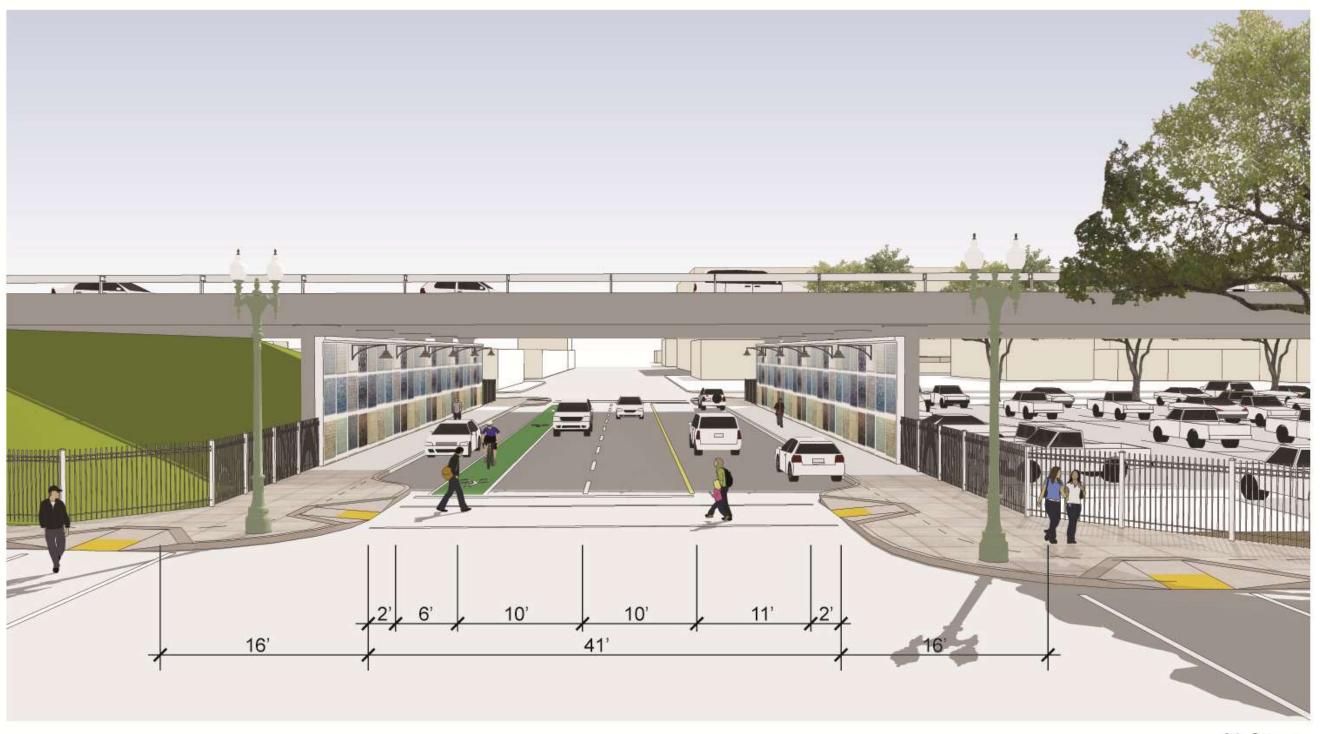


Oak Street Underpass Existing



Oak Street Underpass Existing Looking South - 3 Lanes Two-Way

Oak Street Underpass Proposed (Webster Street also will be done)

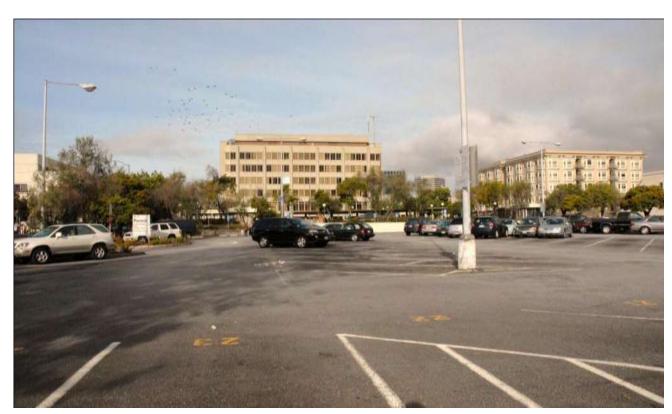


6th Street

Oak Street Underpass Lighting, Art Wall, Ornamental Fencing, Bulb-Outs, Bike Lane

5a. Chinatown Core: BART Blocks

5. Chinatown Core (a) - BART Blocks









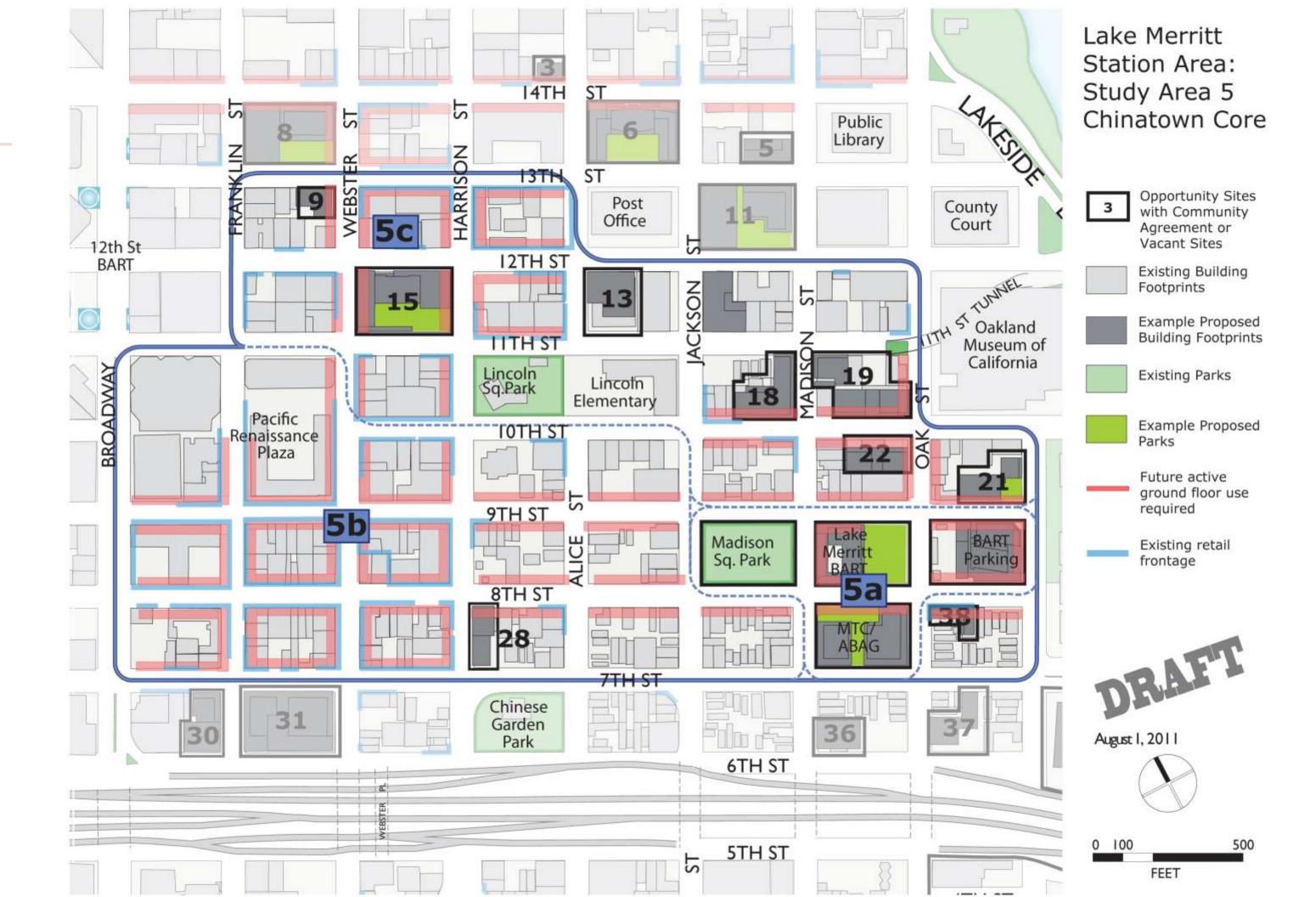
5. Chinatown Core (a) - BART Blocks











5. (a) - BART Blocks: Big Ideas and Vision

Catalyst Projects

- Create an active neighborhood entertainment hub, that serves as part of the planning area's entertainment/cultural spine
- New catalyst project that is a new core and serves the community with a wide range of uses and public amenities
- High intensity/density residential, movies, retail, and entertainment on the BART Parking Lot and MTC/ABAG Building Site
- Develop BART Administration Block with retail/housing and some open space/plaza
- Install signage, lighting, and streetscape on Fallon, 8th/9th Streets that connects Laney, Chinatown, BART, Museum and Kaiser Auditorium
- Improve Madison Square Park

5. (a) – BART Blocks: Feedback

- High density development at least on the BART Parking site
- More housing, businesses, and shops to promote activity
- Include public accessible plaza on BART plaza block
- Coordinate and improve station access improvements:
 - Shuttle
 - Kiss and ride
 - Bus bulbouts
- Narrow Madison Street at BART Station block

5. (a) - BART Blocks

Key Questions

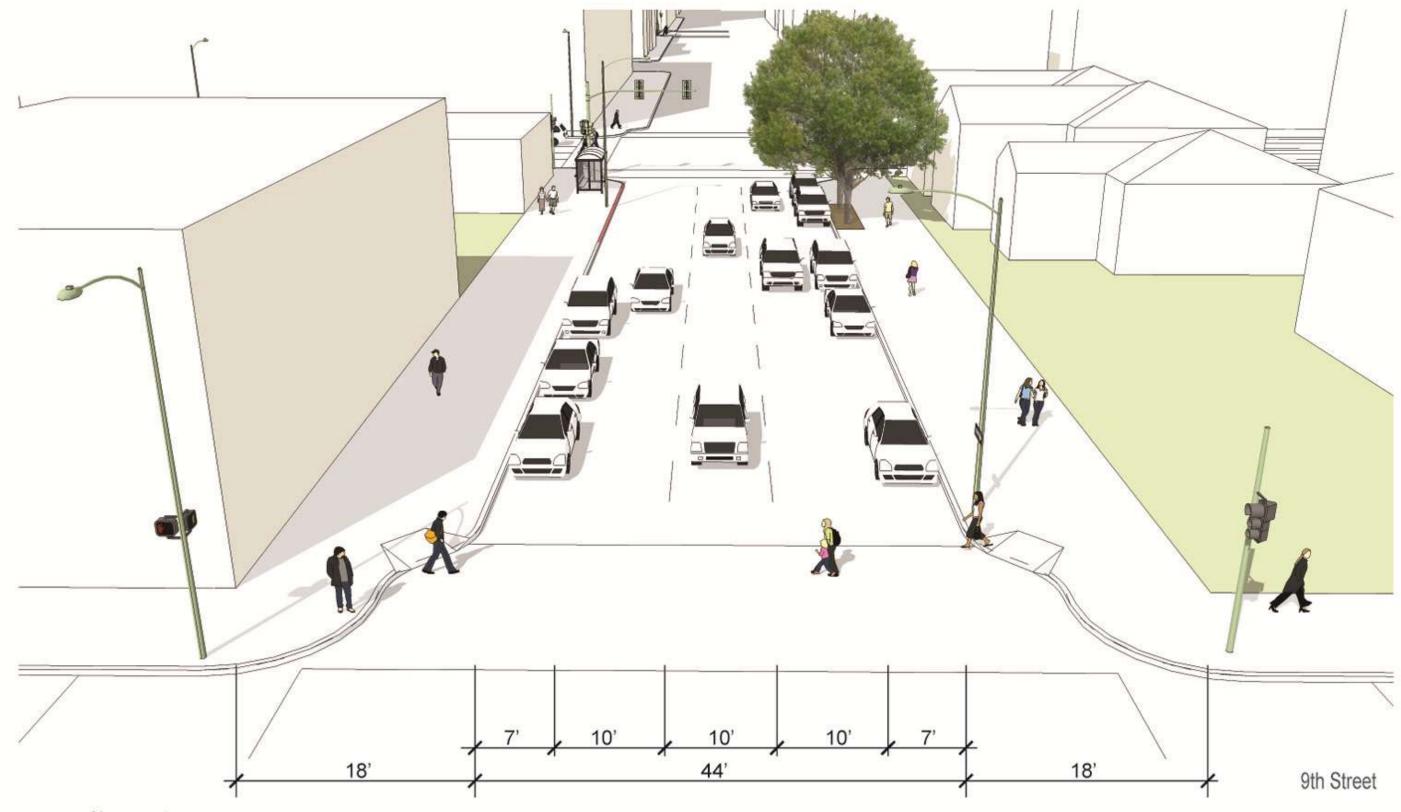
- What is the best open space configuration to meet objectives?
 New park space is desired; but concern about linear parks,
- Madison Square Park will be enhanced
 - Preserve existing configuration with minor improvements
 - Consider adding a community facility to serve the high demand (or provide on other BART blocks, or other nearby location)?
 - Consider new development and vibrant businesses with some at-grade open space and rooftop gardens to activate the area.

5. (a) - BART Blocks

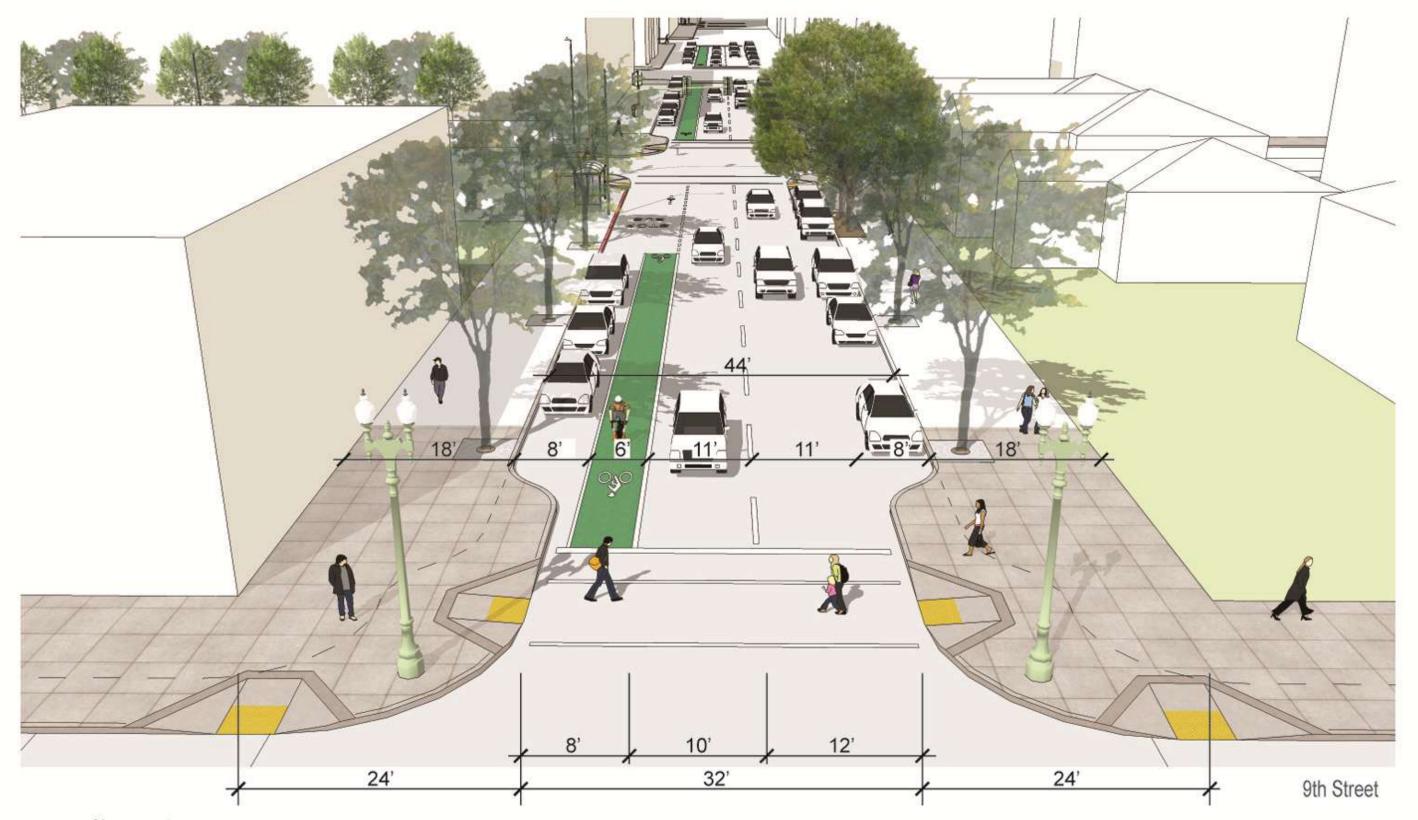


5. (a) - BART Blocks





Madison Street Existing Looking North - 3 Lanes One-Way



Madison Street 3/2 Lane Reduction, Bike Lane

5b. Chinatown Core: Commercial Center

5. (b) - Chinatown Commercial Center





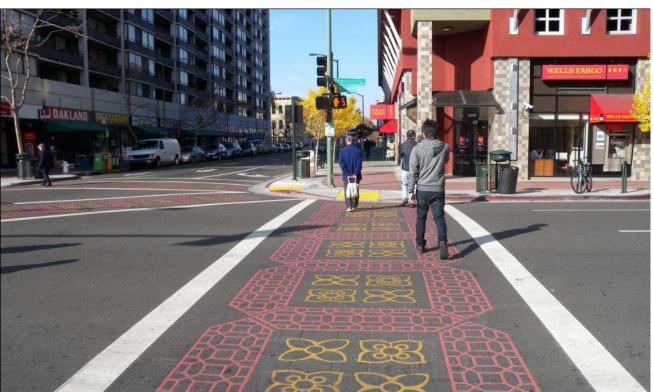


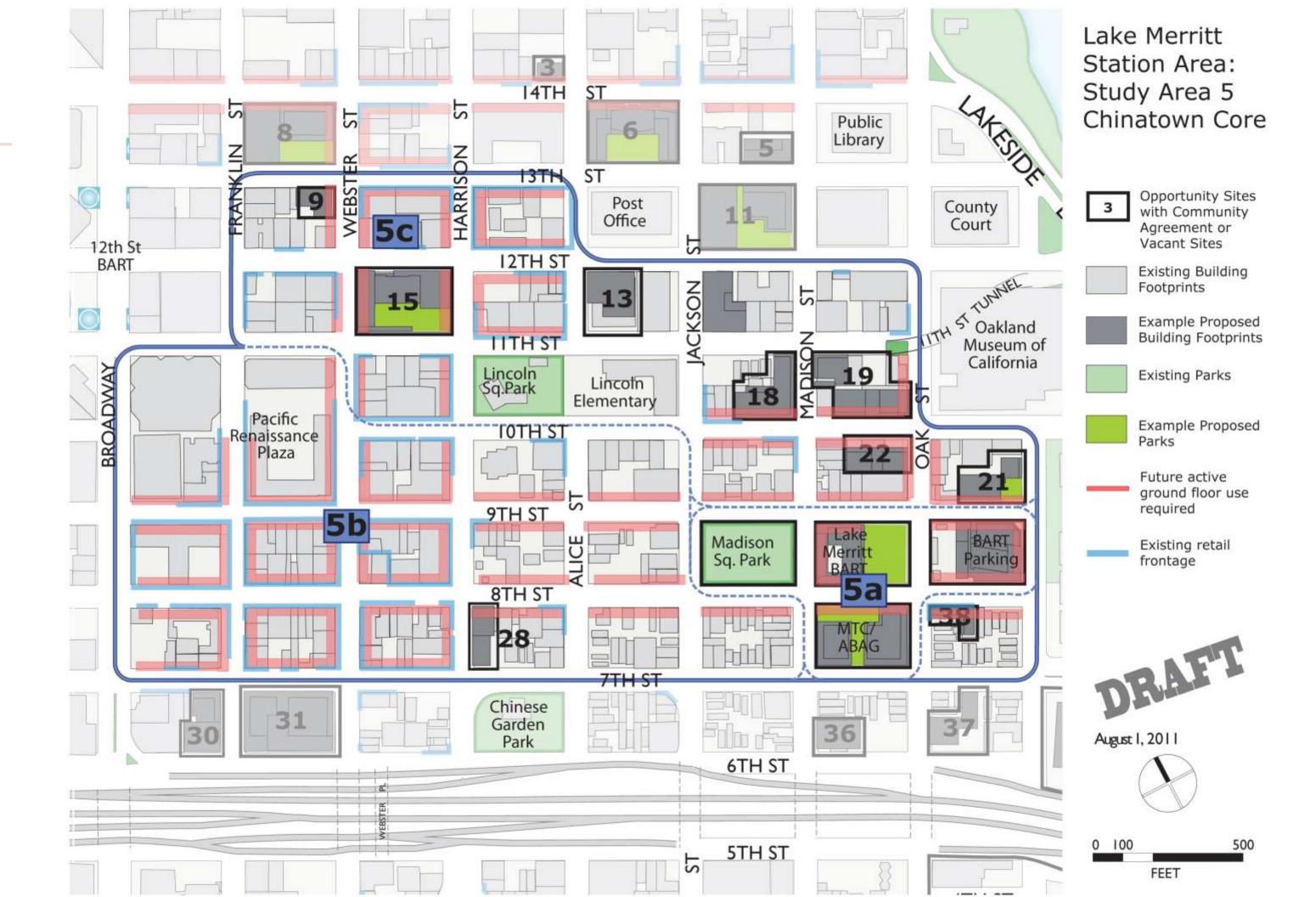
5. (b) - Chinatown Commercial Center











Area Overview



5. (b) – Chinatown Commercial Center: Big Ideas and Vision, Improvements

- Enhanced Community Hub and Regional Destination
 - New development near API scaled to not overwhelm existing structures; Maximum 4 story base
 - High density retail and entertainment uses
 - Façade Improvements for Buildings
 - Streetscape Improvements
 - Widening certain sidewalks, e.g. if reduce lane on 9th St
 - Providing cultural markers throughout the neighborhood (i.e. expanding scrambles)

5. (b) – Chinatown Commercial Center: Big Ideas and Vision, Improvements

Loading, Cleaning, and Monitoring Improvements

- Establish a loading strategy
- Clear rules for vegetable and other sidewalk displays
- Establish a strategy for power-washing streets
- Expanded ambassador program
 - Orange jackets out in force to improve security

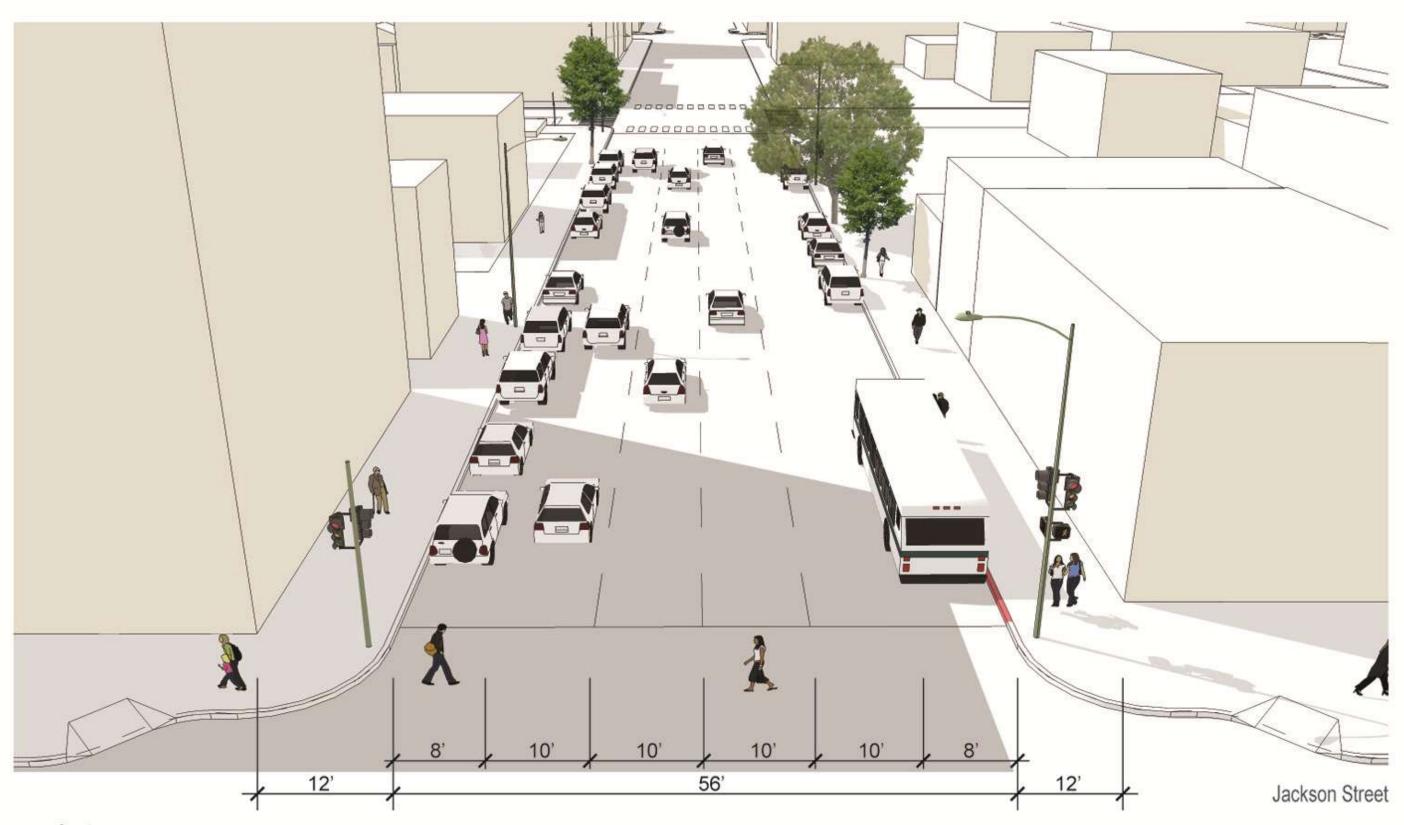
Question

- What are the best strategies for:
 - Loading regulations, such as limited hours or locations, one side of the street, etc.
 - Street cleaning and ambassador program how to provide without straining local businesses

5. (b) - Chinatown Commercial Center: Streets

- 8th and 9th Streets in Chinatown Core (west of Harrison St)
 - No bike lanes
 - Add pedestrian scramble and unique crosswalks, related to increased safety and value as art, street lights
 - Lane reduction
- 8th and 9th Streets outside Chinatown Core (*east* of Harrison St)
 - Bike lanes
 - Add pedestrian scramble and unique crosswalks, related to increased safety and value as art, street lights
 - Lane reduction

5. (b) Chinatown Commercial Core – 8th Street East of Chinatown (east of Harrison Street)



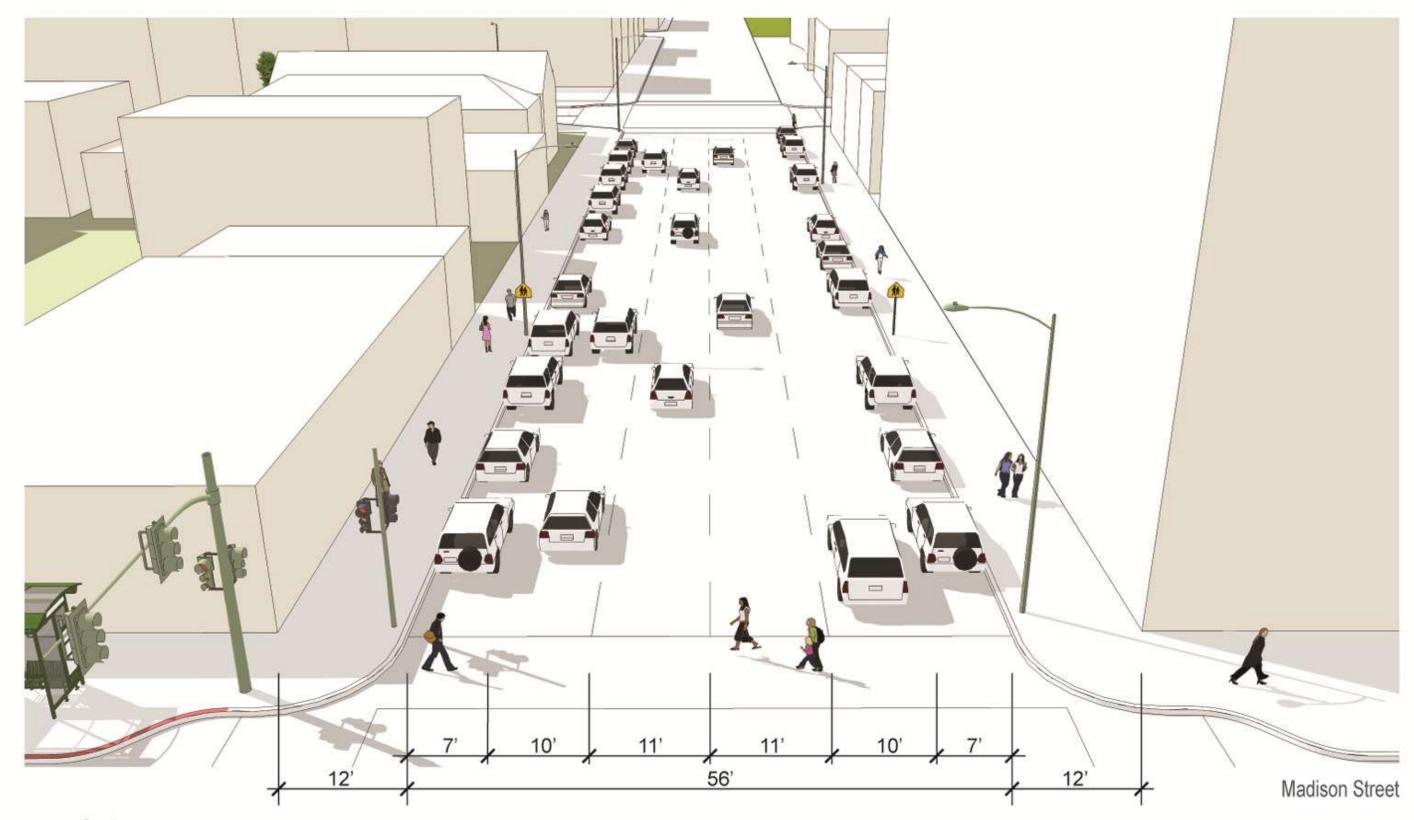
8th Street
Existing Looking West - 4 Lanes One-Way



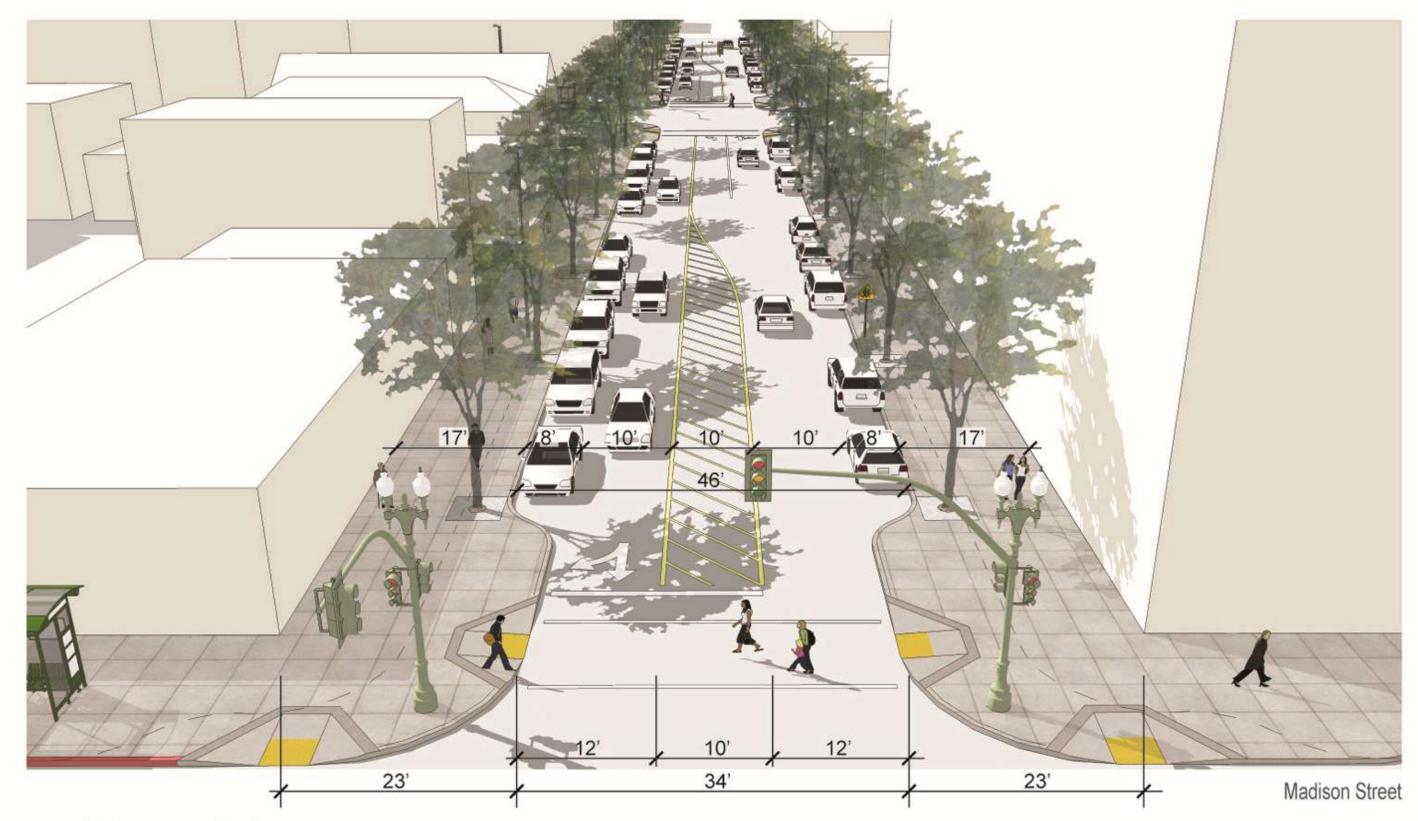
8th Street 4/3 Lane Reduction, Bike Lane

5. (b) Chinatown Commercial Core – 10th Street

- 10th Street in Chinatown Core (west of Harrison Street)
 - Option A Two-Way, 4/3 Lane Reduction, Widened Sidewalks
 - Option C Four to two lane reduction, widened sidewalk, angled parking, green street
 - Option B Eliminated (bike lane too narrow, puts bicyclists in door zone)
 - Option C-2: Two-Way Conversion with Angled Parking
 - Option D: Four to two lane reduction, widened sidewalk (one side),
 bike lane, parallel parking, green street



10th Street Existing Looking West - 4 Lanes One-Way

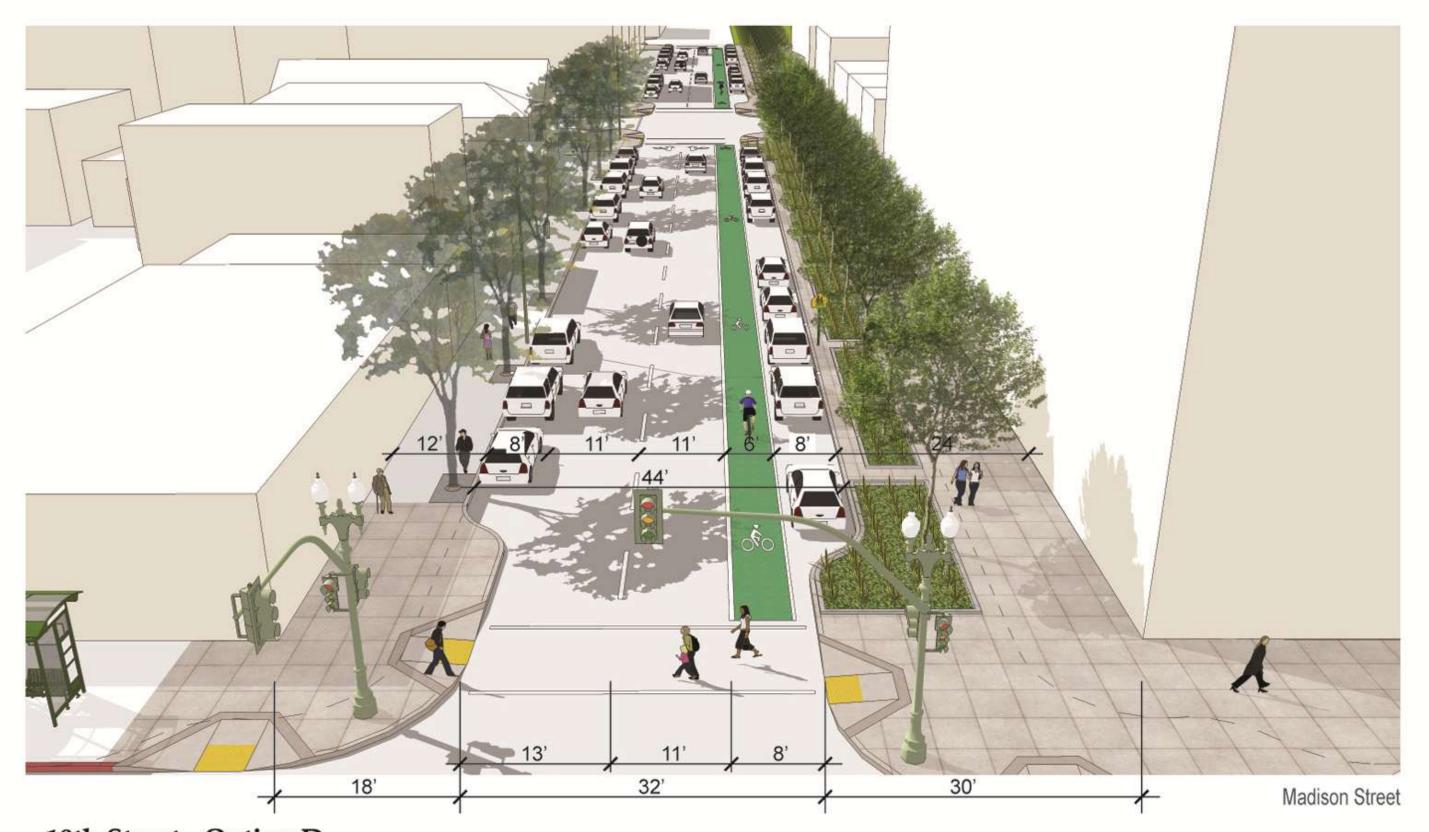


10th Street - Option A Convert to Two-Way, 4/3 Lane Reduction, Widened Sidewalks



10th Street - Option C 4/2 Lane Reduction, Widened Sidewalk (north side only), Angle Parking, "Green Street"

New C2 10th Street drawing to be completed.



10th Street - Option D 4/2 Lane Reduction, Widened Sidewalk (north side only), Parallel Parking, Bike Lane, "Green Street"

5c. Chinatown Core: Upper Chinatown

5. (c) - Upper Chinatown

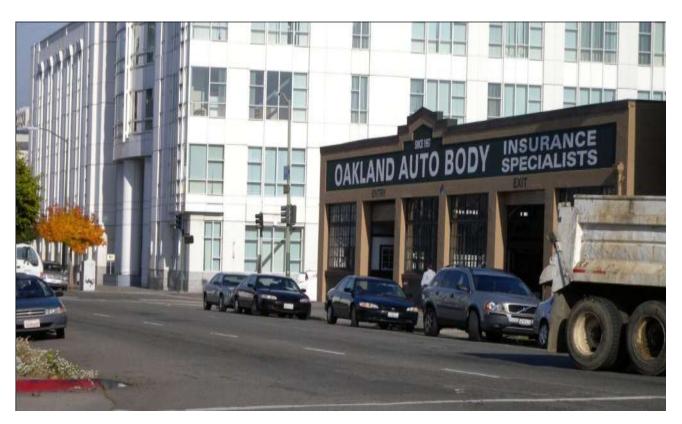








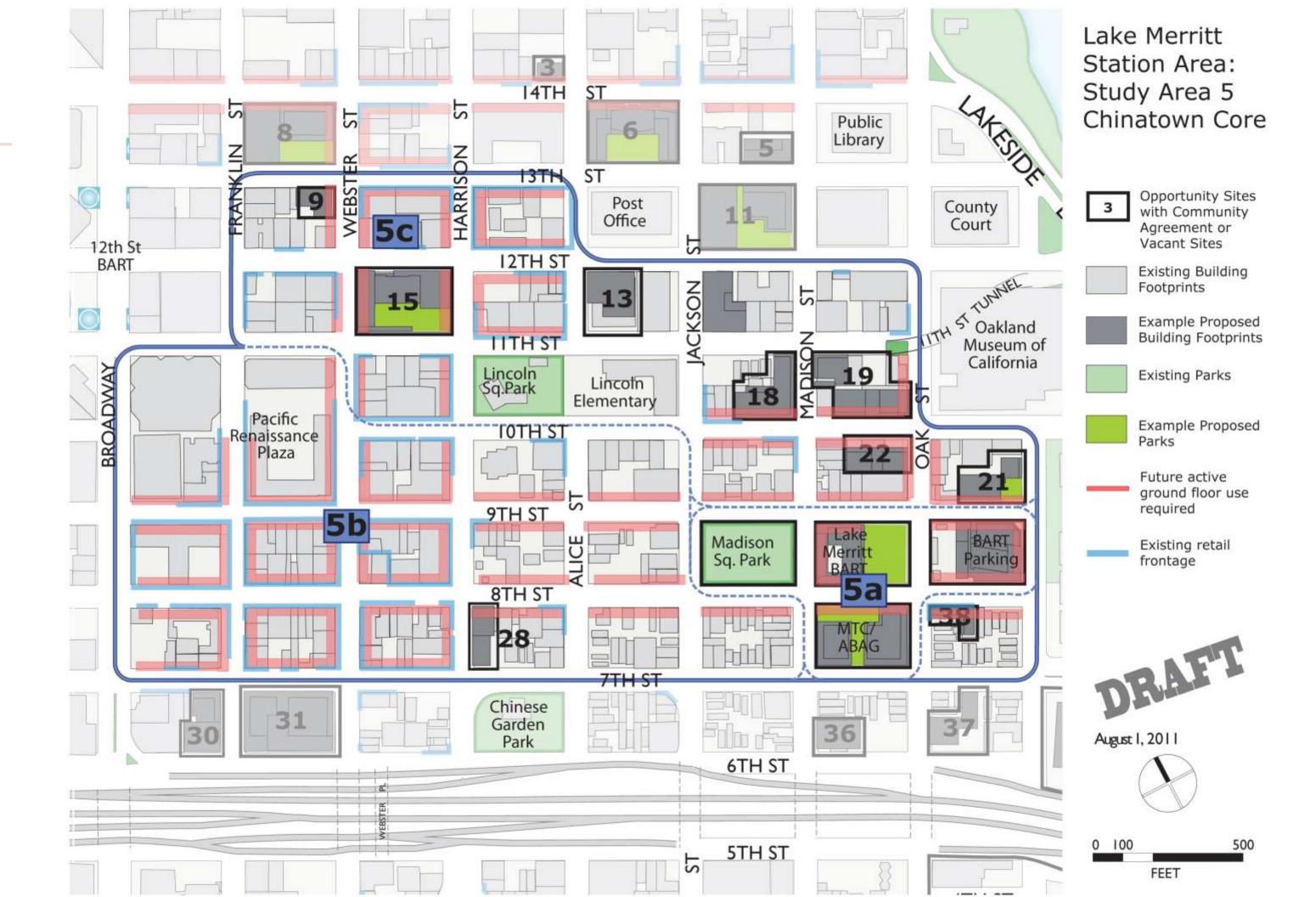
5. (c) - Upper Chinatown







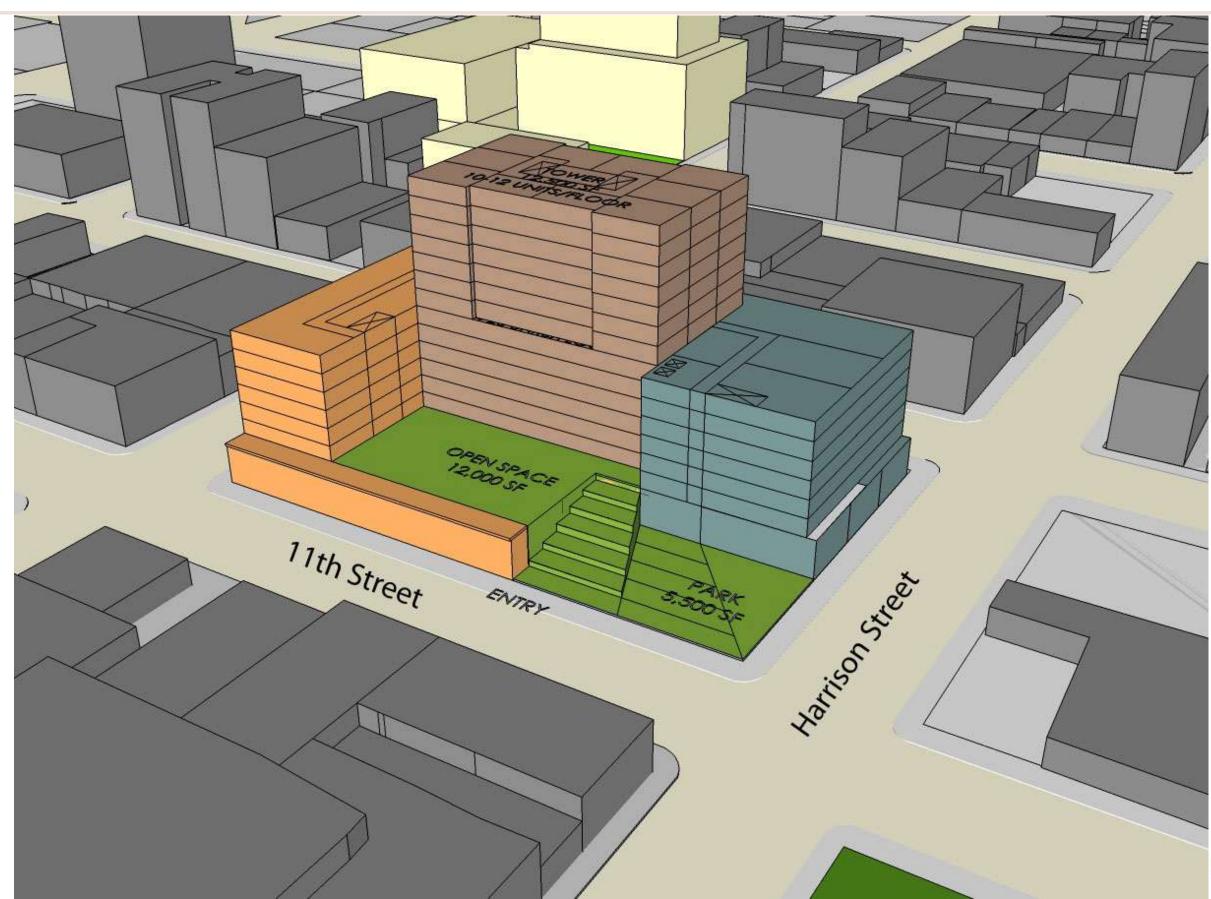




Area Overview



Project Overview



5. (c) - Upper Chinatown: Big Ideas and Vision

An intensified urban area for living

- New high density housing in eight story new buildings (on small lots) and high rise (on large lots)
- Accompanying retail, restaurants, repair stores
- Office uses enlivened with ground floor retail and additional residential uses
- Add new publically accessible open space parks
- Street improvements made to compliment the cluster of existing residential uses

5. (c) - Upper Chinatown: Feedback and Questions

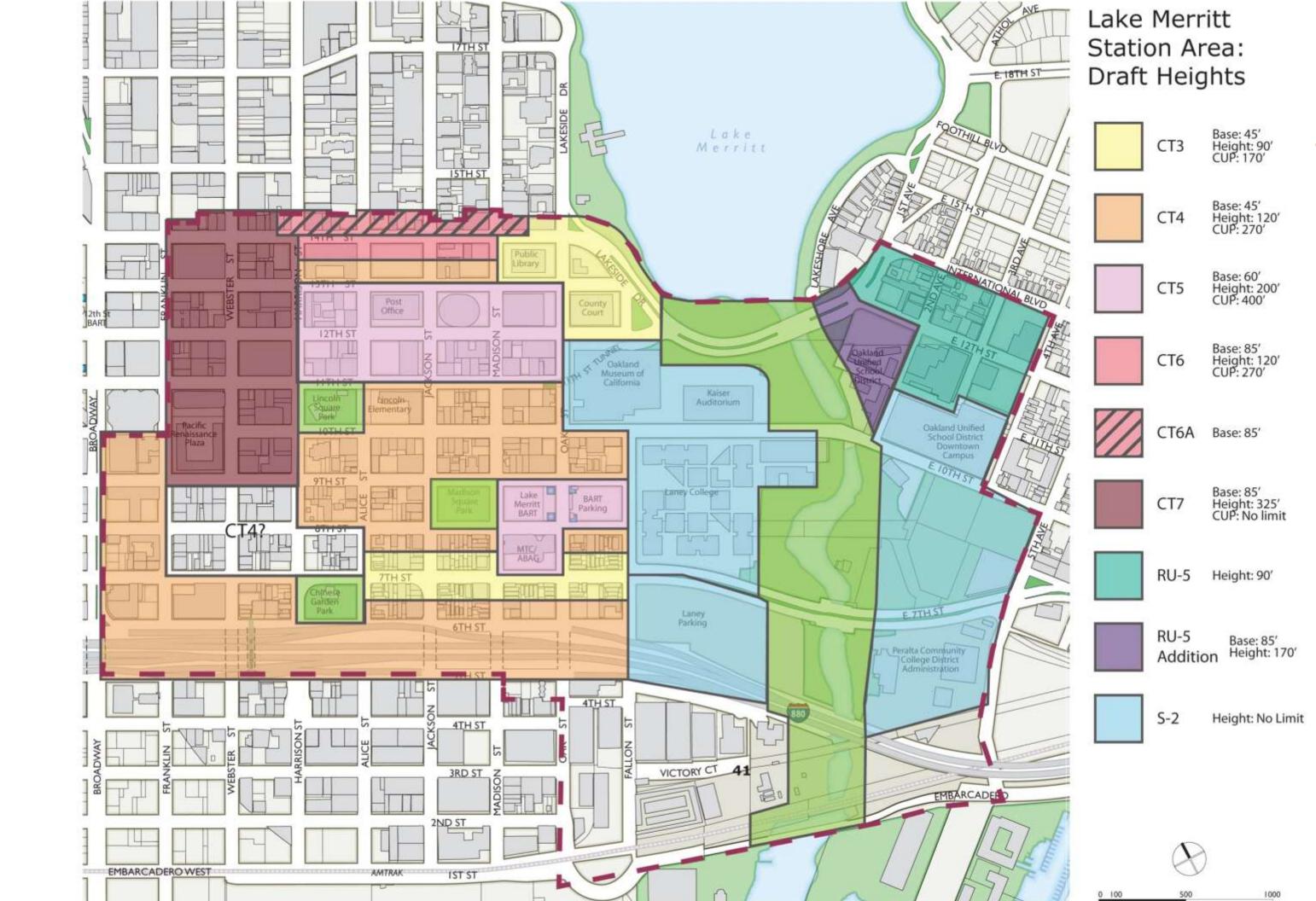
Key Feedback

- New development near Lincoln Park should complement/expand services and open space offered by Lincoln Elementary school
- More residential and active uses at ground floor to activate area at all hours
- Massing: sensitive to existing development
- Add an entertainment type center

Key Question:

- Maximum base 4 or 8 stories (or divided up)?
- Maximum building heights

Overarching Topics



Building Massing

CSG Earlier Comments:

- Increase setbacks of towers from podiums, especially at corners
 - Higher buildings should have greater setbacks
- Reduce podium heights
- Limit the width of towers and increase distance between towers
- Need an overall coherence in building massing
 - Respect historic buildings and patters of lot size and scale
 - Incorporate appropriate transitions to proposed new development of differing scales
 - Keep podium heights near low-rise historic districts closer to the heights of historic buildings
 - Massing near parks should consider shadow
- Establish maximum footprint size (1/2 block)
- Establish maximum frontage widths (articulation)

Building Massing: Key Questions

- Maximum Footprint for high-rise tower?
 - Square footage or portion of block
- Average per lot coverage above the base?
 - Square footage or portion of lot
- Minimum Distance between towers above 8 stories?
 - On same lot or adjacent; specified distance (now=40ft)
- Maximum Building Length?
 - Ex. Portland (125 ft)

Community Benefits

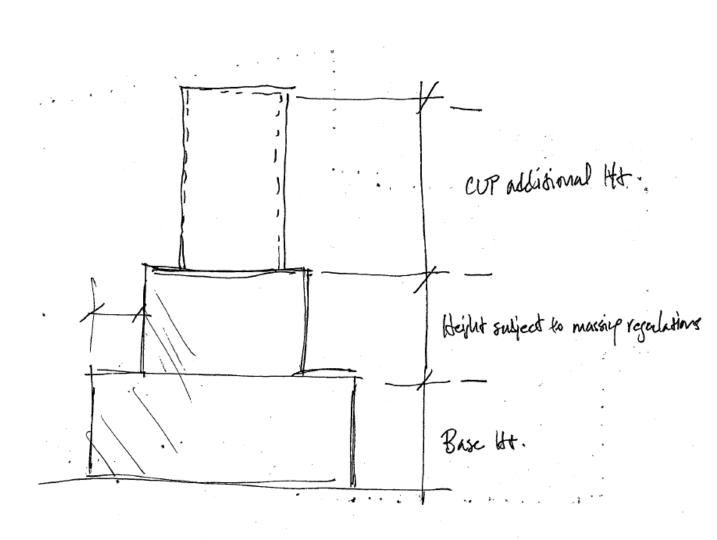
Height Areas?

- Overall Map (defined height areas)
- Dynamic (based on context street width, height of adjacent buildings, adjacency to parks or plazas)

Height Levels

- Base height
- Setback requirements
- Conditional Use Permit

Affordable housing, Family housing, Historic preservation, Public open space, Art galleries/museums/entertainment uses, Community facility, Other amenities



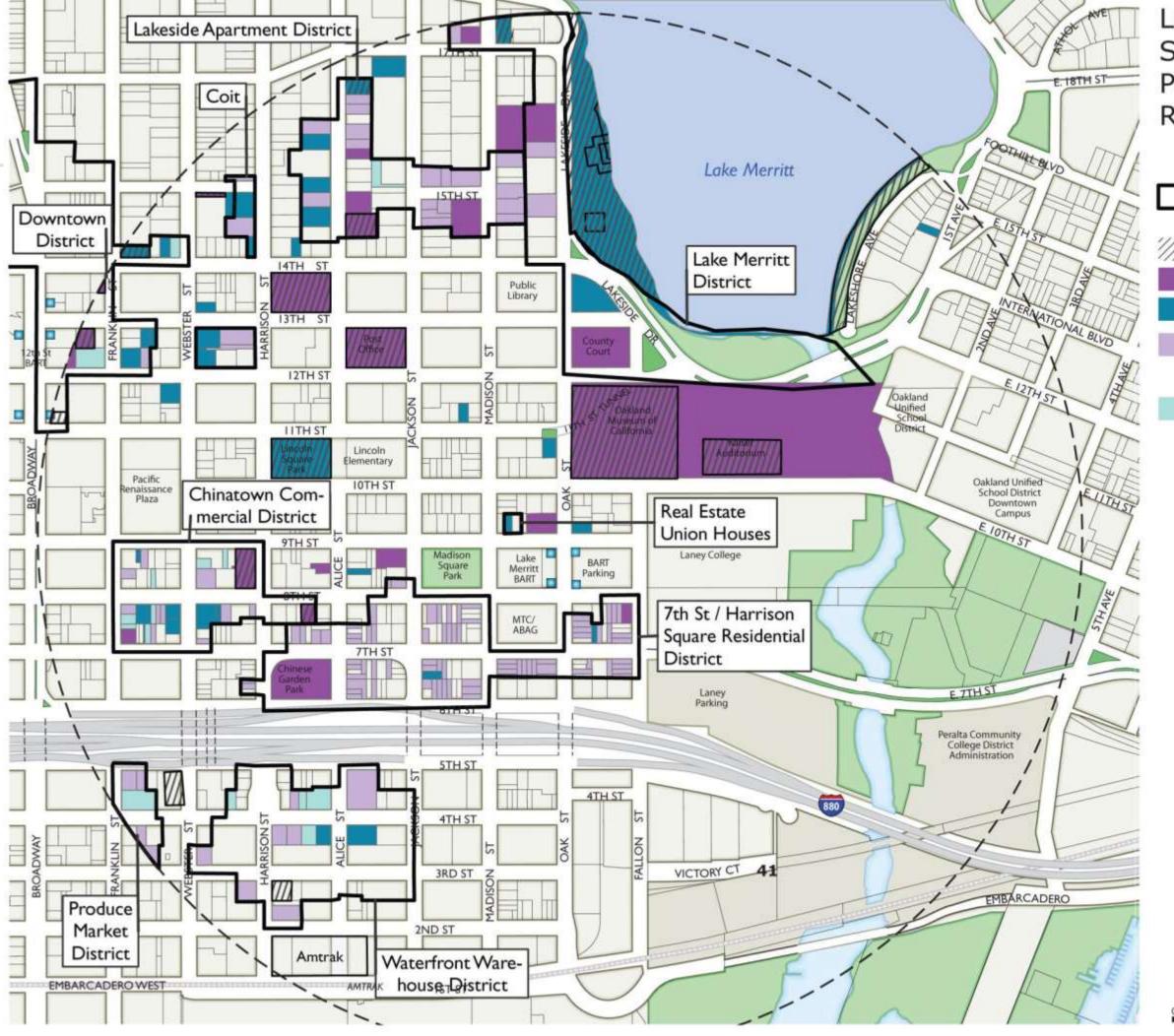
Affordable Housing: Strategies

Encourage affordable housing (cannot require):

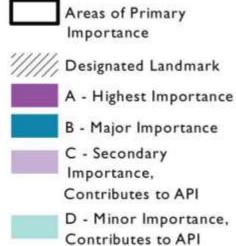
- Encourage units for families (3-4 bedroom units)
- Unbundle parking (possibly in tandem with transit passes and/or replacement bike parking)
- Reduce parking requirements (for new affordable housing and secondary units in existing housing)
- FAR and height bonuses in exchange for affordable housing
- Active ground floor uses (higher commercial rents to offset affordable units)
- Promote use of existing programs and funding sources
- Prevent displacement by preserving existing affordable housing

Historic Resources

- Focus on reuse and improvements of historic buildings
 - Modifications to existing historic resources must comply with findings to ensure their character-defining elements are maintained.
 - A few Cs and Ds (not within historic districts) are included in potential development sites (Site 15: D, Site 18: Cs and Ds, Site 19: Cs and Ds, Site 22: D, Site 31: D, Site 43: D, Site 45: Cs and Ds). However, reuse can be encouraged and by City ordinance, findings have to be made to justify demolition.
- Ensure building massing of new development responds to historic context
 - New development must comply with City's design review criteria including compatible design (siting, massing, and quality of materials), and consult with historic preservation staff.



Lake Merritt Station Area Priority Historic Resources



Public Space: Vision

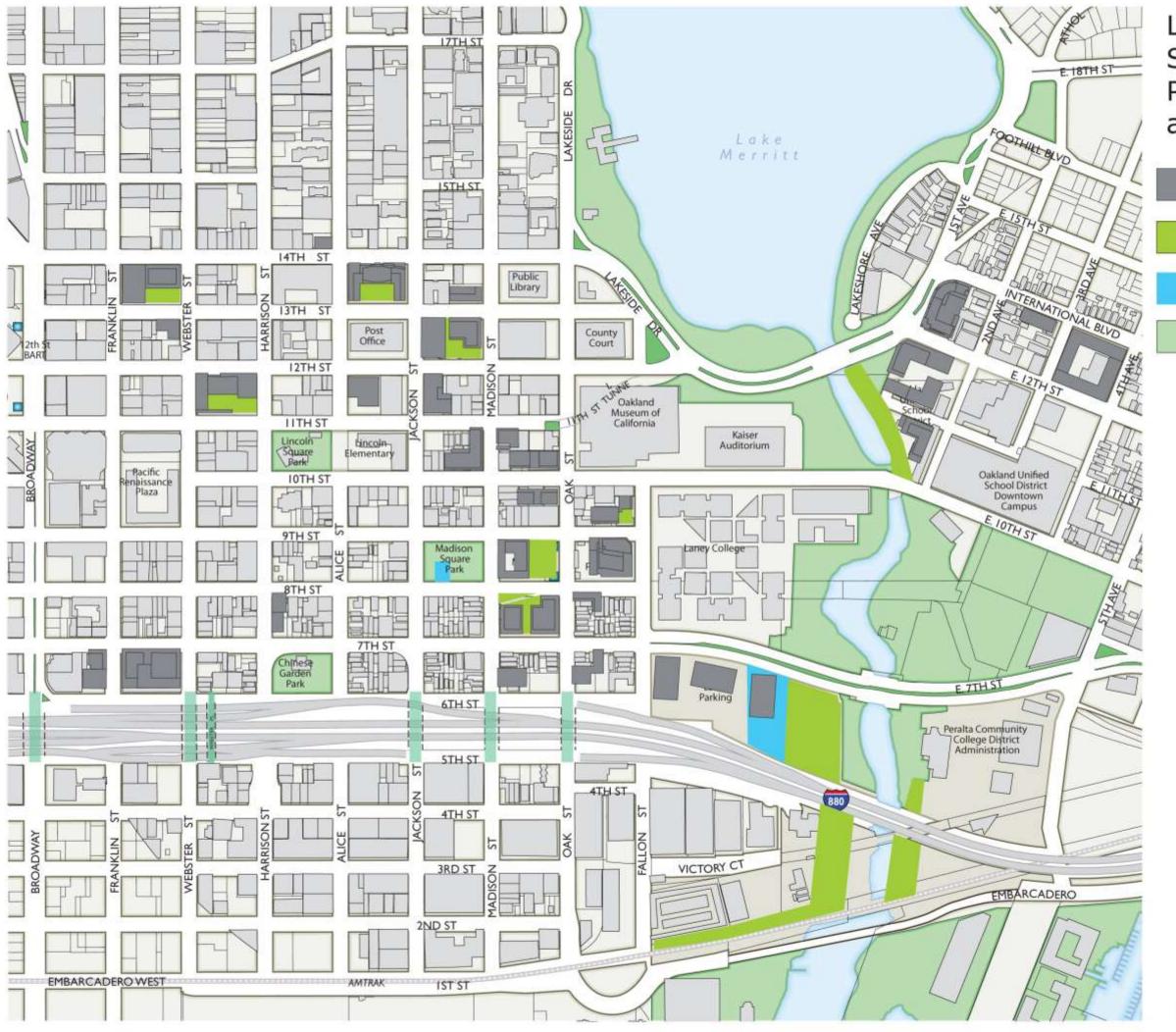
- Improve Existing Parks
 - Active programming
 - Improved Access
- Recognize Streets as an Important Part of the Public Realm
 - Improvements to Sidewalks
 - Building frontages that complement sidewalk activity
- Ensure new parks are well designed

Public Space: Vision

- Provide new open space
 - Require parks to be provided as part of new development.
- New park acreage estimate (existing and new):
 - Existing: 4 local acres; 39 regional acres; 43 total acres
 - Emerging Plan: 4 local acres; 12 regional acres; 16 total acres
 - Total: 8 local acres; 51 regional acres; 59 total acres

Parks: Key Decisions

- How will new parks and community facilities be required and funded for ongoing maintenance?
 - Require parks to be provided as part of new development
 - As part of streetscape improvements
 - Green Streets (10th Street, 7th Street)
- Identify standards for new parks?
 - Consider establishing standards (size, location, sunshine, access requirements)



Lake Merritt Station Area: Proposed Parks and Public Spaces

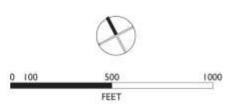
Example Proposed Building Footprints

Proposed Parks/Public Spaces

Proposed Community Facility

Existing Parks

August 2, 2011



Other Key Features of the Emerging Plan

- Parking and Loading Management Strategy
- Shuttle Service Coordination
- Buffer from noise and air quality impacts of Highway 880
- Buffer along the channel
- Potential night market locations

Next Steps

Community Meeting (Emerging Plan Concepts) – Sept. 12

Open House

Monday, September 12

Laney Cafeteria

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Emerging Plan and Mini-Alternatives Analysis – Oct. 14

(CSG meeting date TBD)

Public Draft Preferred Plan and Review – Dec. to March