

Memorandum from the SFMTA

Brotherhood Way/Alemaný Blvd/Sagamore St/Orizaba Ave



TO: Supervisor Ahsha Safai, District 11

THROUGH: Jeff Tumlin, SFMTA Director of Transportation

FROM: Tom Maguire, SFMTA Streets Director

CC: Tilly Chang, SFCTA Maureen Singleton, SFPL
David Long, SFCTA Andrew Sohn, PW
John Cunha, SFPL Casey Hildreth, SFMTA
Roberto Lombardi, SFPL Jamie Parks, SFMTA
Jessica Roberts SFPL

DATE: February 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Intersection Improvement at the intersection of Brotherhood Way, Alemaný Boulevard, Sagamore Street, and Orizaba Avenue

This memorandum describes the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s (SFMTA) conceptual planning for improvements to the Brotherhood Way/Alemaný Blvd/Sagamore St/Orizaba Ave intersection and adjacent roadways. Because of the intersecting roadways, multiple travel lanes on many approaches, and unusual geometry, the current configuration could be modified for improved pedestrian access and safety to the Brotherhood Way Open Space, and improved general pedestrian and traffic safety. Implementation of these improvements will require dedicated funding, which is not currently identified. Funding, planning, and implementation can be fully independent of any adjacent land use changes, including potential siting of a San Francisco Public Library branch nearby.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Stakeholders in the vicinity of this intersection have shared concerns about pedestrian and traffic safety, most recently at the Library Commission meeting on February 2, 2023. At that meeting, the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) received numerous public comments expressing concerns about pedestrian safety, parking, future development, and encroachment on the greenway for a prospective new branch library site at Orizaba and Brotherhood Way. Completing intersection work would improve pedestrian access and allow for a wider range of future opportunities to improve the Brotherhood Way Open Space. This work has independent value, regardless of whether the new Ocean View Branch Library ultimately locates nearby or not.

The SFMTA’s objective is to complete feasibility analysis and concept designs for the intersection as soon as possible, which would allow for near-term intersection reconfiguration to be

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completed by 2028, pending available funding. Near-term recommendations will be closely coordinated with the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) to ensure that near-term improvements do not preclude potential recommendations of the long-range planning study that the SFCTA is leading for the Brotherhood Way corridor, nearly all of which is on the Vision Zero High Injury Network (HIN).

RELATIONSHIP TO LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

As part of an effort to construct a new library in the area, the “Ocean View Branch Library Feasibility Report” dated October 2019 studied various sites around Brotherhood Way. Figure 1 shows a preliminary sketch of a library footprint on “Site D,” a potential site identified in the report. While the report deemed pedestrian access safe, with walkable connections to the site from the north, there remained concerns about pedestrian access and safety from the south across Brotherhood Way, Sagamore Street, and Alemany Boulevard. An aerial photo of the site and surrounding streets can be found in the appendix. These concerns and issues exist regardless of whether the library is sited here.

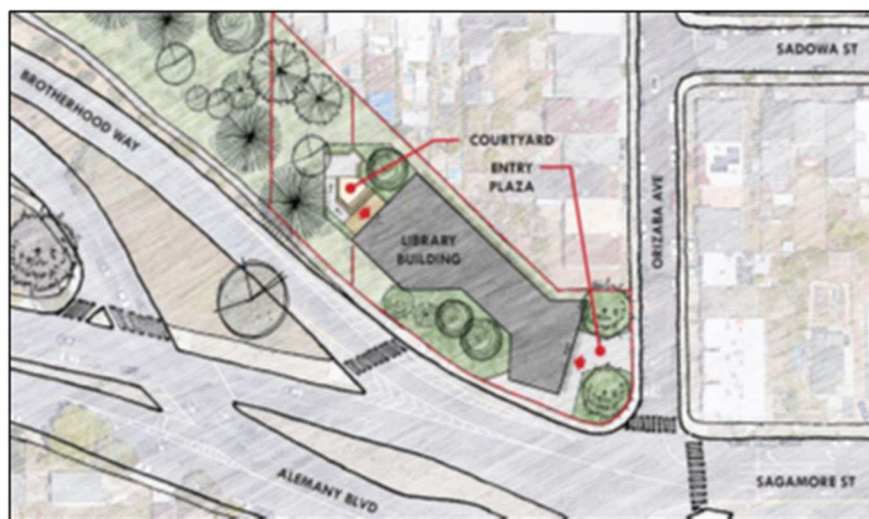


Figure 1. Draft Sketch of a Possible Ocean View Branch Library at Site D

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Following an on-site meeting with the SFPL, Public Works (PW), and the SFCTA, the SFMTA created a project team to outreach, plan, design, and construct improvements for pedestrian safety and access across Brotherhood/Alemaný/Sagamore/Orizaba. Funding to begin the effort was received in January 2023. The project has the following goals so far:

- Work with the District 11 office and local stakeholders

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- Coordinate with city partners (SFCTA and PW, among others as needed)
- Aim for a phased approach that delivers a medium-term project that does not preclude ideas generated by longer term planning effort led by the SFCTA
- Potentially provide additional open space along Site D while avoiding major traffic rerouting/detours unsupported by community
- Complete implementation by 2028 (pending funding)

The project team anticipates studying at least two options: a “lighter touch” design that keeps island/curb work to a minimum and a more aggressive approach that realigns a short segment of westbound Brotherhood Way to create more room in front of Site D. Both options would likely include a new traffic signal, and neither is expected to result in major traffic diversion. Additional options may also be explored if they arise during the outreach/planning effort. Determining the cost of changes like these first requires planning and design, but a traffic signal at an intersection of this size, along with likely changes to curbs, islands, and potentially utilities, is expected to cost at least \$2 million and perhaps substantially more.

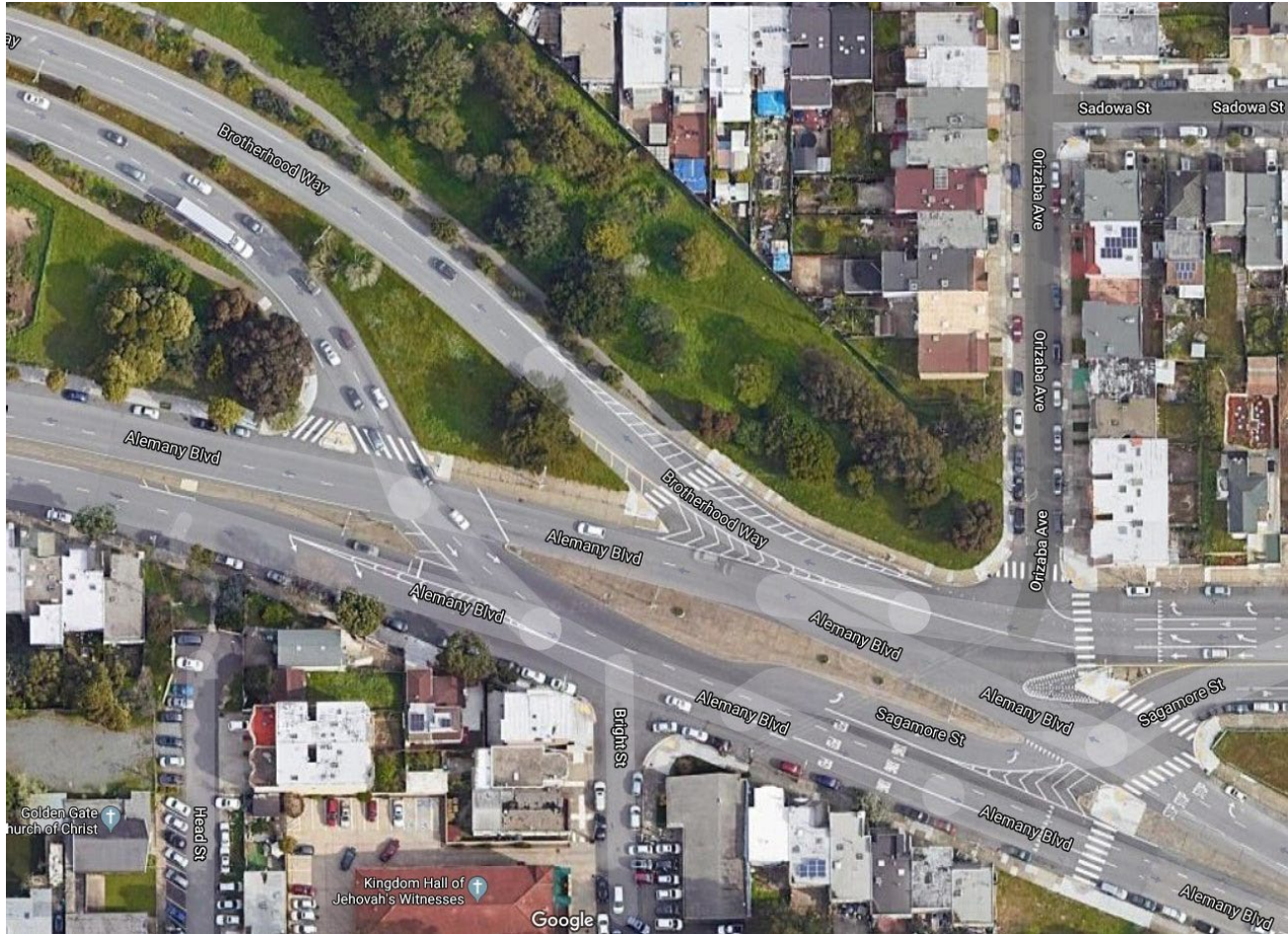
Following the completion of conceptual design and a preferred alternative, the SFMTA will work the SFCTA to seek funding opportunities including but not limited to competitive grants.

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

The project team will collect updated traffic counts, survey site conditions, and meet with the District 11 Office to determine what stakeholders should be included in the outreach and planning phase of the project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the SFMTA’s point person, Mike Sallaberry (mike.sallaberry@sfmta.com).

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APPENDIX – Aerial Photo of Site D, from Google Maps