Roadways to People-ways

Game Changer Solution

The bay area has 20,000 miles of streets and 1400 miles of highways. (There is an estimated 4.8 acres per 1 mile of highway)

Transition 50% of all roadways to dedicated transit, pedestrian, bike (TPB) and non-auto electric vehicles. Conservatively 27,000 acres or 10,500 miles.

Goal

• Slash vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gases from transportation
• Make people’s lives better
• Improve affordability safety and convenience of getting around
• Within 5 years transition XX miles of roadways to TPB!

Why is this important/ impactful activity?

• Transportation sector represents approximately 40% of the carbon emissions
• Urban and suburban roads are overwhelmed with congestion and encourage extreme commute times
• Roadways are an existing infrastructure and public amenity that can be repurposed to improve lifestyles, mobility, and reduce climate impacts.

How to Achieve the Goal:

• The purposing of public roadways is already happening in small pockets - such as Market Street in San Francisco.
• Need to demonstrate benefits and potential through strategic Tactical Urbanism and pilot road takeovers that document potential to change communities for the better.

• Need to locate pilots within “every person” cities - not just urban centers like San Francisco
• Need to partner and work closely with regional and local transportation agencies, and transit providers.
• Dedicating roads to transit/people must be paired with improved and more extensive transit options and safe and well lit bike-ways.

Timeline:

6 months:
• Work with MTC to establish pilot Roadways to People-ways program
• Develop incentive structure, pilot criteria, and monitoring protocols

1 year:
• Work on cultural shifts with communications; benefits approach
• Launch pilots - 1-6 months each
• Establish political buy-in to program

2 year:
• Establish new transportation funding breakdown - 80% of all transportation funding is dedicated to “people-ways”

Completed in 5 years:
• 1,000 miles of roadways have been transitioned
• 10,000 miles are planned to transition
• Cultural buy-in
• Increased transit services.

Anticipated 5 Year Climate Change Impact? Exact amount to be determined. If reduction of VMT is 25% that equals 1 metric tonne of CO2 per vehicle reduction.