

BROADWAY VALDEZ DISTRICT SPECIFIC PLAN



PRELIMINARY DRAFT PLAN CONCEPT

CITY OF OAKLAND

OCTOBER 24, 2011
DRAFT #2

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I. PLANNING CONTEXT

A. Retail Context

- **Retail Need.** Oakland is one of the most under-retailed major cities in the United States, with limited options for comparison goods shopping, a retail category that includes stores for apparel (clothing, accessories, shoes), home furnishings/appliances, specialty goods (gifts, jewelry, books, stationery and cards, sporting goods, etc.), and department and other general merchandise stores.
- **Citywide Retail Strategy.** The *Citywide Retail Enhancement Strategy* (Conley, 2006) and the companion *Upper Broadway Strategy – A Component of the Oakland Retail Enhancement Strategy* (Conley, 2007) identified the City's need to re-establish major destination retail in Oakland as being critical to stemming the extreme retail leakage and associated loss of tax revenue that the City suffers annually. The reports also identified the Broadway Valdez District as the City's best opportunity to re-establish a retail core with the type of comparison shopping that once served Oakland and nearby communities, and that the City currently lacks.
- **Comparison Retail Market.** The Broadway Valdez area is surrounded by a large and potentially lucrative market for new retail development. Within a 10-minute drive of the area (Primary Trade Area), there are over 400,000 residents who spend \$1.6 billion per year for comparison goods shopping. It is estimated that the Broadway Valdez area would only need to capture 12% of these expenditures to support major retail development in the project area, which is considered very reasonable given the high leakage of spending.
- **Retail Climate.** While studies identify strong demand for comparison retail, a number of recent trends have changed the traditional dynamics of retail development. The downturn in the economy over the past few years has made developers and lenders much more cautious about tackling major new projects or pioneering unproven areas, and the City has fewer resources available to catalyze new development. While the economy has also made retailers more cautious, advances in information technologies and shifts in demographics are also changing traditional retail formulas. The shift in population into cities has large anchor-type retailers exploring new physical formats that fit in urban settings. Similarly, changes in shopping habits influenced by the internet and social networking have retailers reconsidering the role and size of brick-and-mortar outlets.



Broadway, Downtown Oakland



Current retail trends and format encourage infill and building reuse

I. PLANNING CONTEXT

B. Physical Context

- The Broadway Corridor.** Broadway is Oakland's historic spine. Extending from the Oakland Estuary in the San Francisco Bay, to the Oakland Hills, the corridor connects some of the City's primary retail and employment destinations along its 4-mile length, including Jack London Square, Chinatown, Old Town, Downtown, Uptown, Pill Hill/Kaiser Medical Centers, Pleasant Valley, and the Piedmont and College Avenue retail districts. The transformation of the Broadway Valdez District from its historic emphasis on automotive sales and repair to a retail-oriented mixed use district will create a dynamic linkage between the Downtown and the neighborhood centers to the north and east.



I. PLANNING CONTEXT

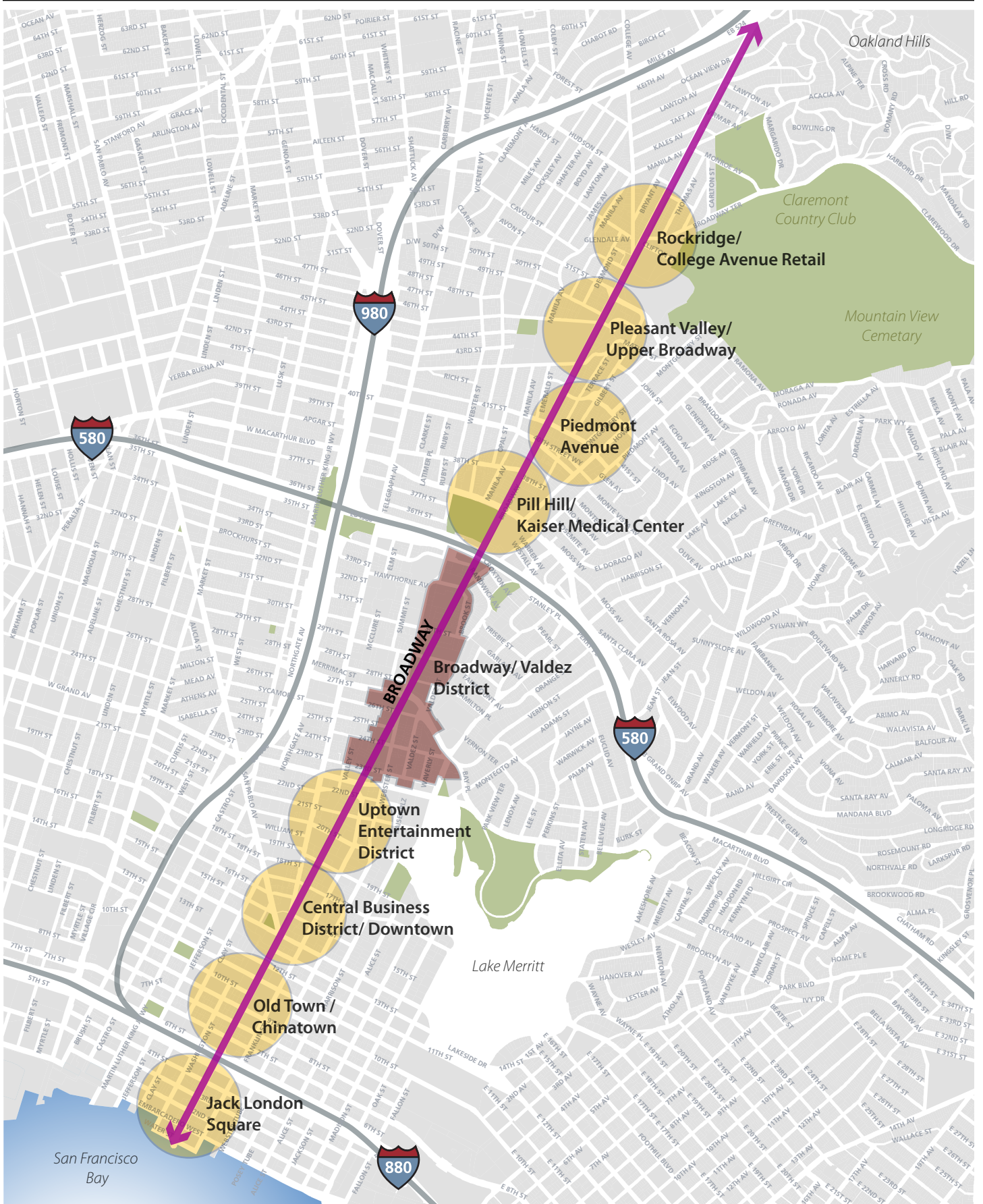
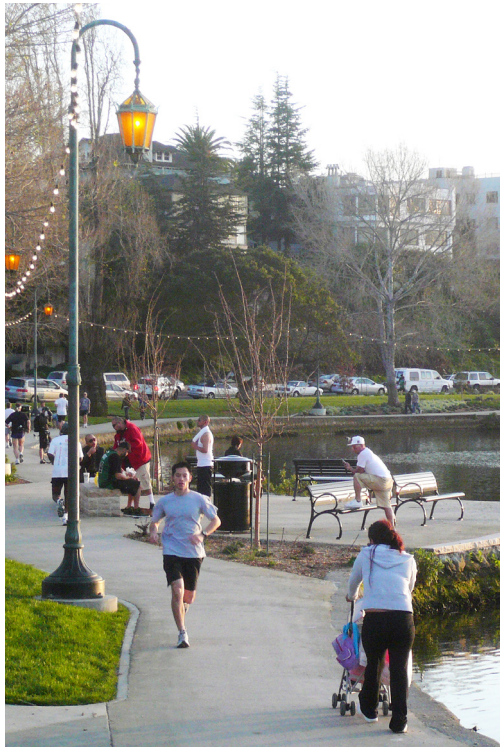


FIGURE 1: BROADWAY - "HILLS TO WATER"

0 0.2 mi 0.4 mi

I. PLANNING CONTEXT

- **Local Surroundings and Influences.** The Broadway Valdez District is surrounded by a number of distinctive and dynamic neighborhoods and uses. The District will derive its strength from this context, leveraging the energy of surrounding neighborhoods to create a vibrant retail and mixed use destination that is a fully-integrated extension of the Downtown—not an isolated shopping district.
- **Complementary and Connected.** The Broadway corridor should serve as a “seam” in the urban fabric—one that complements and connects a series of dynamic adjoining uses by providing:
 - A local shopping and entertainment destination for residents in adjoining neighborhoods
 - A retail, office and residential complement to the employment nodes of the Summit Alta Bates and Kaiser Permanente medical centers
 - A lunch-time and evening destination for office workers in the Kaiser Center/Lake Merritt office district
 - An extension of the dining, entertainment, and residential uses in the thriving Uptown District
 - A retail complement to the active Central Business District
 - A dining, entertainment and cultural complement to the distinctive Garage/Art Murmur District



I. PLANNING CONTEXT

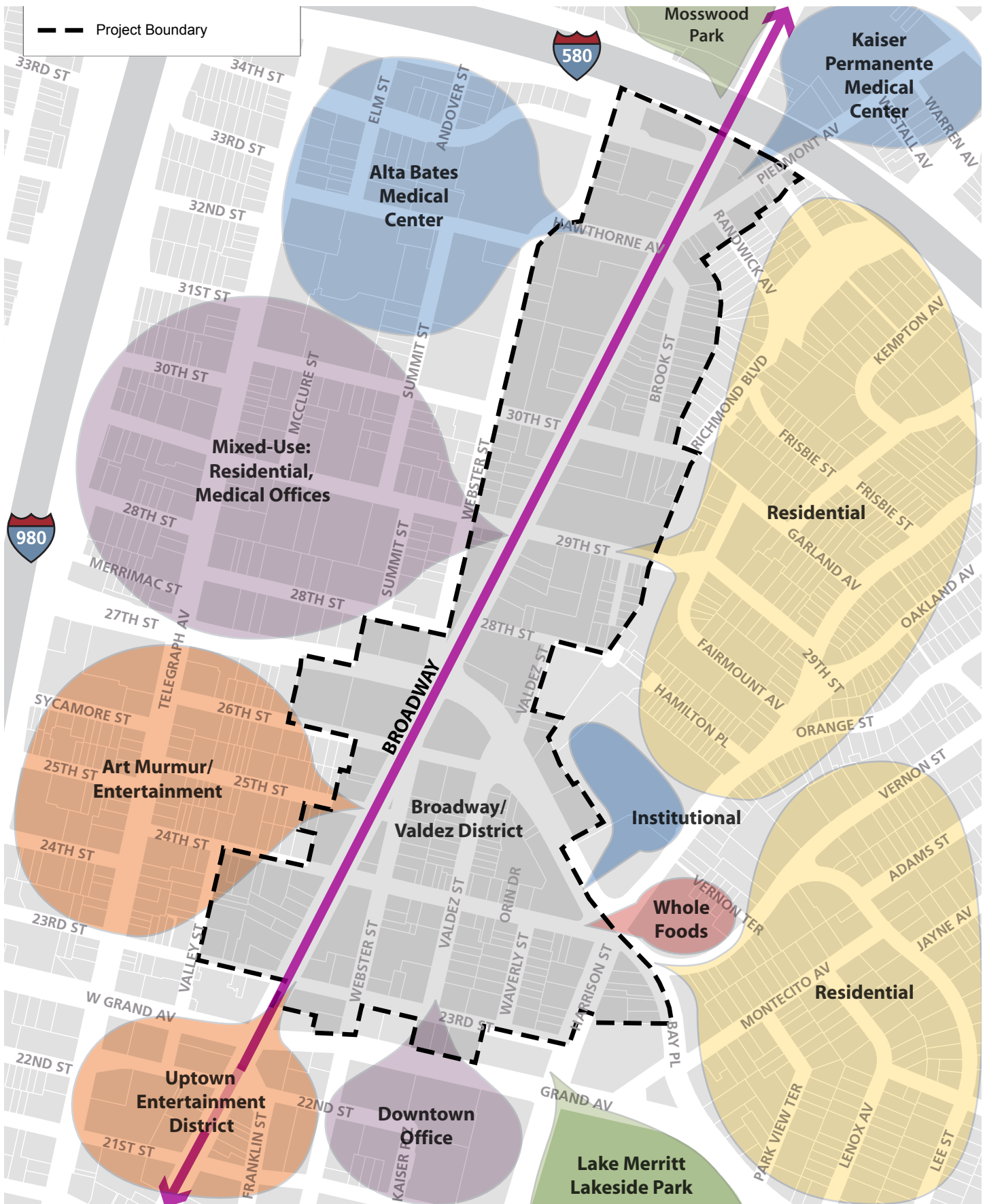


FIGURE 2: SURROUNDING LAND USE

0 275 ft 550 ft

II. VISION AND GOALS

A. Vision Statement

To transition the Broadway corridor toward being a new, re-imagined 21st Century “complete” neighborhood that addresses the City’s objectives for promoting socially and economically sustainable mixed use development; increasing the capture of local sales tax revenue; and implementing a “green,” “transit-first” strategy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Project Goals

1. **Destination Retail.** A destination retail district that addresses the City’s deficiency in comparison goods shopping and significantly reduces sales tax leakage, while also serving neighborhood shopping needs.
2. **A “Complete” Neighborhood.** A “complete” mixed-use neighborhood that is economically and socially sustainable—providing quality jobs, diverse housing opportunities, and an appealing mix of retail, dining and entertainment uses.
3. **An Authentic Oakland Place.** Adaptive reuse of historic buildings where feasible that maintains a connection to the neighborhood’s history and contributes to a distinctive character and identity.
4. **A Walkable District.** An attractive, pedestrian-oriented retail and mixed use district.
5. **Transit-Oriented.** A compact neighborhood that is well-served by and supportive of transit.
6. **Complete Streets.** A network of “complete” streets that are designed to safely and efficiently balance pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicular circulation.
7. **Managed Parking.** Carefully managed parking that addresses retail needs while not undermining walking, bicycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation.
8. **Public Space.** A safe and attractive system of streets, parks, and civic spaces that provides graciously-scaled open spaces that support pedestrian activity and social interaction.
9. **Leveraging Existing Assets.** New uses and development that enhance the neighborhood’s social and economic vitality by building upon the area’s existing strengths and successes.
10. **Sustainable Development.** Sustainably-designed, “green” buildings and infrastructure that protect the natural environment and reduce the consumption of energy and resources.

C. Implementation Strategies Overview

- **Implementation Challenges.** The realization of the vision for the Broadway Valdez District is faced with many challenges, some inherent to the area (e.g., numerous land owners, small parcel sizes, high land values, limited land control by RDA, perception of public safety, lack of retail identity, etc.) and some related to more global issues (e.g., poor economic climate, retail industry in flux, limited redevelopment funding, etc.). As a result, implementation is likely to occur incrementally over a number of years.
- **Near-term Strategies.** In the face of existing challenges, including limited City funding, instigating near-term actions that will bridge the current economy and better position the area for development will be critical. These near-term strategies will be important to demonstrate the City’s commitment to the vision for the District, and support existing businesses and landowners in the District who are already working to revitalize the area. The focus of these near-term strategies should be to (See Figure 3):
 - *Build on what is “working” in the area (e.g., dining, entertainment, the arts)*
 - *Activate the area (e.g., fill in gaps, promote use of “dead” spots, etc.)*
 - *Make the area “fun,” “safe” and “active” (e.g., promote events, improve lighting, etc.)*
 - *Improve connectivity/mobility (e.g., add bicycle facilities, improve pedestrian crossings, etc.)*
 - *Enhance the physical character of the area (e.g., add street trees, façade improvements, etc.)*

II. VISION AND GOALS

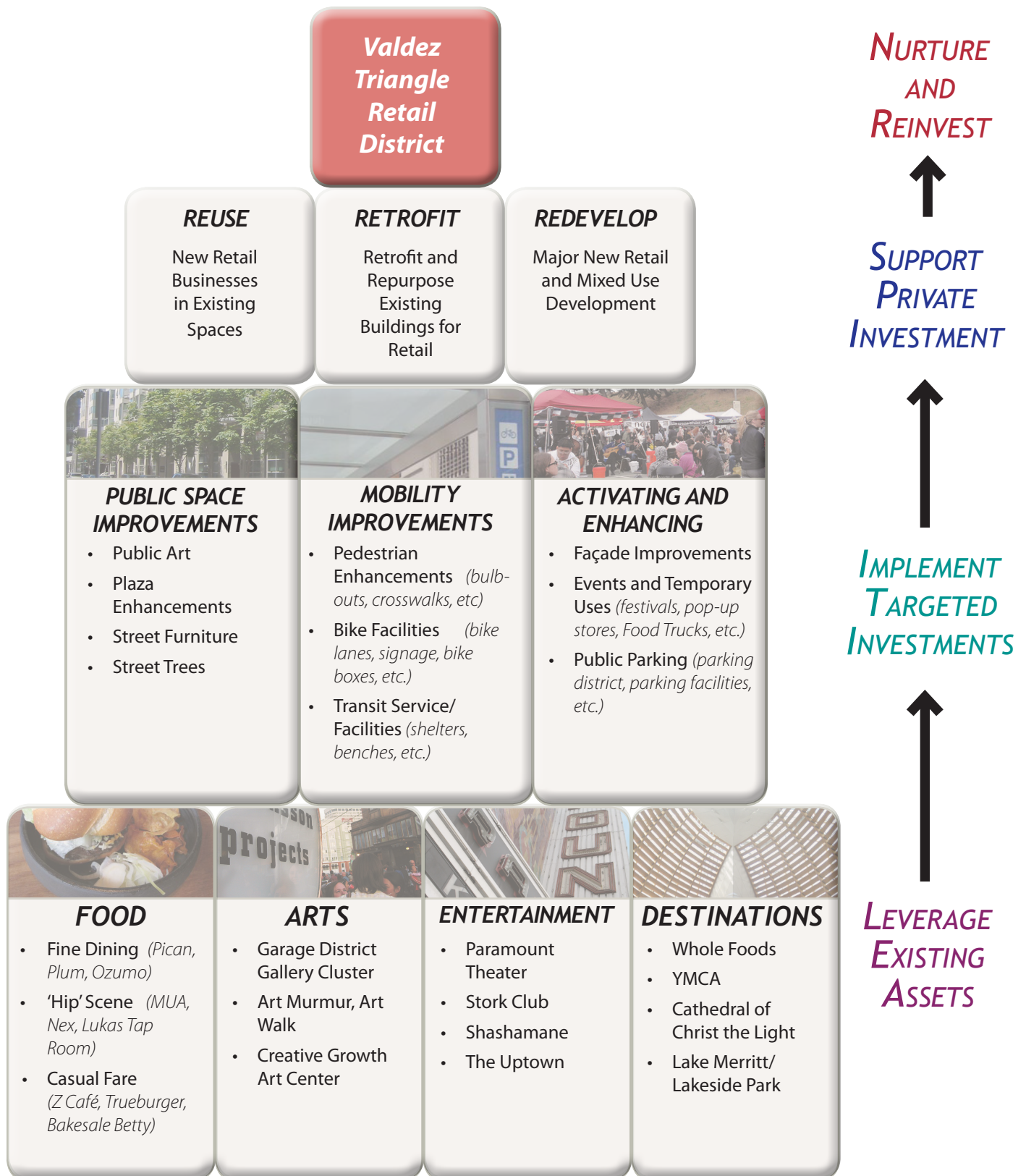


FIGURE 3: BUILDING A DESTINATION RETAIL DISTRICT FROM THE GROUND UP

III. LAND USE

A. Overall Planning Area Land Use Concept

- **Two Distinct Subareas.** Given the area's length, the different physical configuration of the areas north and south of 27th Street, and the desire to create a walkable, pedestrian-friendly district, the land use concept conceives the planning area as two distinct subareas: the Valdez Triangle and the North End—each of which will have a different land use focus.
- **Valdez Triangle as Retail Destination.** Due to its proximity to the Downtown, its accessibility to transit and freeways, and its fine-grained network of cross-streets, the focus in the Valdez Triangle will be on creating a new destination retail district (see following discussion of Triangle for more detail).
- **North End as Mixed Use Boulevard.** Due to its linear configuration, proximity to the two medical centers, and inventory of historic buildings, the focus in the North End will be on creating a high-density mixed use boulevard that caters to adjoining medical complexes and residential neighborhoods with a mix of office, retail, residential and professional services (see following discussion of North End for more detail).
- **Market-Driven Plan.** The land use concept assumes that plan implementation will be both market-driven and incremental.



Pedestrian-scaled, destination retail



Residential above ground-floor retail

B. Overall Development Program

The projected development program is an estimate of what could potentially occur in the planning area consistent with the Specific Plan vision for the District. The estimate represents a balancing of several factors including:

- Projected market demand, including the need for a critical mass of retail to establish the area as a retail destination
- Response to adjacent land use/development context
- The physical size and configuration of developable parcels
- The susceptibility (i.e., likelihood) of parcels to redevelopment
- The desire to repurpose historic and distinctive existing buildings
- The desire to create a balanced mix of uses that offers opportunities for living, working, and recreating

Table 1: Overall Development Program

	COMMERICAL OFFICE		RETAIL		HOTEL		RESIDENTIAL	
	S.F. (MIN)	S.F. (MAX)	S.F. (MIN)	S.F. (MAX)	S.F. (MIN)	S.F. (MAX)	DU (MIN)	DU (MAX)
Valdez Triangle	300,000	500,000	500,000	800,000	50,000	120,000	300	700
North End	200,000	400,000	300,000	600,000	-	-	600	1,100
Total Plan Area	500,000	900,000	800,000	1,400,000	50,000	120,000	900	1,800

III. LAND USE

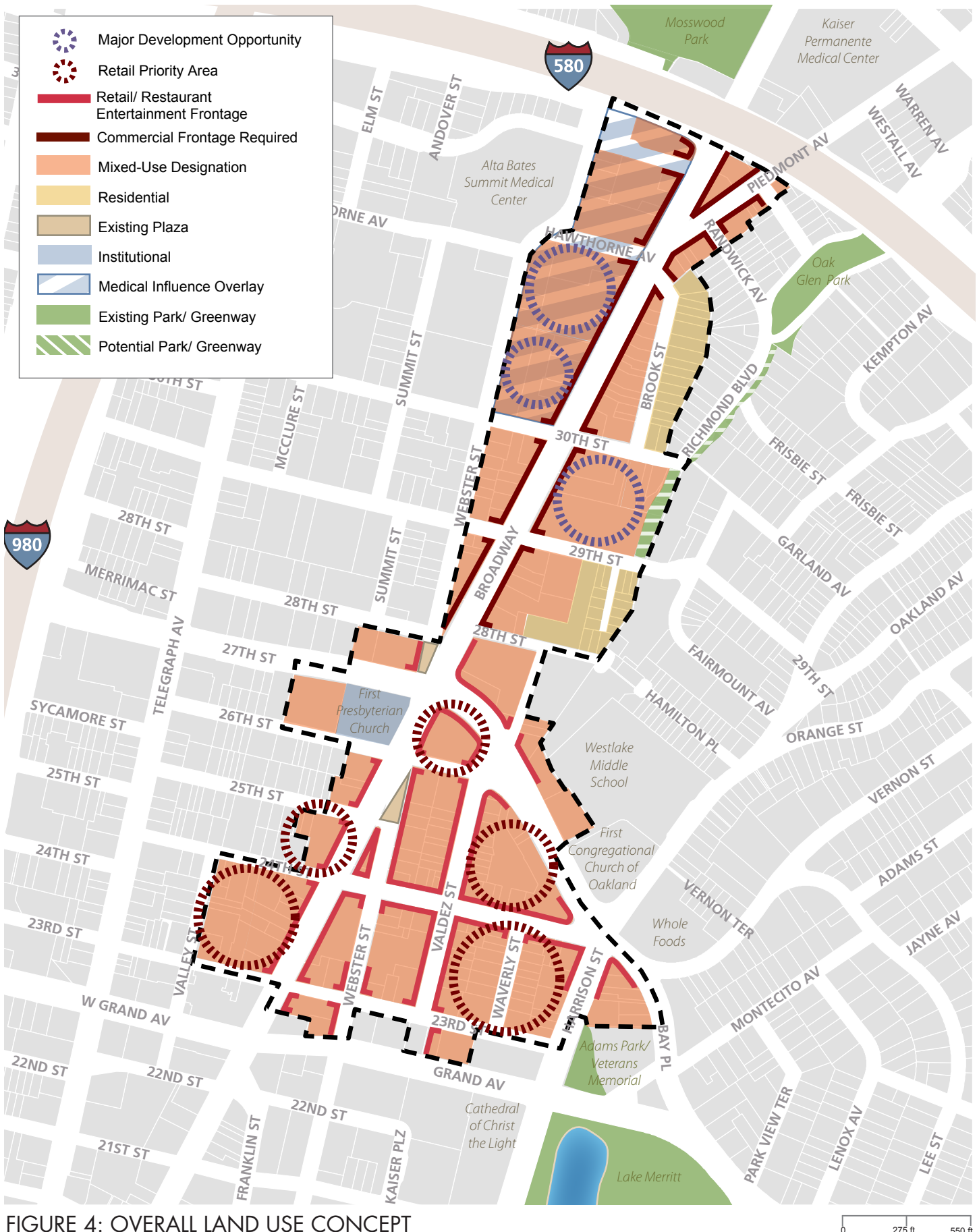


FIGURE 4: OVERALL LAND USE CONCEPT

III. LAND USE

C. Valdez Triangle Land Use Concept

Retail District. The primary objective in the Valdez Triangle is to create a dynamic retail district anchored by comparison-shopping (see Section D for more detailed discussion of retail component)

- **Retail Priority Areas.** “Retail Priority” areas are designated to ensure that sites are retained within the Triangle for major retailers who typically require building formats with larger floorplates. In order to accommodate these major retailers, who are essential to providing comparison goods shopping, minimum floor-plate requirements will be applied to sites that have three characteristics: adequate size, good visibility, and excellent access.
- **Ground-level Retail.** In order to create a vibrant retail environment, active retail and complementary dining and entertainment uses will be required as ground-level uses within the core of the Triangle
- **Downtown Extension.** In order to reinforce the concept of the Triangle as an extension of the Downtown, the General Plan boundary for the Central Business District (CBD) will be extended north from Grand Avenue to incorporate the Triangle.
- **Land Use Designations.** A “Mixed Use” designation will be applied throughout the Triangle to promote a sustainable mix of uses while providing flexibility in development type and configuration.
- **Vertical Mixed Use.** Vertical mixed use development that places other uses (e.g., office, entertainment, dining, retail, services, housing, etc.) above ground-floor retail will be encouraged in the retail core, whenever possible, but not required.
- **Complementary Mixed Use.** Mixed use development that is complementary to, but does not include retail, including high density residential development and non-retail ground-floor uses, will be encouraged in the areas around the periphery of the retail core.
- **Retail Streets.** In order to physically integrate the Triangle with adjacent areas, active retail frontages need to extend along key streets, especially: Broadway, 24th, and Valdez streets, as well as portions of 27th and Harrison streets (as indicated).
- **Retail before Residential.** In order to prioritize the development of comparison shopping-type retail in the Triangle, the amount of residential development in the retail priority areas may be linked to the amount of retail provided.



A pedestrian-oriented retail district in an urban setting



Locally-owned businesses located in existing storefronts



Comparison shopping accommodated in existing buildings

III. LAND USE

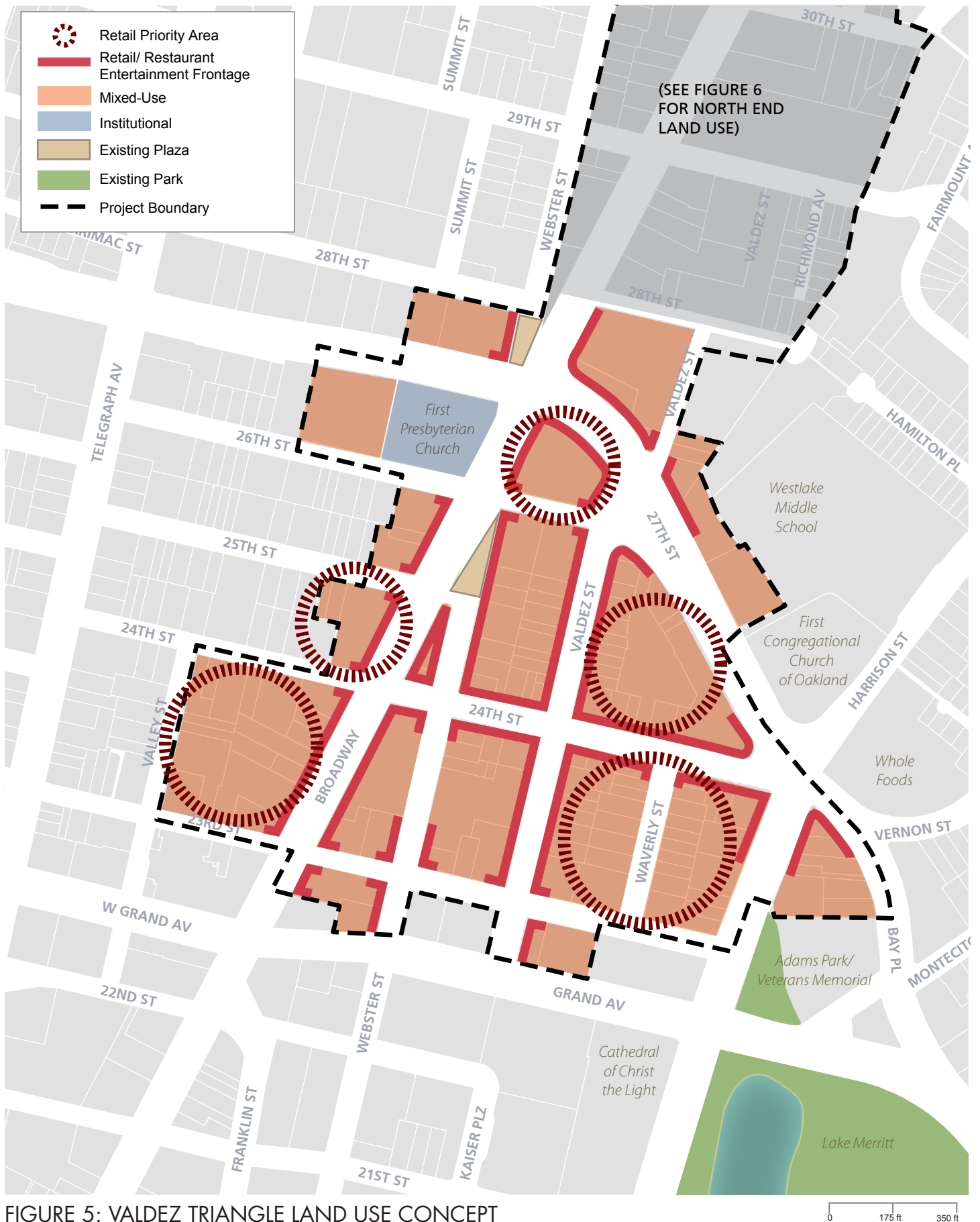


FIGURE 5: VALDEZ TRIANGLE LAND USE CONCEPT

III. LAND USE

D. Valdez Triangle Retail Concept

- **Comparison Shopping.** The concept for the Valdez Triangle is to have a core of comparison shopping-type retail complemented with local-serving retail, dining, entertainment, office, and service uses
- **A Retail Mix.** The Triangle is intended to be a unique, Oakland-based shopping district that includes a mix of local and national retailers
- **Authentic Oakland Character.** By blending high-quality new buildings with renovated and re-purposed historic buildings, the Triangle will continue to be perceived as an authentic Oakland “place”—not a common development that could be anywhere.
- **Pedestrian-oriented Retail.** The area will feature street-oriented retail in an attractive, pedestrian-oriented environment that includes vibrant, active sidewalks, and safe and attractive public spaces that encourage leisurely outings, social interaction, and strolling.
- **Around-the-Clock Activity.** The intent is to promote a complementary mix of retail, office, entertainment, and residential uses that creates a vibrant urban district that is active both day and night, and on weekdays and weekends.
- **A Variety of Retail Formats.** The area will include a complementary mix of retail “anchor” stores (major, mid, and juniors), and small retail stores. While attracting major retail anchors as the foundation for the new district is desirable, it is not required. The plan recognizes that the anchor function within the district can be filled with many combinations of major, mid, and junior size anchor stores.
- **Minimum Floor Plate Requirements.** In order to accommodate the larger floor-plate, anchor store retailers that are essential to providing comparison goods shopping, minimum floor-plate requirements will be applied to sites in the Triangle that have three characteristics: adequate size, good visibility, and excellent access.
- **Critical Mass.** To be successful, the Triangle must provide for a critical mass of retail and complementary commercial uses that establishes the area as an attractive and competitive destination within the region.



Spaces and uses that provide for around-the-clock activity



A public realm and uses that encourage pedestrian activity and strolling



Existing buildings can be retrofitted with uses and frontages that address the public realm

III. LAND USE



III. LAND USE

E. North End Land Use Concept

Mixed Use Boulevard. The North End is envisioned as an attractive, mixed-use boulevard that links Downtown to the Piedmont/North Broadway areas and is integrated with the adjoining residential and health care-oriented neighborhoods.

- **Major Development Sites.** Three areas, the Linden/Hill, Deng, and Grocery Outlet sites, have been designated as key opportunity sites for major new development given their relatively large size and the prevalence of surface parking lots on each. While development of large-format retail will be permitted, it is not a priority for the North End, and more emphasis will be placed on mixed use development.
- **Active Ground-level Uses.** Active ground-level commercial uses (e.g., retail, commercial services, dining, entertainment, etc.) will be required along Broadway frontages, complemented with upper floor residential, office, professional service, etc. uses.
- **Medical Center Influence.** Uses that complement and support the adjoining Summit Alta Bates and Kaiser Permanente medical centers, such as professional and medical office uses, medical supplies outlets, and visitor and workforce housing, will be strongly encouraged.
- **Automobile Sales.** Broadway between 27th and 30th Streets will continue to accommodate automobile dealerships. The City will work with existing successful dealerships to explore and encourage urban formats for dealerships (i.e., no surface sales lots).
- **Residential Use.** Emphasis will be placed on preserving and enhancing existing residential uses along Brook Street and Richmond Avenue, and supporting incorporation of residential uses on the eastern portion of the Grocery Outlet site if redeveloped.
- **Reuse of Existing Buildings.** Emphasis is placed on the renovation and repurposing of historic garage and auto showroom buildings along Broadway to preserve a link to the corridor's past and enrich its character.
- **Focus on Local-serving Uses.** Commercial use along Broadway will focus on a mix of primarily local-serving retail, commercial services, entertainment, and dining.
- **Around-the-Clock Activity.** The intent is to promote a complementary mix of retail, office, entertainment, and residential uses that creates a vibrant urban corridor that is active both day and night, and on weekdays and weekends.
- **Integration with Mobility.** Primary focus on creating vibrant commercial mixed use corridor that is safely and efficiently served by transit, bicycle and automobiles and has an active and appealing pedestrian environment.



Diverse uses, including commercial, office, and residential



Active commercial frontages



Adaptive reuse of existing showrooms

III. LAND USE



FIGURE 6: NORTH END LAND USE CONCEPT

III. LAND USE

F. Housing

- **Critical Neighborhood Element.** Housing will be a critical element in the planning area's long-term economic success and sustainability in that it will:
 - Create a built-in customer base for district businesses
 - Provide housing options for those who work at the nearby medical centers, in planning area businesses, or in the Downtown
 - Reduce vehicle trips by allowing people to walk or take transit to shop or work
 - Provide an around-the-clock population who will activate the streets and public spaces and monitor neighborhood activities
- **Diverse Housing Opportunities.** Planning area housing will need to address a diversity of housing needs, including families, empty-nesters, young professionals, seniors, and those with special needs.
- **Housing Affordability.** Housing will include affordable and market rate housing to address the full range of household incomes in Oakland, with at least 15% of planning area housing being affordable.
- **Workforce Housing.** Emphasis will be placed on providing workforce housing that is affordable to those who work in the area's commercial businesses and nearby medical campuses.
- **Supportive Regulation.** Recent rezoning by the City of Oakland has provided new opportunities for a variety of housing types to be built within the planning area with a modern, urban development character
- **Housing Goal.** The Plan's goal is to provide at least 1,800 new residential units, with 300-500 of those being affordable units. New affordable units can be distributed throughout the greater planning area vicinity, including the Telegraph/Northgate area immediately to the west where numerous potential sites exist for infill development.
- **Complementary Upper Floor Use.** Housing will be provided primarily as upper floor uses in mixed use buildings that include retail or other ground-floor commercial. Along Brooke and Webster streets, and other areas along the planning area periphery ground-floor residential will be permitted.



Units may be added above while preserving existing historic buildings

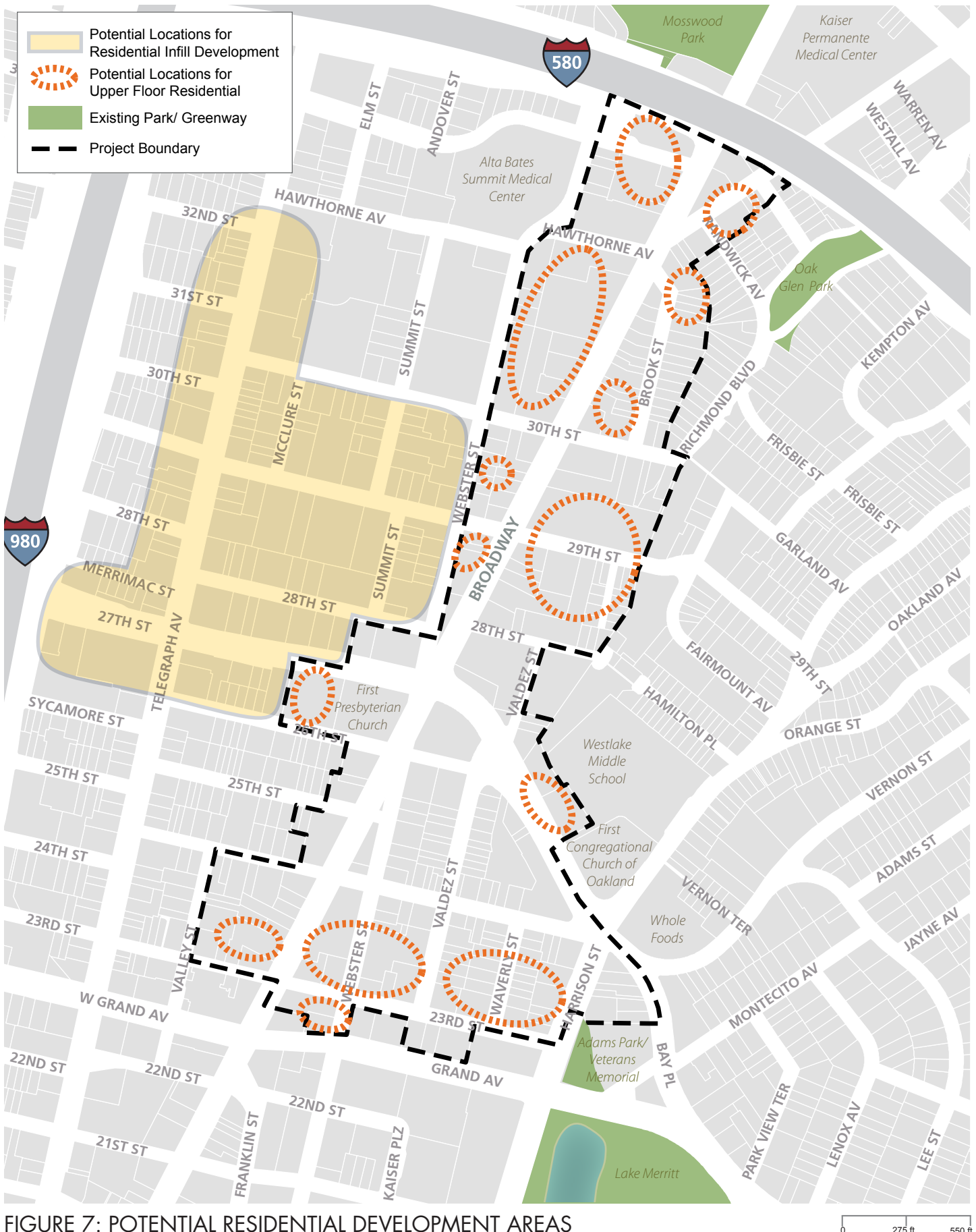


Units above commercial ground floors will contribute to street life



Ground floor entrances will address the public realm in areas where commercial frontages are not required

III. LAND USE



IV. COMMUNITY DESIGN

A. Overall Community Design Concept

- **Broadway Corridor.** Broadway will serve as the Downtown's "grand boulevard" that links the Broadway Valdez District to other key destinations from the Estuary to the Oakland Hills.
- **Primary Access Streets:** 27th, Webster, Piedmont, Harrison and Grand serve as primary regional and local access into the District. The importance of these access routes will be marked by streetscape improvements, street tree
- **Secondary Access Streets:** Streetscape improvements, street tree plantings and new development will be introduced along key secondary access streets, such as 24th, Valdez, 29th, 30th and Webster streets, to enhance and clarify their function whether it be as pedestrian-scaled shopping streets or key local connectors.
- **Gateways:** Key intersections throughout the District will be enhanced through use of public realm improvements such as signage, landscaping, lighting, special street design, and public art, and the design of private buildings to highlight the importance of these intersections as District entry points.
- **Public Space Features:** Public space features, such as plazas and small parks, are distributed throughout the district to highlight key activity nodes and entries, and to provide strategically located places for public gathering. Public spaces may incorporate features such as seating, fountains, landscaping, street furniture, and public art.
- **Building Placement and Height:** New buildings will be set up to, and accessed directly from, the public sidewalk, and have active ground floor frontages and uses that engage and animate the public realm. Taller buildings generally will be located on primary access streets with lower heights maintained along internal streets.
- **Streetscape Improvements:** Streetscape improvements are proposed throughout the District to provide more generous and attractively designed pedestrian environment with street trees, lighting, seating, and other streetscape furniture and amenities. Key east-west streets will be retrofitted as "Green Streets" that capture and treat stormwater before it drains into Glen Echo Creek and Lake Merritt.
- **Pedestrian Connections:** Opportunities for pedestrian streets, or paseos, are identified throughout the District to enhance pedestrian activity by reducing conflicts with automobiles, providing more direct routes between key destinations, and creating distinctive shopping and dining environments.
- **Parks/Greenways:** A linear park is proposed along Glen Echo Creek between Oak Glen Park and 29th Street, which will include the enhancement of the existing creekside frontage along Glen Echo Creek north of 30th Street and the creation of a new creekside greenway between 29th and 30th Streets.



Street trees and streetscape improvements help create sense of place



Corner buildings should be designed to activate corners



Public gathering spaces should be incorporated into public and private developments



IV. COMMUNITY DESIGN

B. Valdez Triangle Community Design Framework

Pedestrian-Oriented Retail District. The Triangle will be a vibrant pedestrian-oriented retail district with attractively designed and generously proportioned sidewalks, plazas and public spaces, animated by active storefronts.

- ***Broadway Corridor:*** In the tradition of grand urban boulevards in other major cities, Broadway will serve as the Downtown spine that links the Triangle to other key destinations from the Estuary to the Oakland Hills.
- ***Primary Access Streets:*** 27th Street, Harrison Street, and Grand Avenue are the primary access routes into the District. These routes will be designed as attractive, well-defined boulevards lined with street-oriented mixed use buildings and a consistent planting of large street trees.
- ***Secondary Access “Shopping Streets”:*** 24th Street and Valdez Street will serve as key pedestrian-oriented shopping streets that are more intimately scaled, and with slower and lower vehicular traffic volumes.
- ***Gateways:*** Building and streetscape design treatments will be used to enhance and highlight key intersections as primary or secondary gateways into the Triangle. Primary gateways include the Broadway and Harrison Street intersections with 27th Street. Secondary gateways include Valdez at Grand and 27th, and 24th at Broadway and Harrison.
- ***Public Space Features:*** Using a combination of publicly and privately owned land, publicly-accessible plazas and open space features will be created at key gateways (e.g., Valdez/27th and 24th/Harrison) to the Triangle to enhance district identity and support pedestrian activity. In addition, existing public plazas on Broadway at 25th and 27th Streets will be redesigned to provide more attractive and accommodating public open space and focal features.
- ***Building Placement and Height:*** Taller building heights generally will be allowed along the wide arterial streets (Broadway, 27th, Harrison and Grand) that frame the Triangle, with lower heights maintained along the internal shopping and neighborhood streets.
- ***Enhanced Pedestrian Environment.*** Streetscape improvements are proposed throughout the Triangle to create wider sidewalks that provide a more generous and attractively designed pedestrian environment with street trees, lighting, seating, and other streetscape furniture and amenities.
- ***Pedestrian Connections:*** To reinforce the pedestrian orientation of the district, the plan provides the flexibility to create pedestrian-only shopping streets or paseos that facilitate pedestrian movement and increase retail frontage. Existing pedestrian connections to cultural destinations to the south occur at Grand Avenue.



Intimate pedestrian retail streets may include restaurants and small shops



Secondary gateways may include paseos or signage



Use of existing buildings and unique streetscape elements are encouraged

IV. COMMUNITY DESIGN

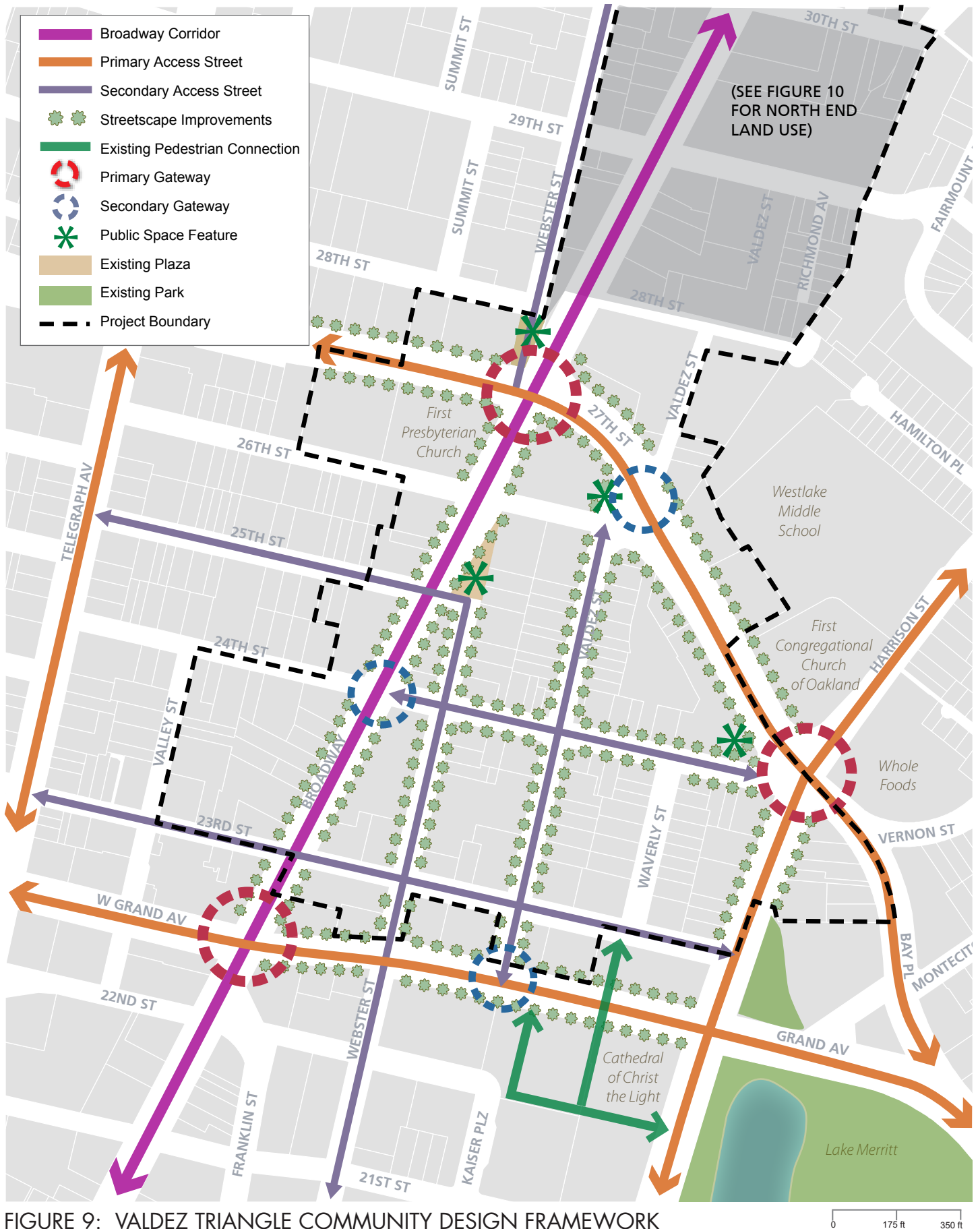


FIGURE 9: VALDEZ TRIANGLE COMMUNITY DESIGN FRAMEWORK

0 175 ft 350 ft

IV. COMMUNITY DESIGN

C. North End Community Design Framework

Fine-grained, Mixed Use District: New development and public realm improvements will focus on creating finer-grained texture to district development, complemented with streetscape plantings, amenities and focal features that contribute to the area's pedestrian scale and comfort, and mitigate the North End's linear character.

- **Broadway Corridor:** New infill development will give better definition to the Broadway corridor by eliminating existing gaps created by surface parking and auto sales lots. Broadway will be reconfigured to create wider sidewalks that create a more generous pedestrian environment.
- **Primary Access Streets:** 27th Street, Webster Street, and Piedmont Avenues are the primary access routes into the North End. These routes will be designed as attractive, well-defined boulevards lined with street-oriented mixed use buildings and a consistent planting of large street trees.
- **Secondary Access Streets:** Streetscape improvements to 29th, 30th, Brook and Webster streets will help to link and extend the quality and character envisioned for Broadway to the adjoining areas.
- **Gateways:** Building and streetscape design treatments at the Broadway and Piedmont Avenue intersection will signify the importance of this intersection as a gateway into the North End and the Downtown.
- **Public Space Features.** A plaza is proposed in conjunction with the pedestrian street midway between Hawthorne and 30th Street to enhance Broadway's identity and support pedestrian activity.
- **Building Placement and Height:** Given the width of Broadway, it is envisioned that new buildings generally will be 4-6 stories at the street frontage, with potential for taller building heights set back from the main corridor—particularly near Pill Hill and I-580.
- **Park/Greenway.** In order to enhance pedestrian circulation and expand the area's limited open space resource, a linear park is proposed along Glen Echo Creek between Oak Glen Park and 29th Street.
- **Pedestrian Connection:** Given the absence of an east-west street between 30th Street and Hawthorne Avenue, a "paseo" or pedestrian street, or is proposed between Broadway and Webster Street to facilitate pedestrian movement.
- **Underpass Enhancements.** Enhancements are proposed to I-580 underpasses at Broadway and Piedmont to improve their appearance, safety, and overcome the sense of separation created by the freeway. These may include public art and lighting, as well as programming to activate the area between the two corridors (e.g., a skate park, mountain bike course).



Historic buildings should be activated to retain character of District



Potential medical office developments will maintain a continuous public realm



Underpass treatments under I-580 would help draw pedestrian movement between Broadway and Piedmont Avenue and medical uses

IV. COMMUNITY DESIGN

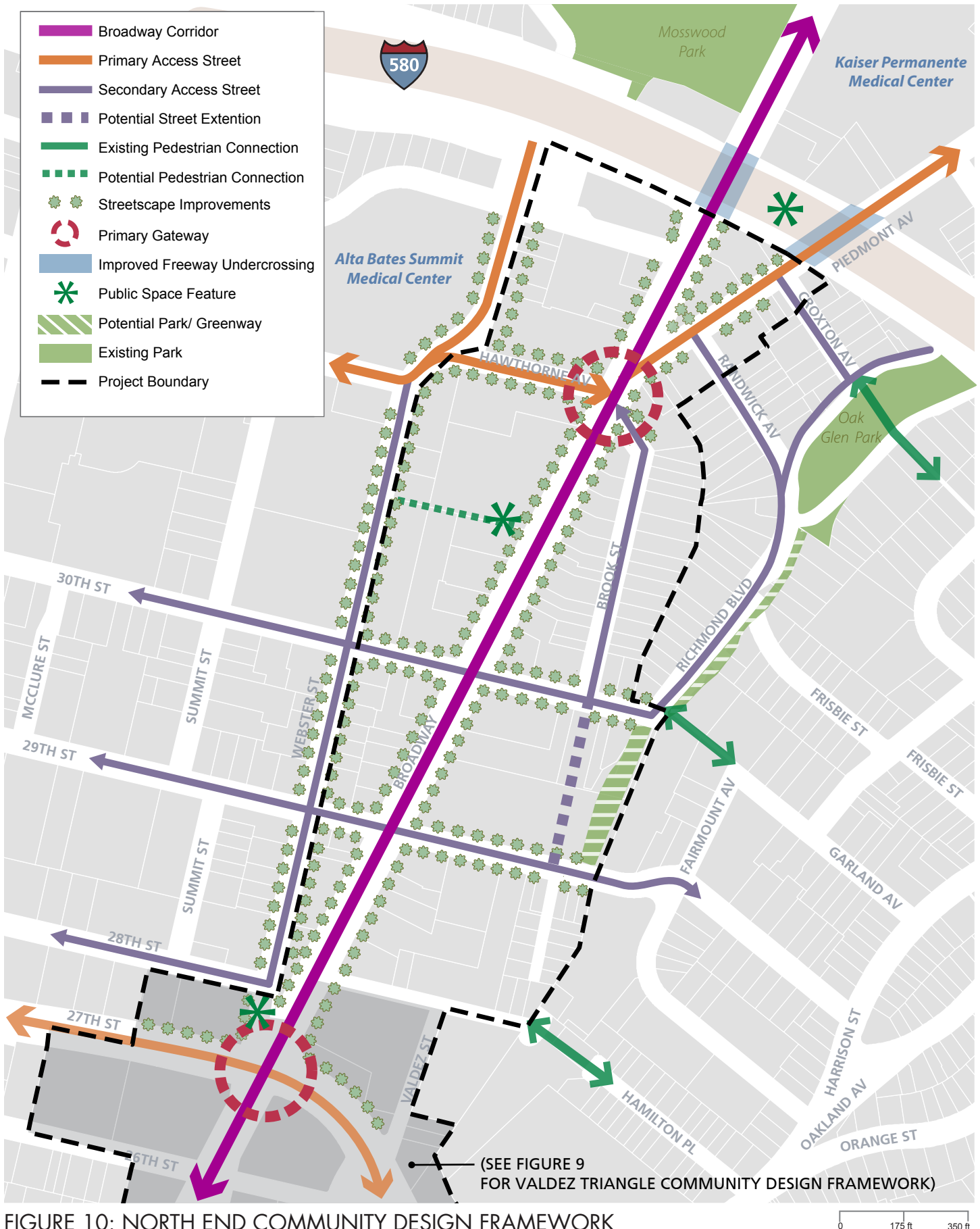


FIGURE 10: NORTH END COMMUNITY DESIGN FRAMEWORK

IV. COMMUNITY DESIGN

D. Adaptive Reuse and Historic Building Fabric

- **Authentic Character.** In order to preserve a connection to the area's history and maintain a unique and authentic feel to the district, the Plan encourages the rehabilitation and reuse of as much of the older and historic building fabric as feasible and consistent with the goals of the Plan.
- **Adaptive Reuse.** Adaptive reuse is encouraged for historic and older buildings with distinctive character that will contribute to the scale and character envisioned for the Broadway/Valdez district. This includes both larger floorplate showrooms that may accommodate larger retailers, and residential buildings and small commercial buildings that may support smaller shops.
- **Relocation of Important Resources.** Where adaptive reuse of existing residential buildings is not feasible or practical in their current location, the City will work with landowners and developers to explore relocation of historic buildings to another location in the surrounding area that is similar in scale and context.
- **Incentives for Reuse.** Incentives such as façade improvement grants, reduced development fees and taxes, or lower parking requirements may be offered to developers/landowners who choose to refurbish existing buildings for new uses.
- **Flexible Building Standards.** The City will explore more flexibility in building standards (e.g., relaxation on requirements for features such as fire separation, insulation, etc.) in order to make reuse more viable.



Residential buildings in the District may be retrofitted for a variety of uses



New development should incorporate unique elements of Oakland's architectural and commercial heritage, when possible



Historic resources of "Auto Row" include showroom spaces which offer great potential for reuse

IV. COMMUNITY DESIGN

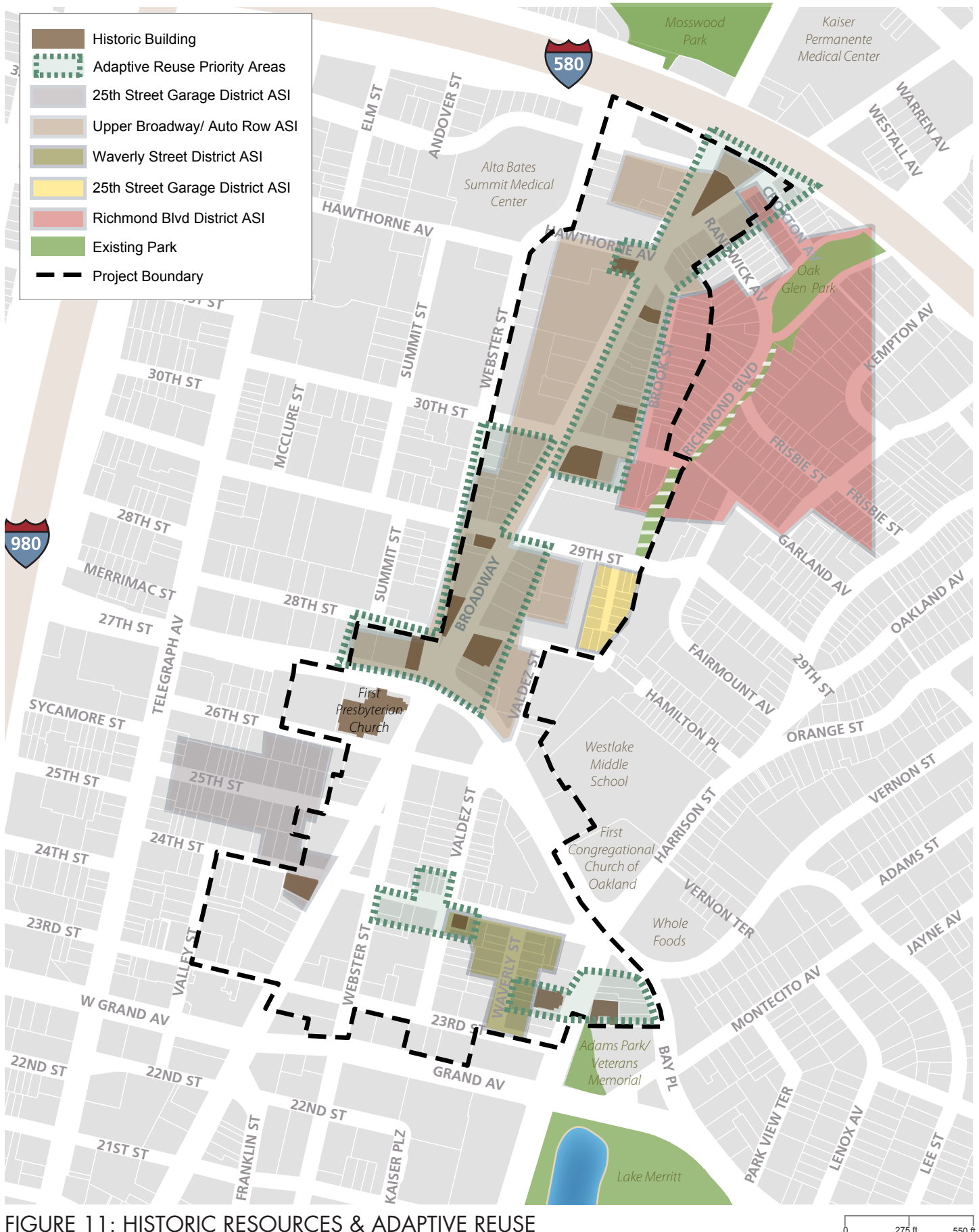


FIGURE 11: HISTORIC RESOURCES & ADAPTIVE REUSE

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

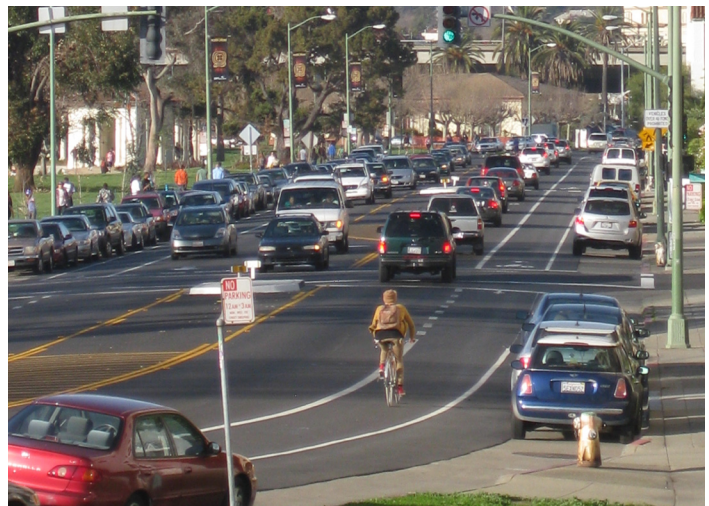
A. Overall Circulation Concept

Mobility Options. The primary circulation objective is to support the function of the District as a retail destination and pedestrian-friendly mixed use neighborhood by providing balanced multi-modal access that accommodates safe and efficient circulation whether walking, bicycling, taking transit, or driving.

- **Street Connectivity:** Connectivity of District streets to the surrounding street network will be maintained to enhance walkability, promote greater route choice, and avoid concentration of vehicle trips onto just one or two streets.
- **Complete Streets:** Existing street right-of-ways will be redesigned as “Complete Streets” that better balance travel modes to accommodate safe, attractive and comfortable movement for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit, and private vehicles.
- **Transit:** The objective is to expand transit use in the District by enhancing both facilities and service. Upgraded transit facilities (i.e. shelters, including leaning rails, benches and pedestrian scaled lighting, and real-time signs that provide next bus arrival information) are proposed in conjunction with redesign of streets (i.e., widening of pedestrian zones).
- **Free “B” Shuttle:** The “Free B” connects to the District from Downtown, including the 19th Street BART station. The Plan recommends expanding current service up to MacArthur Boulevard in order to serve the entire District, and maintain this important connection with BART and Downtown.
- **Broadway Streetcar:** Broadway is being studied for a potential “streetcar” line in the future. Proposed improvements to Broadway will preserve right-of-way to accommodate an in-lane alignment. Preliminary concepts suggest that a Broadway streetcar might have five stops in the District: Grand, 24th, 27th, 30th, and Piedmont/Hawthorne.
- **Bicycle Facilities:** The Plan will implement and expand upon recommendations from the City of Oakland Bicycle Master Plan to enhance bicycle use and safety to and through the area by providing new bicycle facilities such as bike lanes, bike boxes, cyclist actuated signals, and wayfinding signage.
- **Pedestrian Connections:** In order to promote pedestrian connectivity between the District and adjoining areas, improvements such as curb extensions, refuge islands, demand-actuated signals, and crosswalk markings, will be made to key intersections to ensure safe and convenient pedestrian crossings, particularly across major arterial streets such as Broadway, 27th Street, and Harrison Street.



A proposed “streetcar” would use Broadway as its primary route



New Class II bicycle lanes are proposed throughout the District, connecting to facilities like those around Lake Merritt



Streetscape improvements will be added to streets throughout the District

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

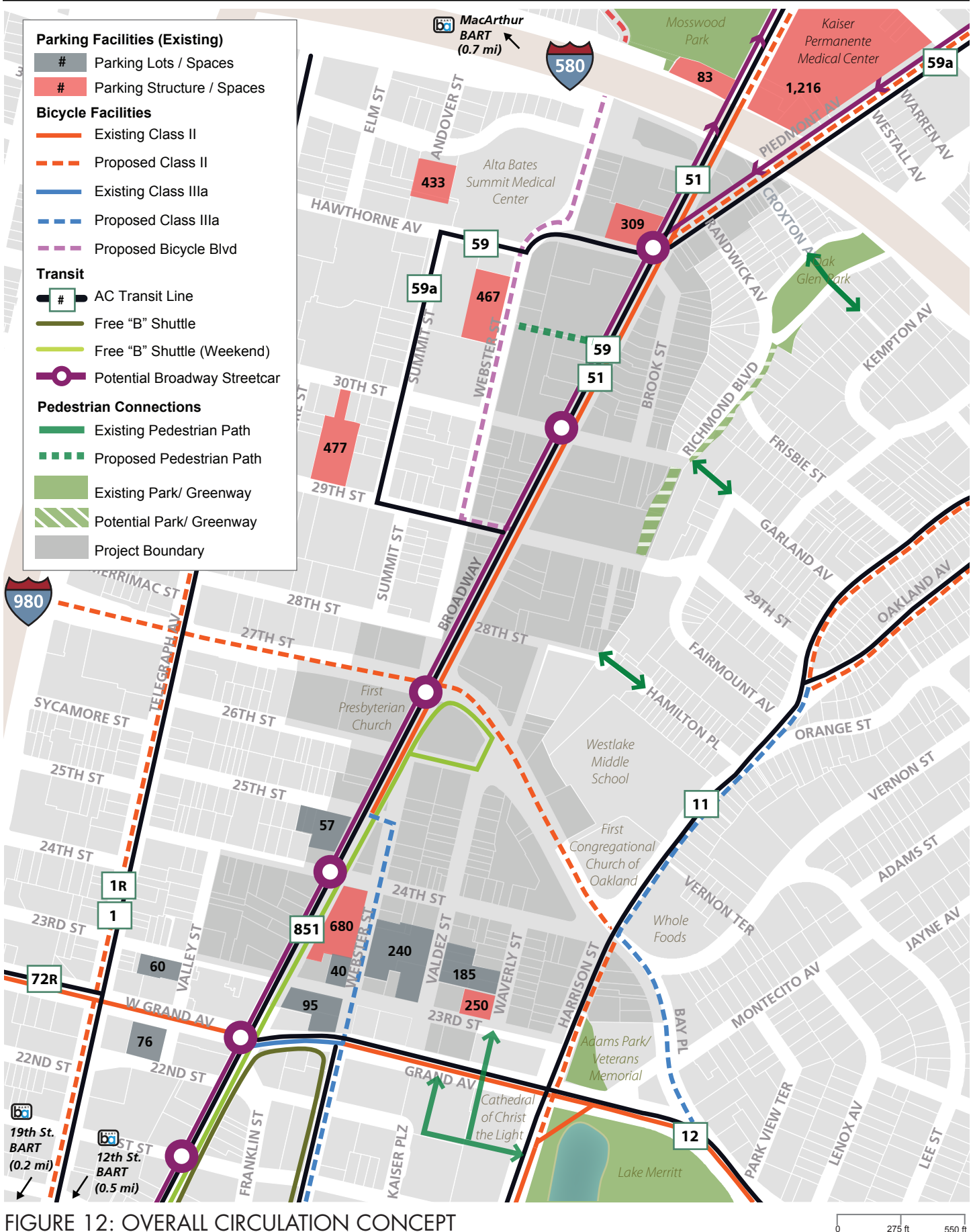


FIGURE 12: OVERALL CIRCULATION CONCEPT

0 275 ft 550 ft

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

B. Overall Parking Concept

- **Parking Management.** A full range of parking management strategies will be implemented to increase parking facility efficiency through sharing, regulating and pricing in order to minimize the amount of new parking that needs to be provided.
- **Existing Parking Resources:** Priority will be given to maximizing use of existing parking resources (parking lots and structures), and building new parking structures only on an as-needed basis.
- **Parking Benefit District.** A Parking Benefit District may be established to manage and finance parking, in addition to streetscape improvements.
- **Parking Ratios.** Low overall parking ratios will be implemented that support a “transit-first” district, while also allowing for higher parking ratios that support early retail development, and are then gradually reduced as the area’s identity as a retail destination matures and transit service becomes more convenient and reliable.
- **“Park Once”.** Parking will be distributed and managed so that it supports a “park once” strategy and reduces the number of short vehicle trips within the area.
- **Structured Parking:** In order to optimize development potential, ensure development of a compact walkable neighborhood, and protect neighborhood character, all District parking will be provided in parking structures. At a minimum, all parking structures should be wrapped with active ground-level uses. Where feasible, below-grade parking is encouraged as a strategy to minimize impact on District character.
- **Parking Access:** Entrances to public and private parking facilities generally will be limited to side streets, or located to not detract from pedestrian-oriented retail streets. Curb cuts will be prohibited from Broadway, except where unavoidable.



Parking structures may be shared and financed among uses



Parking entrances should not detract from pedestrian environment and safety



Parking garages should be open and screened to animate the public realm

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

C. Valdez Triangle Circulation Concept

Pedestrian-Oriented Retail District. The circulation concept for the Triangle is to efficiently get people to the District and encourage walking. Transit and primary vehicular access deliver people to the edge of the District allowing internal streets to be reserved primarily for pedestrians and low volumes local traffic.

- **Street Design:** A number of design changes are proposed to existing streets to calm traffic, improve bicycle safety, and enhance the pedestrian environment:
 - Key intersections along 27th Street (i.e., Broadway, Valdez and 24th) will be reconfigured to reduce crossing distances (e.g., curb extensions), minimize pedestrian/vehicle conflicts (e.g., remove free right turn lanes), and create a stronger connection between the areas north and south of 27th Street.
 - The cross-sections of Valdez, 24th, 27th, and Broadway will be redesigned to create wider and more attractively designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities (see Figures 14 through 17)
- **Bicycle Facilities:** Existing Class II bicycle facilities on Broadway and Grand will be augmented with new Class II bike lanes on Harrison and 27th Streets and Telegraph Avenue. Improvements such as bike lanes, bike boxes, bicycle actuated signals, and wayfinding will be introduced on Broadway to enhance bicycle use and safety.
- **Arterial Bicycle Route:** The Class IIIa bicycle route proposed on Webster Avenue south of 25th Street will be signed with a “sharrow” and lower posted speeds, since adequate right-of-way does not exist to add a full bike lane.
- **Free “B” Shuttle:** The “Free B” service to the Triangle should be upgraded to seven days a week, rather than the current weekend-only service.
- **Transit:** Upgraded transit facilities (i.e. shelters, including leaning rails, benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting, and real-time signs that provide next bus arrival information) should be provided at 24th, 25th, and 28th streets in conjunction with streetscape improvements on Broadway.
- **Potential Broadway Streetcar:** Street improvements to Broadway will preserve right-of-way to accommodate possible future in-lane streetcar use and transit stops at Grand Avenue, 25th and 27th Streets.
- **Pedestrian Connections:** Exclusive pedestrian connections into Valdez Triangle currently exist across Grand Avenue west of Harrison Street in the form of greenways. These allow pedestrian access to routes leading to Lake Merritt, the Cathedral of Christ the Light, and Downtown.



Existing pedestrian connection at Grand Avenue



Valdez Triangle is included on the Free “B” Shuttle Route

- **Parking Facilities:** In the near term, emphasis will be placed on utilizing excess capacity in existing parking structures (i.e., YMCA and 180 Grand) and surface lots to serve new development. New parking structures will only be built when there is clear demand for additional parking. The location and size of these structures will be determined by the location and size of future development.

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

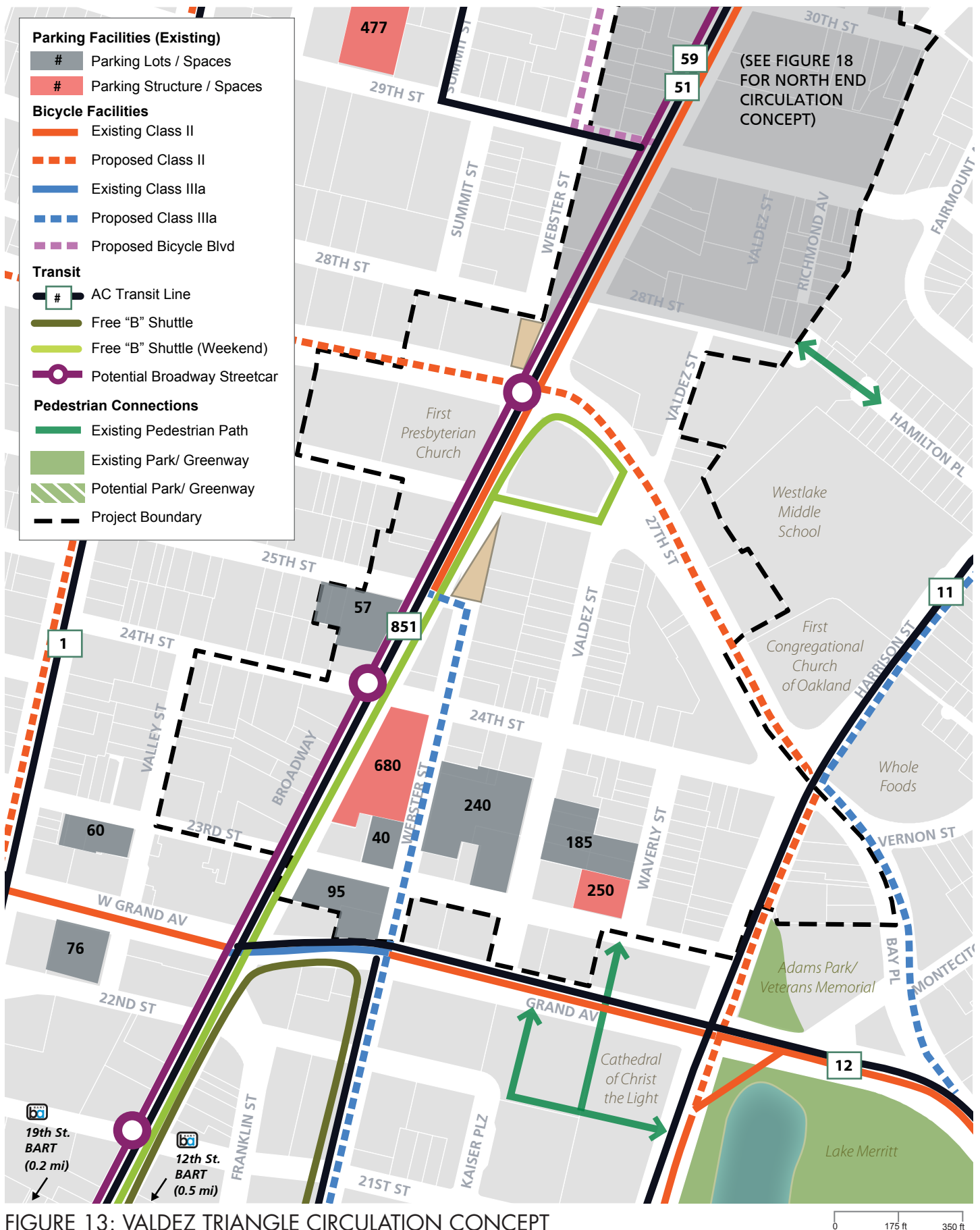
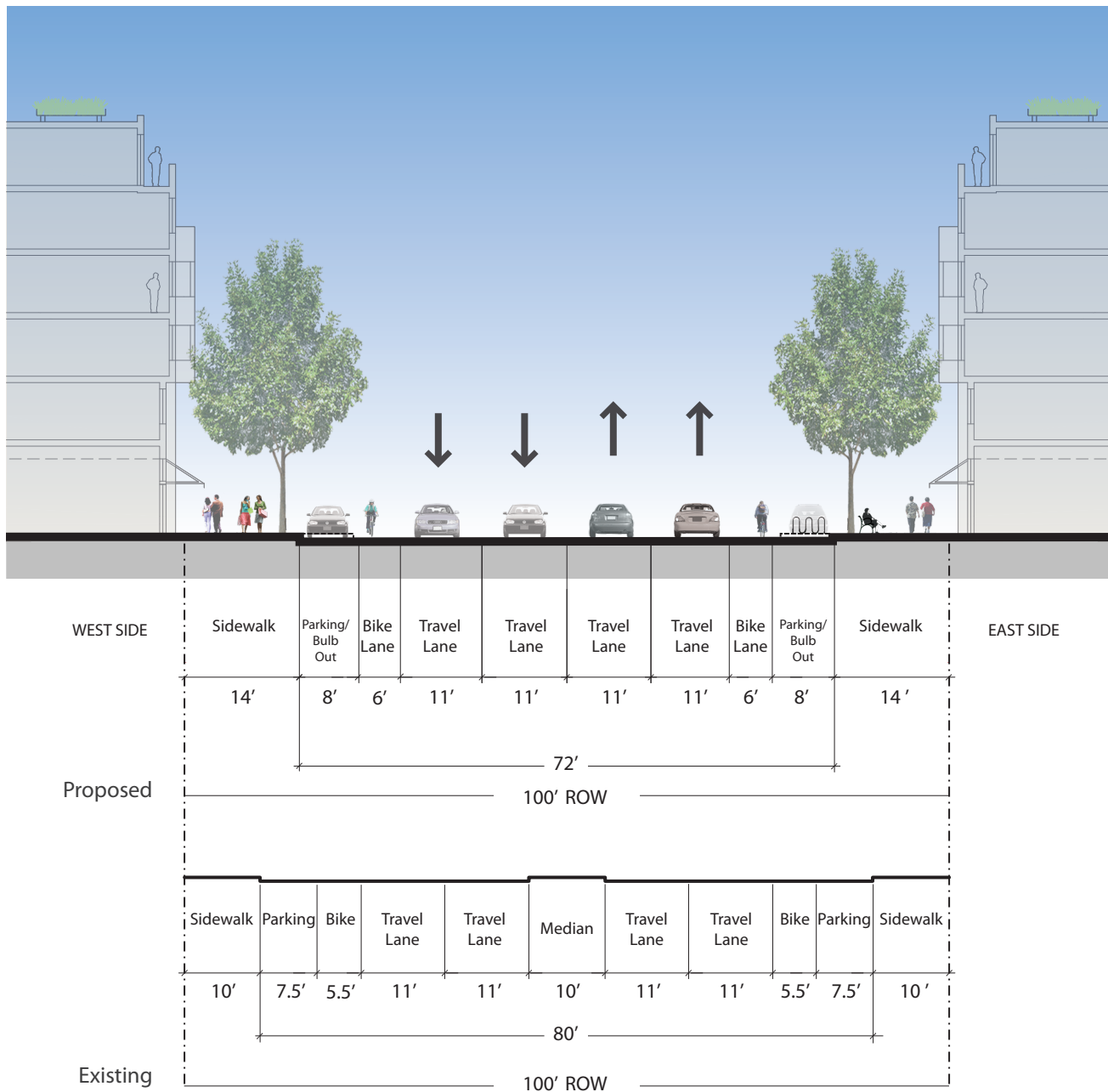


FIGURE 13: VALDEZ TRIANGLE CIRCULATION CONCEPT

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

FIGURE 14: BROADWAY (North of 27th St.)

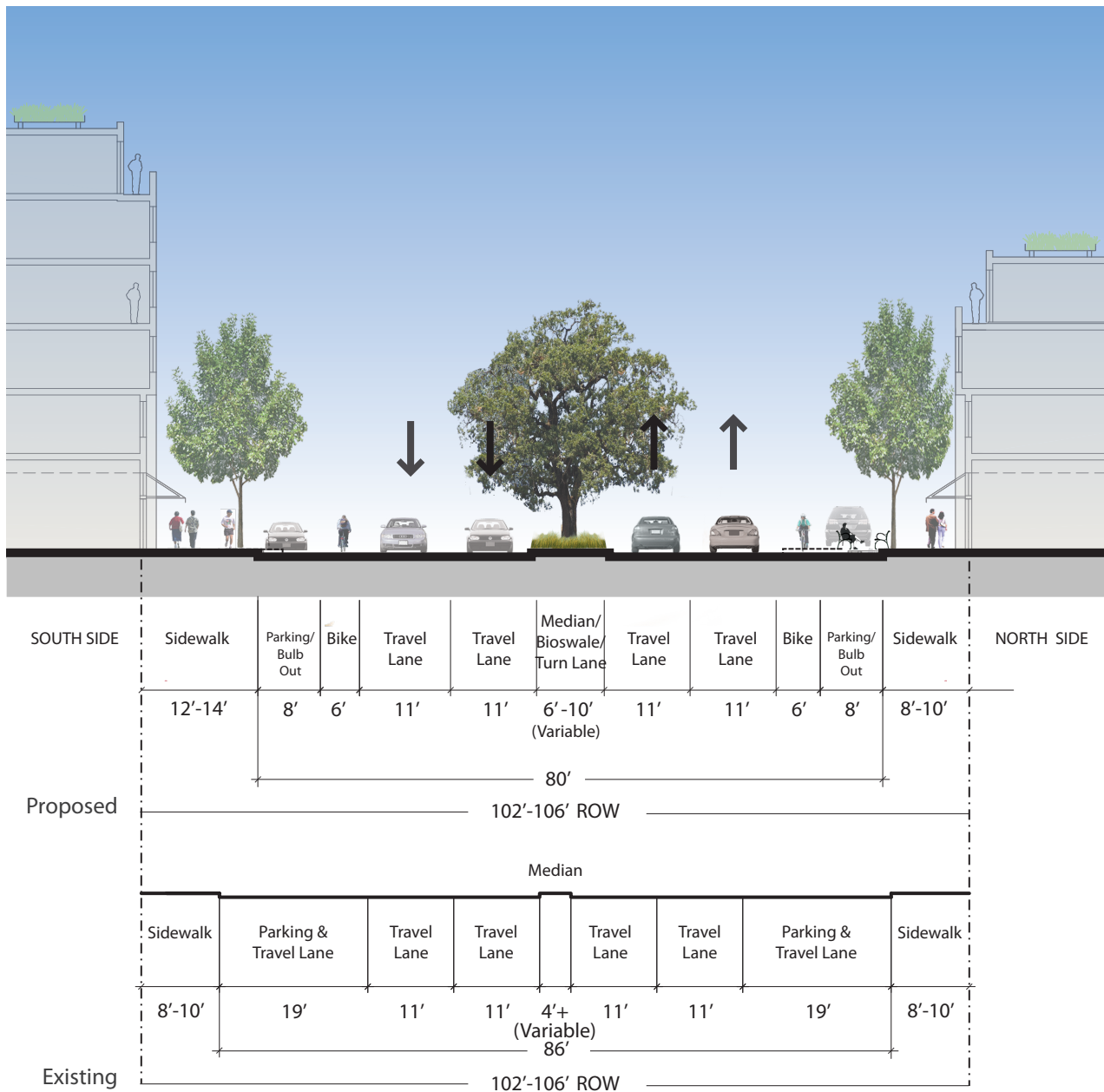


Summary of Improvements:

- Removal of center median in order to widen sidewalks to 14 feet and expand bike lanes to 6 feet
- Maintain travel lanes of 11 feet to provide for buses and vehicular circulation
- Neck-down intersections with bulb-outs to calm traffic and facilitate pedestrian crossing
- A consistent planting of large street trees and ample pedestrian-scaled lighting added

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

FIGURE 15: 27TH STREET

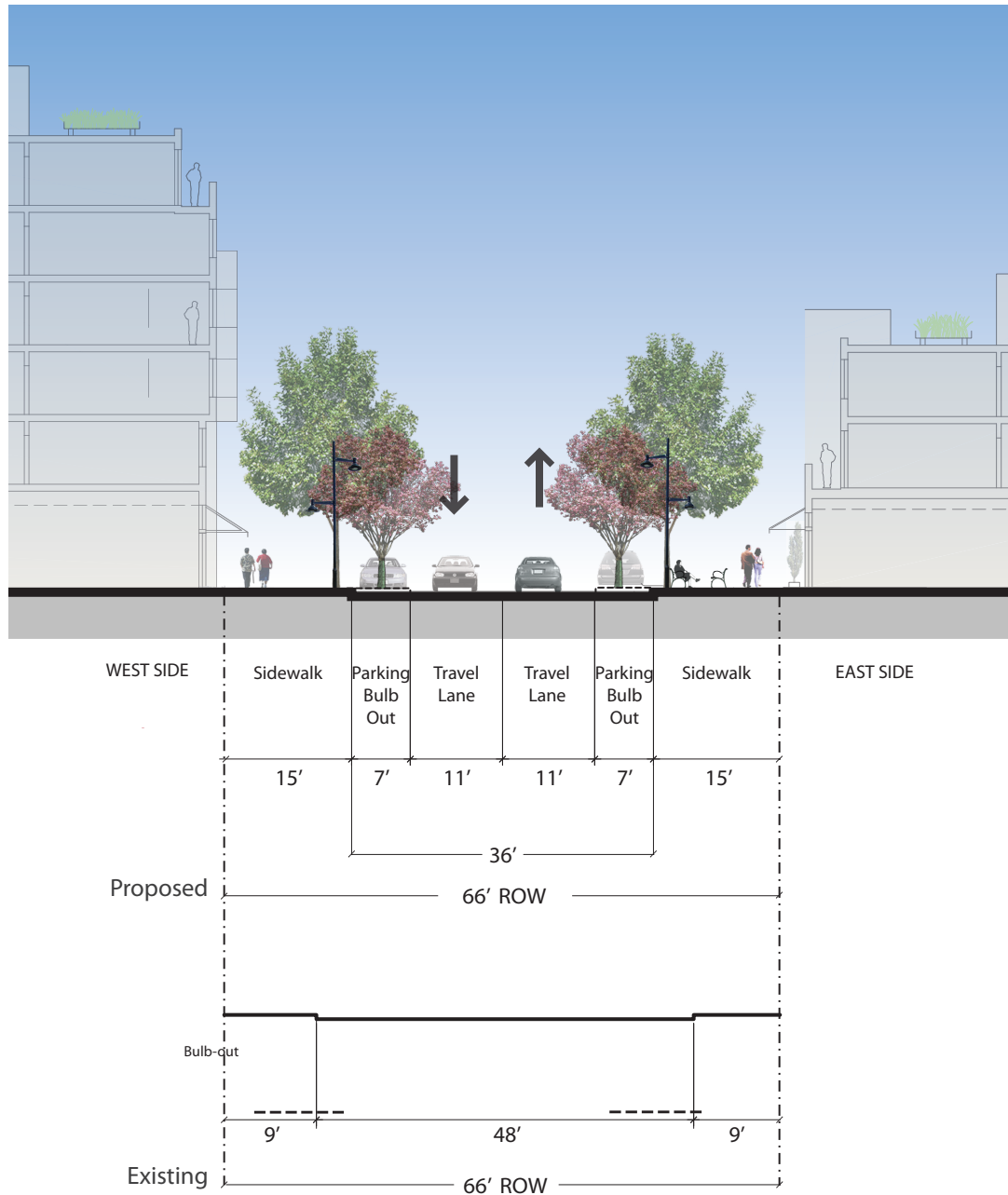


Summary of Improvements:

- Medians will be widened to 6-10 feet to accommodate more robust landscaping and center turn lane at intersections
- Travel lanes reduced from 6 to 4, plus a turn lane
- Bike lanes and parking lanes added
- Widened sidewalks on the south side to 12-14 feet to better serve new retail
- Bulb-outs at intersections included to calm traffic and facilitate pedestrian crossing

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

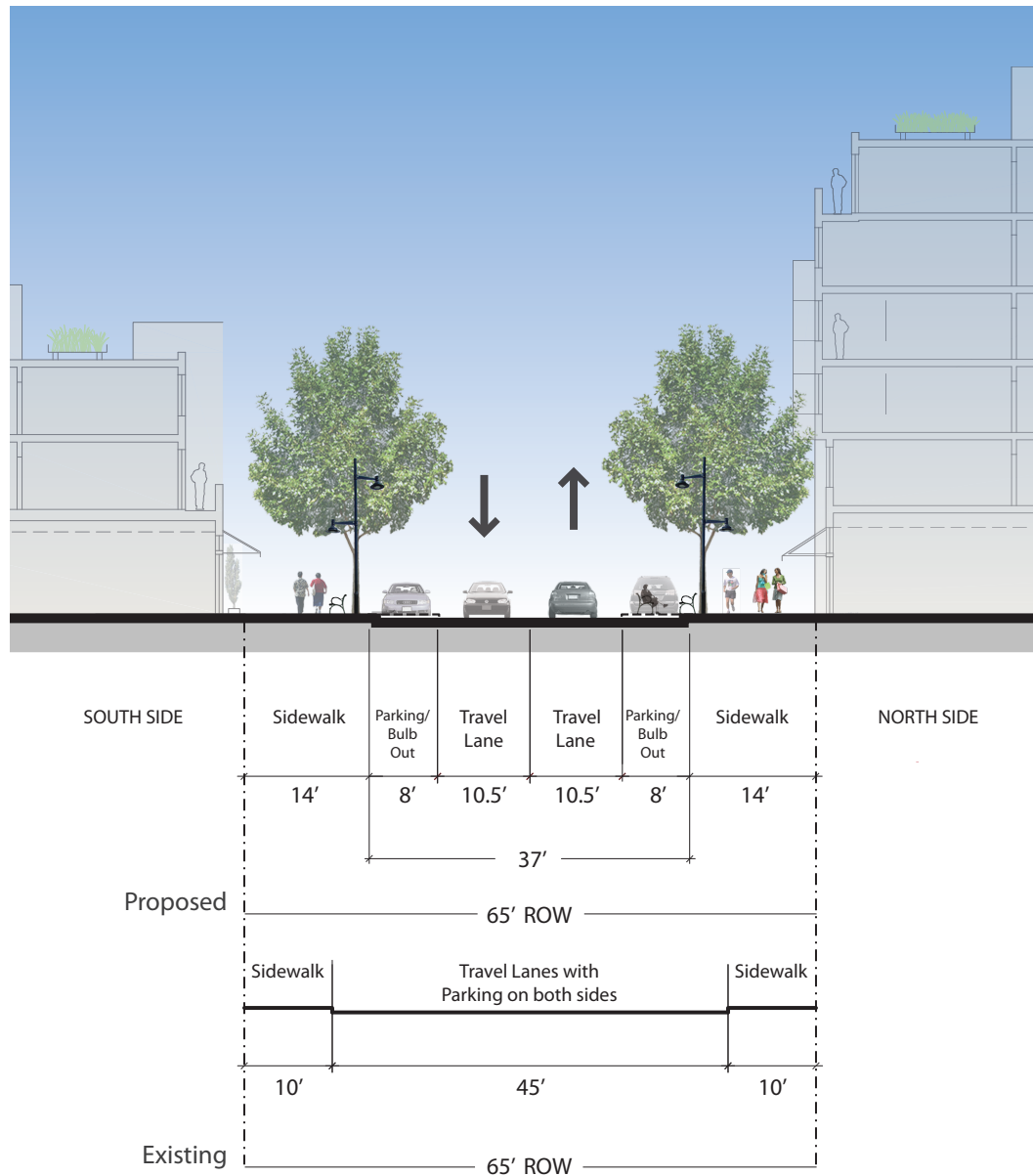
FIGURE 16: VALDEZ STREET



Summary of Improvements:

- Sidewalks widened to 15 feet to accommodate pedestrian flow and amenities
- Bulb-outs included to calm traffic and facilitate pedestrian crossing. Bulb-out will include space for an additional row of trees which will further enhance pedestrian realm.
- A consistent planting of large street trees
- Ample pedestrian-scaled lighting

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

FIGURE 17: 24TH STREET

Summary of Improvements:

- Sidewalks widened to 14 feet to accommodate pedestrian flow and amenities
- Bulb-outs included to calm traffic and facilitate pedestrian crossing. Bulb-out will include space for an additional row of trees which will further enhance pedestrian realm.
- A consistent planting of large street trees and ample pedestrian-scaled lighting added

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

D. North End Circulation Concept

- **Street Design:** A number of design changes are proposed to existing streets to calm traffic, improve bicycle safety, and enhance the pedestrian environment:
 - Key intersections along Broadway (i.e., 29th, 30th, and Hawthorne/ Piedmont) will be reconfigured to calm traffic and enhance pedestrian crossings.
 - The cross-sections of Broadway, Piedmont, 29th and 30th streets will be redesigned to create more generous and attractively designed pedestrian zones and integrate rain gardens and other green stormwater facilities (see Figures 19 through 21)
 - An extension of Brook Street from 30th to 29th Street in conjunction with redevelopment of the Grocery Outlet site is encouraged to enhance District connectivity, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- **Bicycle Facilities:** Existing Class II bicycle facilities on Broadway will be augmented by additional Class II lanes on Piedmont Avenue, 27th Street, and north on Broadway. Improvements such as enhanced bike lanes, bike boxes, bicycle actuated signals, and wayfinding will be introduced along Broadway to improve bicycle use and safety.
- **Bicycle Boulevard:** The Class IIIB bicycle boulevard on Webster and 29th will be signed with shared lane bicycle stencils (aka “sharrows”).
- **Free “B” Shuttle:** The “Free B” service should be extended up to the North End and upgraded to provide everyday service.
- **Transit:** Upgraded transit facilities (i.e. shelters, including leaning rails, benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting, and real-time signs that provide next bus arrival information) should be provided at 28th, 29th, 30th and Hawthorne/Piedmont in conjunction with streetscape improvements on Broadway.
- **Potential Broadway Streetcar:** Street improvements to Broadway will preserve right-of-way to accommodate possible future in-lane streetcar use and transit stops at 30th and Hawthorne Street/Piedmont Avenue.
- **Pedestrian Connections:** Pedestrian circulation will be enhanced by the proposed east/west pedestrian street linking Webster and Broadway through the long block between 30th Street and Hawthorne Avenue, and the proposed pedestrian trail along Glen Echo Creek between Oak Glen Park and 29th Street.
- **Parking Facilities:** In the near term, emphasis will be placed on utilizing potential excess capacity in existing parking structures (i.e., Webster Medical Office Building and Summit Alta Bates) and surface lots to serve new development. New parking structures will only be built if there is clear demand for additional parking.



Pedestrian connections through proposed extension to Oak Glen Park



A mid-block pedestrian connection between 30th and Hawthorne Streets

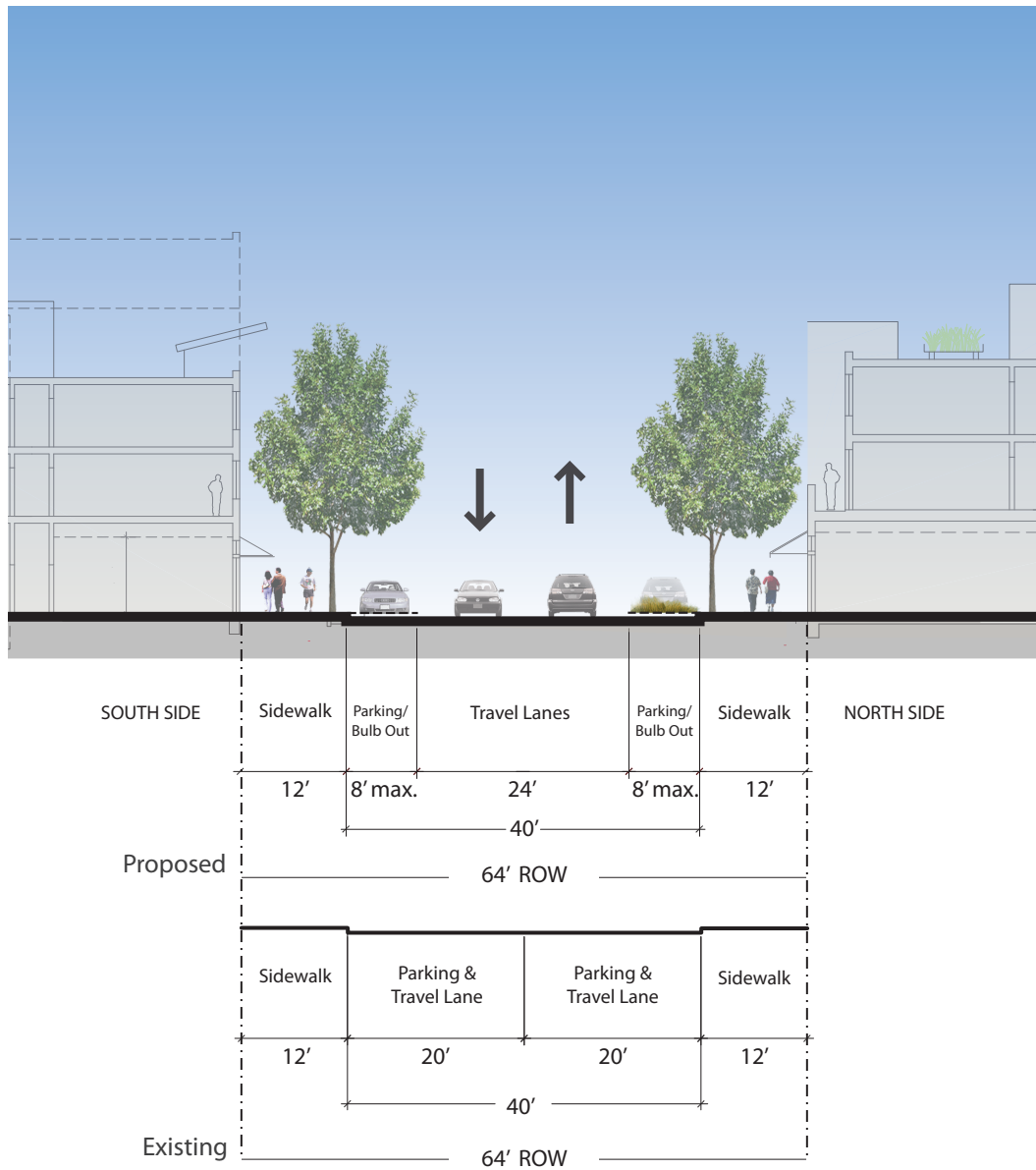


Webster St will be signed as a Bicycle Boulevard



V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

FIGURE 19: 29TH STREET

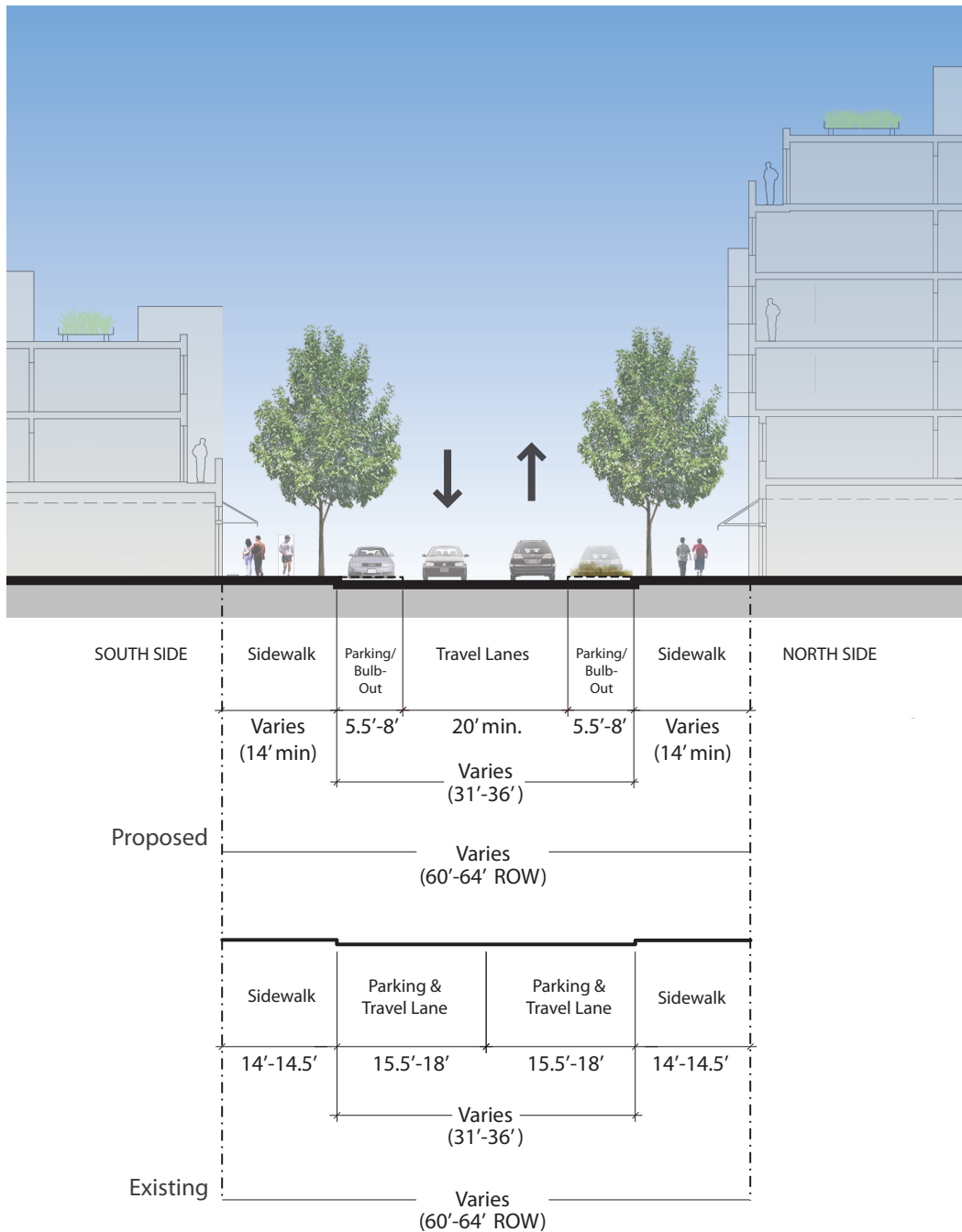


Summary of Improvements:

- Sidewalk widths of 12' will accommodate pedestrian flow and amenities
- A consistent planting of street trees will be introduced
- On-street parking lanes with bulb-outs provided to accommodate rain gardens and other landscape features to aid in stormwater management
- 12' travel lanes in each direction
- A Bicycle Boulevard, or "sharrow" allows shared use between bicycles and vehicles in the travel lane

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

FIGURE 20: 30TH, HAWTHORNE, AND 34TH STREETS

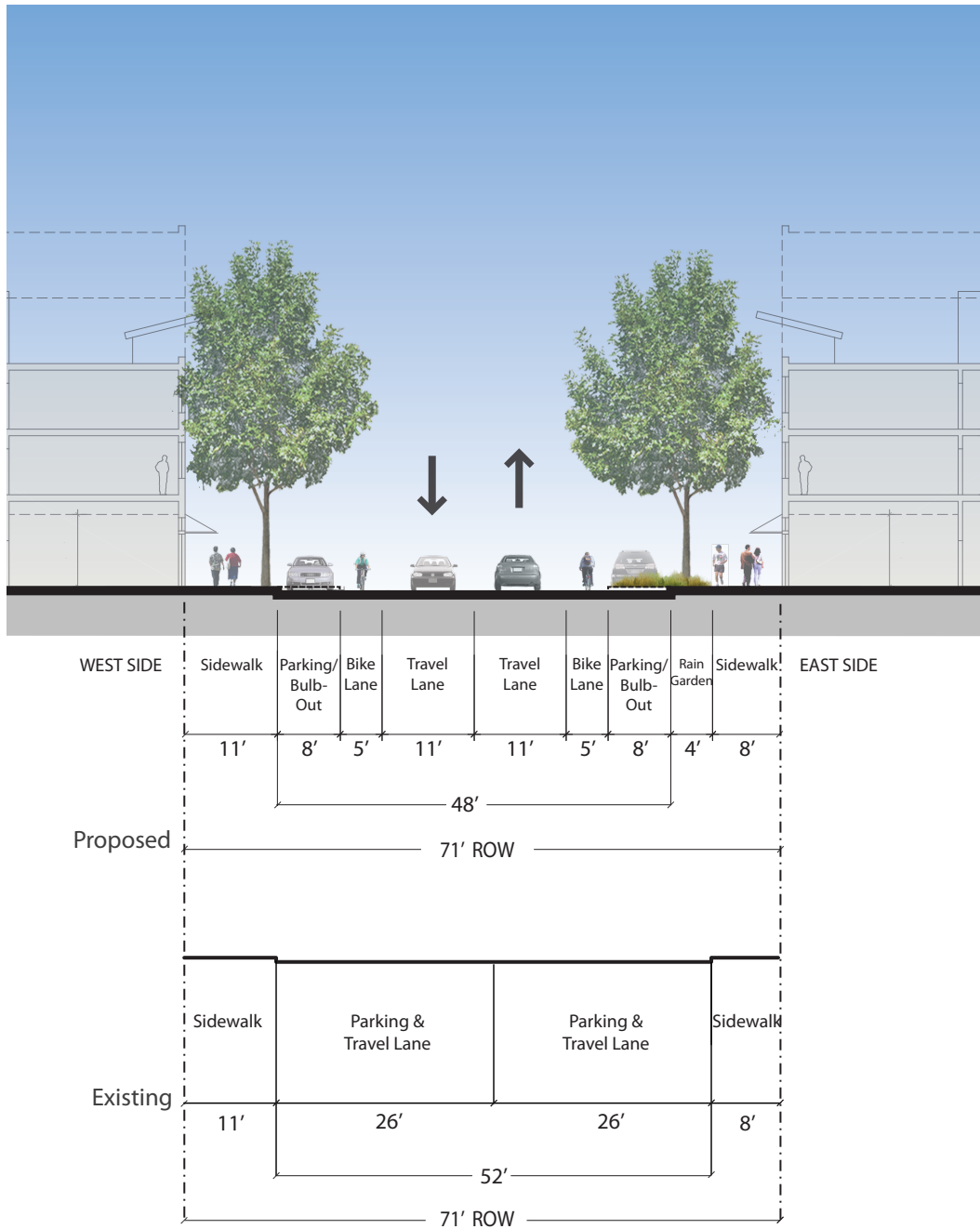


Summary of Improvements:

- Sidewalk widths of 14' maintained to accommodate pedestrian flow and amenities
- On-street parking lanes with bulb-outs accommodate rain gardens and other landscape features to aid in stormwater management.
- A consistent planting of street trees included
- 10' travel lanes in each direction

V. CIRCULATION, ACCESS & PARKING

FIGURE 21: PIEDMONT AVENUE



Summary of Improvements:

- Sidewalk widths of 11' maintained to accommodate pedestrian flow and amenities
- On-street parking lanes with bulb-outs accommodate rain gardens and other landscape features to aid in stormwater management. An additional rain garden will be included on the east side to augment stormwater management.
- A consistent planting of street trees included
- A 5' bike lane and 11' travel lane in each direction

VI. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH AND STRATEGIES

As previously noted, the vision for the Broadway Valdez District is faced with many challenges, some inherent to the area and some related to the broader economy. As a result, implementation of the vision for the District is projected to occur incrementally over a number of years. The challenge in this period of limited resources and cautious development is to identify strategic near-term actions that can be taken to better position the area for future development by contributing to the area's appeal and value.

In order to build on the energy being generated by the arts and dining scenes in the adjoining Uptown and Garage districts, the strategy is to concentrate near-term investments in the Valdez Triangle, particularly along the Broadway and Webster Street corridors between Grand Avenue and 28th Street. The focus of these near-term actions should be to activate the area and enhance its physical character.

A. Near Term Strategies

- **Arts and Entertainment District:** An Arts and Entertainment Overlay District could be created in the area centered on Broadway from Grand Avenue to 28th Street, in order to incentivize the introduction of arts and entertainment type uses by loosening regulations related to things such as outdoor dining and hours of operation.
- **Public Art:** Public art may be included in a variety of ways and is a commonly-used strategy for generating interest, adding visual appeal, and contributing district identity. Public art can be either temporary or permanent, and can take many forms including sculpture, murals, street furniture, water features, video, and even performance.
- **Temporary Events:** Temporary events such as festivals, gatherings of mobile food vendors, farmers markets, and craft fairs are excellent vehicles for drawing attention and activity to the District and establishing an identity for the area which will make it more appealing for permanent development. Several large parking lots located along Broadway and Webster would be ideal locations for such events, and could be coupled with temporary street closures to provide additional space and engage existing businesses.
- **Pop-up Storefronts:** Visible and attractive storefronts line Broadway and side streets within the District, yet many of them are vacant. These storefronts offer the ideal spaces for temporary use by vendors that may not have the means to open a permanent business, or for the exhibition of student work, art work, or other civic displays. This can help generate buzz within the area and encourage longer-term development.



Crosswalk improvement, San Diego, CA



Mobile Food Truck in Vacant Lot, San Francisco, CA



Public Event in Vacant Lot, Williamsburg, New York

VI. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH AND STRATEGIES

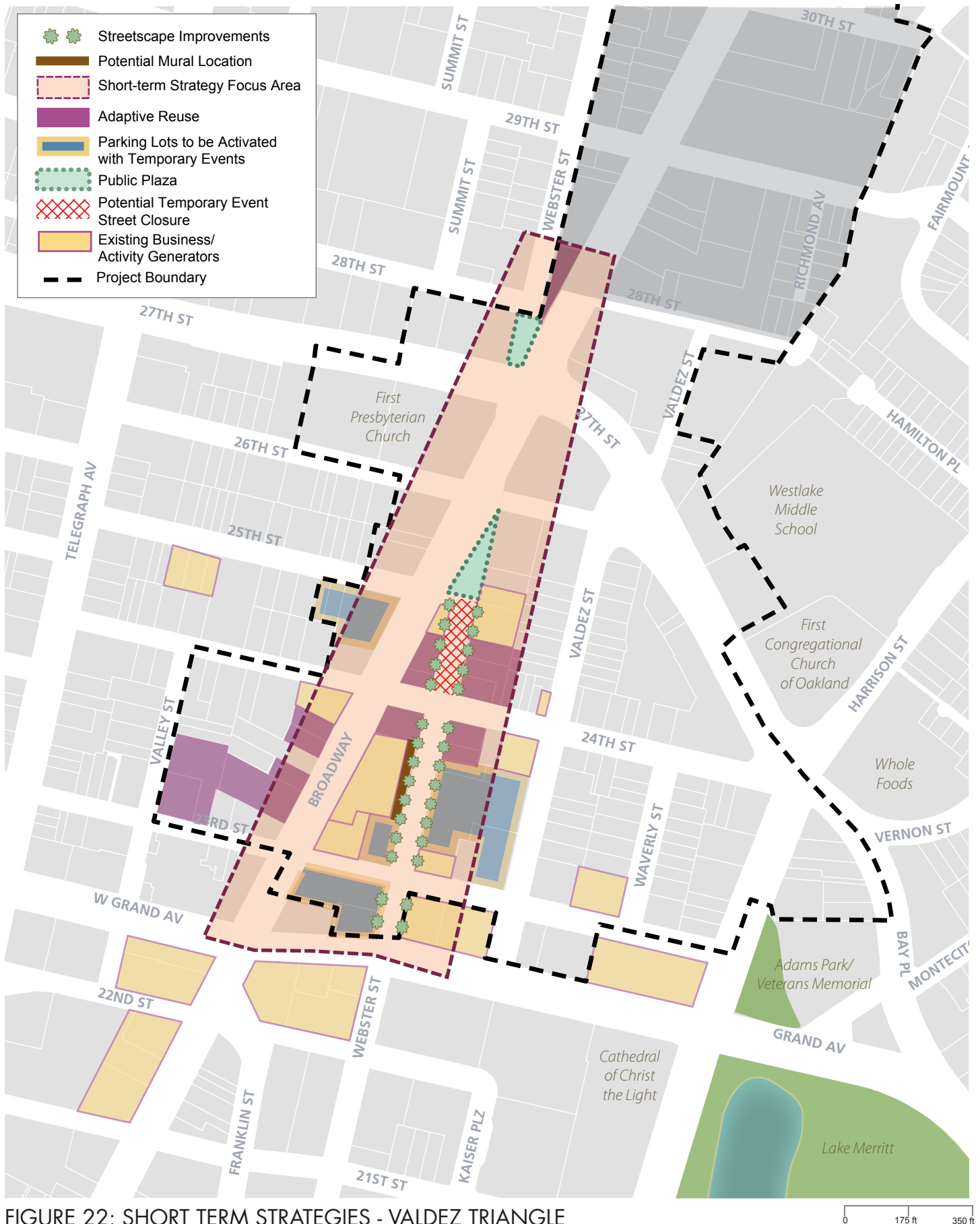


FIGURE 22: SHORT TERM STRATEGIES - VALDEZ TRIANGLE

0 175 ft 350 ft

VI. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH AND STRATEGIES

- **Public Space Enhancement:** The existing plazas on Broadway at 25th and 27th streets represent opportunities to make public space improvements that can contribute to the area's identity and provide spaces for public gathering. Such improvements should focus on making these spaces more comfortable and accommodating for people, and shift the identity away from automobile sales.
- **Parklets:** Not all public space improvements need to be permanent. The current trend of using public parking spaces to create parklets that provide additional public outdoor seating is an excellent way to promote pedestrian activity and enhance neighborhood character by providing pleasant places for people to stop, rest and relax.
- **Façade Improvement Program:** A façade improvement program that provides grants to property owners to improve facades can have immediate beneficial effects on District character and improve the leasability of commercial space and bring new businesses to the area.
- **Free "B" Shuttle Service:** Extending Free B bus service to 27th Street on a daily basis will facilitate getting people to and from the area, providing increased activity and support for District businesses.
- **Parking Benefit District:** A Parking Benefit District may be established that can help manage and finance parking resources and finance streetscape improvements that promote walking, cycling and transit use, such as sidewalks, curb ramps, and bicycle lanes.
- **Public Parking:** Contributing to the funding of a centralized public parking garage could catalyze new development in the District while also supporting a "park once" strategy and creation of a pedestrian-oriented environment.
- **Broadway Streetcar:** Re-introducing streetcar service to Broadway would demonstrate not only a significant commitment by the City to business along the Broadway corridor, but would also improve access to the area and contribute to establishing a unique new identity for the Broadway Valdez District.

B. Mid- and Long-Term Strategies

- **Extending the CBD and Downtown BID:** In order to reinforce the concept of the Triangle as an extension of the Downtown and provide a mechanism for implementing improvements, the General Plan boundary for the Central Business District (CBD) and the boundary for the Downtown BID will be extended north from Grand Avenue to incorporate the Triangle.
- **Streetscape Improvements:** Streetscape improvements to the pedestrian zones such as street trees, benches, bollards, lighting and decorative paving can transform the physical character and perception of the District, and demonstrate the City's commitment to future development.
- **Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Facilities:** Connectivity and mobility improvements within the District are important elements that will improve access to the District, increase pedestrian activity, and ultimately encourage new development. Pedestrian activity will be enhanced through improved pedestrian crossings at key intersections (e.g., curb extensions, refuge islands, lighting, etc.) and enhanced transit stops (e.g., shelters, seating, signage, etc.). Bicycle use can be enhanced by adding in-street enhancements such as painted bike lanes and bike boxes and adding facilities for bike parking.
- **Historic Building Regulation:** Creating greater flexibility in building regulations on historic buildings to make adaptive reuse of existing buildings more financially feasible for building owners, while still ensuring that safety code

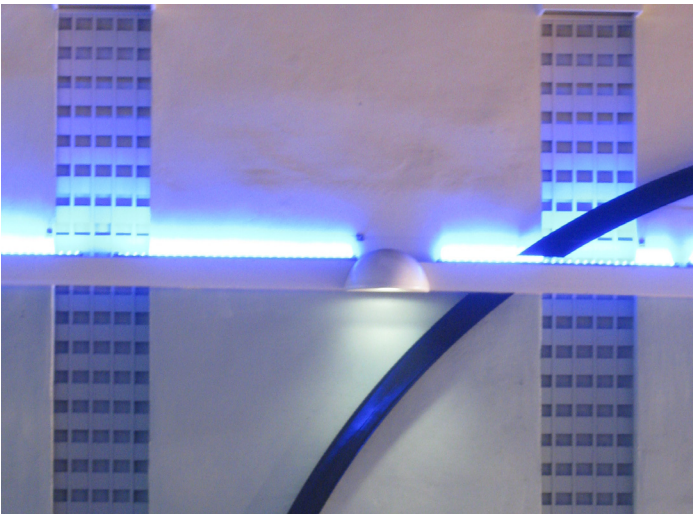


Transit Facility, Portland, OR



"Bike Box" Bicycle Facility, San Francisco, CA

VI. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH AND STRATEGIES



MacArthur BART Underpass Lighting, Oakland, CA



Historic building reuse, Pasadena, CA



Parklet, San Francisco, CA



Reuse of "garage" building, San Diego, CA



Underpass treatment, Burnside Bridgehead, Portland, OR



Plaza Improvement, Walnut Creek, CA



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