Streetscape Concept for Main, Beale, and Spear Streets.
Imagine a new neighborhood in the heart of San Francisco. Imagine a place for all ages, incomes and lifestyles, where streets are safe, inviting and easy to travel by foot, bicycle or transit. Imagine tree-lined promenades and a new public park, framed by a new district of high-rise and low-rise buildings, of varying character and style. Imagine a place where shops, services and world-class transportation come together, where owning a car is a choice, not a necessity. Imagine a bold new neighborhood for San Francisco, a model for sustainable urban living, woven seamlessly into the fabric of the city.

The Transbay Terminal will create a major regional transit hub and build a vibrant new downtown neighborhood around it. Transbay will be home to thousands of San Franciscans, to a range of businesses large and small, in a setting of gracious streets and public open spaces.

Main, Beale and Spear Streets will be redesigned as pedestrian streets that link local residents to downtown and the new Terminal, providing extra-wide, tree-planted sidewalk, seating, and small open spaces. Individual townhouses will front these streets, with stoops, porches, and landscaping.

A major public park just north of Folsom Boulevard will provide refuge from the hustle and bustle of downtown. Residences will front the park, much like Sydney Walton or South Park. An adjacent retail mews that links the park to Folsom Boulevard will provide shops and cafes for area residents and visitors.

New buildings will fill in gaps in the historic district east of Second Street, mixing new housing, entertainment and other activities. Space under the bus ramps will be home to new alleys and recreational facilities for the neighborhood.

North of the new Terminal, a landmark Transit tower with a mix of uses will bring added vitality to the area and accentuate the city’s skyline, marking the transition from downtown to the new Transbay/Rincon Hill neighborhood.

As we look forward, Transbay is an unparalleled opportunity for the future. Long simply a “pass-through” on the way to somewhere else, the Transbay of tomorrow will be a vital new neighborhood home to thousands of people, thriving shops and services, and a burgeoning new downtown community.
FOLSOM BOULEVARD

Streetscape and open space improvements made to transform Folsom into an urban boulevard will support the high public character of the street and its uses. Based on the results of the traffic analysis conducted for the Transbay EIR/EIS, it will be possible to extend westbound Folsom Street for two additional blocks — from Main Street to Fremont Street. This change will greatly enhance local circulation and navigation and lessen the regional traffic character of the street. In addition, this street will maintain short-term curb parking on both sides to support retail businesses and to buffer pedestrians from traffic. An eastbound bicycle lane will also continue to be provided.

A 15-foot building setback will be maintained on the north side of the street along the entire length of the street in the Project Area. There is a preponderance of vacant, publicly-owned parcels along the northern edge of Folsom Street, providing an important opportunity to significantly expand the sidewalk.

Two alternative configurations of Folsom are presented and illustrated in the Design for Development. A number of unresolved issues of both local and wider impact, such as the potential for Bus Rapid Transit on Folsom and other technical and cost issues, need to be studied before a streetscape and street configuration scheme for Folsom Boulevard is settled.