

Tier 2 Mode Options

Mode defines the type of transit vehicle or technology that will be used. The initial mode options for consideration build on the previous high-capacity transit planning that narrowed the mode options to those listed below.



Regional – commuter rail:

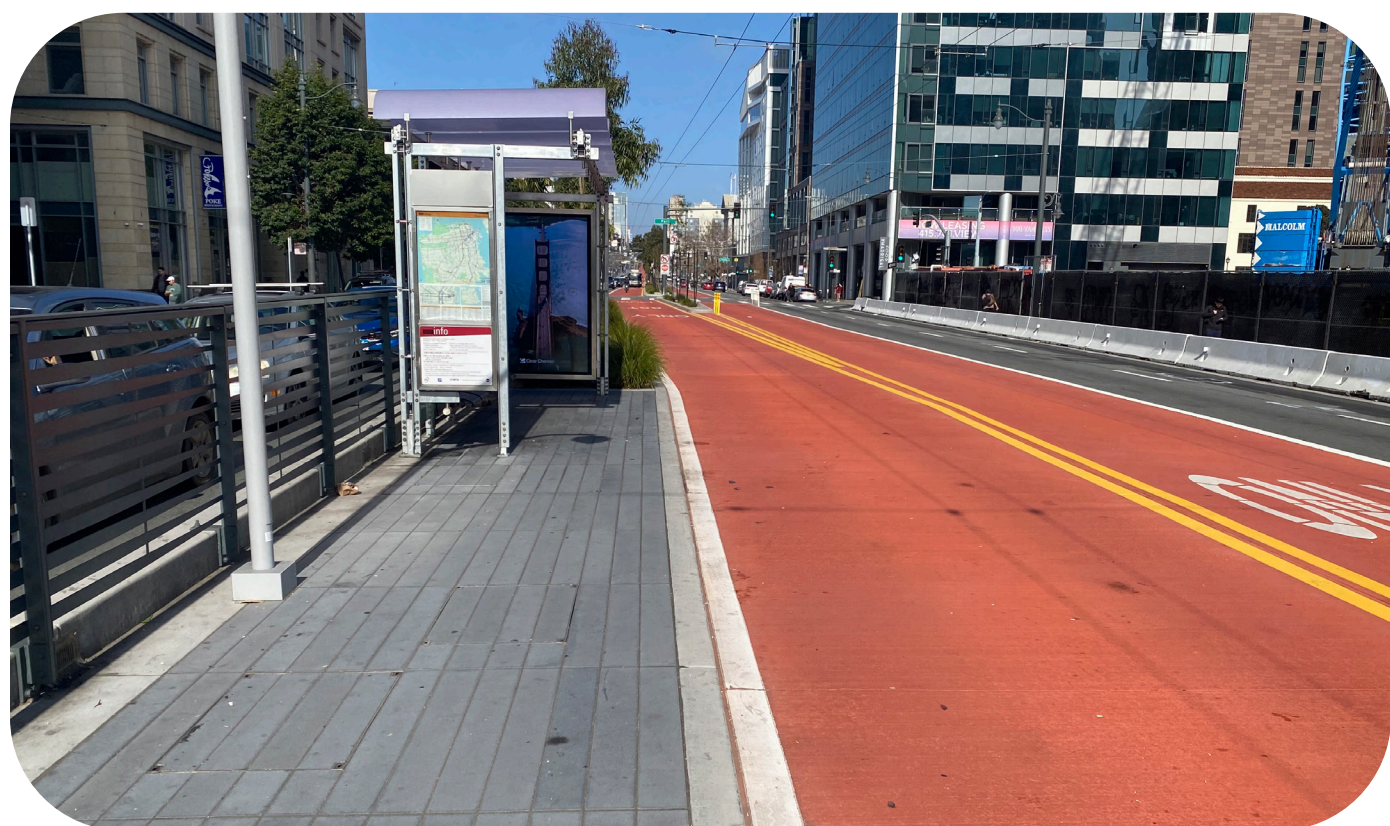
A heavy-rail vehicle operating within the existing freight rail corridor. Safety features are necessary due to potential interactions between freight and passenger services.



Light rail transit (LRT):

A light-rail vehicle operating in its own dedicated corridor. Light rail cannot safely operate on freight rail tracks and would require significant separation from freight.

Bus rapid transit (BRT): BRT can operate similarly to a train, using dedicated bus lanes with significant amenities at stops (raised platforms, benches, real-time displays, etc.). This study explores three potential configurations:



BRT – exclusive guideway:

Buses run in center lanes and are physically separated from other traffic.



BRT – business access and transit (BAT) lanes:

Buses run in outside lanes, primarily used for buses, but other vehicles may use the lanes to access adjacent businesses and residences or as right-turn lanes.



BRT – mixed traffic:

Buses run in general purpose lanes with other vehicles. Includes some improvements like BRT stop amenities and signal priority.