

Episode 14:

Welcome to Gilded Garbage Can, a podcast dedicated to defogging the image that is San Francisco.

Thank you for tuning in on Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Pod Bean, Spotify and everywhere else fine podcasts are available.

Over the weekend, the local news was all abuzz about the impending closure of Market Street to automobiles. The city, naturally, is celebrating this event as some amazing achievement that proves our bureaucracy is really working for all of us. Now, I did an entire episode last month about “Better Market Street” (with a question mark), so I won’t reiterate any of my December thoughts, since you can go back and hear the entire diatribe on your own - I do encourage you to listen, or listen again, to that one.

So, why bring up Market Street, if I’m not going to talk about it? Simple: I want to talk about the streets of San Francisco generally, and the celebration of the ridiculous and inane so-called “Better Market Street” project reminded me that our streets here are nothing to celebrate.

Let’s begin with Van Ness Avenue...what on earth is happening there? Three years into a three-year project and hardly anything has happened other than massive inconvenience to drivers and businesses that are suffering because no one in their right mind wants to drive anywhere near the chaos. The official web site that shares details about the project indicates it’s slated to be completed in 2022 and offers lovely renderings of a gorgeous boulevard with happiness and joy exuding from the gutters, not a homeless person, hypodermic needle, litter, nor human poo to be seen. It’s nirvana, really. I’ll be sure to talk more about Van Ness, as it really deserves a dedicated show. For now, suffice it say, overly ambitious projects like this should not be undertaken in San Francisco, because the city just can’t pull them off. In a place full of amateurs, the only projects that should be started are little baby ones that anyone could get done.

Potholes: Potholes, potholes, potholes. If pothole-avoidance were an Olympic sport, every athlete in need of training would come here. I’ve never been anywhere that had streets as bad as ours. Now I know, the wise men and women in City Hall want to punish drivers for driving, but surely, they could come up with something other than the minefield that is our streets here. I mean, the optics of it are really bad for a place that claims to be so very special and high-priced. I think there should be an ordinance passed that no one is allowed to eat avocado toast until the roads here are fixed.

Next...need we talk about roundabouts? Not really, just listen to the November 11, 2019 episode of this podcast where we examined the folly of that.



---

Bike lanes. Where to even begin there.... I think that while City Hall insists that its placement of bike lanes improves safety for bicyclists, it's utter nonsense. I've seen these lanes placed in the dumbest of places. There's a thing going here with bikes and that subject too deserves an episode of its own. I think I'll call it, "Having More Bikes & Bike Lanes Will Not Make SF Copenhagen." Tune in for that next time.

Like what you heard? Didn't like what you heard? Go to [GildedGarbageCan.com](http://GildedGarbageCan.com) and leave me a comment. Also be sure to check out [GildedGarbageCan](#), all one word, on Instagram.

Visit the Gilded Garbage Can store at [zazzle.com](http://zazzle.com) for cool branded merchandise.

Never miss an episode. Subscribe to Gilded Garbage Can on Apple Podcasts to get new episodes as they become available. Until next time...