



## Increasing safety on Van Ness

Van Ness Avenue is one of San Francisco's most dangerous streets to travel on. It is part of the city's High Injury Network—the approximately 12 percent of our streets that account for 70 percent of all severe and fatal traffic-related injuries. One of the central goals of the Van Ness Improvement Project is to make this major corridor safer.

People who walk are particularly exposed to collisions when they are crossing the street, so it should come as no surprise that many of the safety treatments planned for Van Ness are designed to make crossings safer. The project includes the installation of new pedestrian countdown signals for all intersections to let people walking know how much time they have to cross, as well as installing new continental or "zebra-striped" crosswalks which are more visible to drivers.

Another feature coming to Van Ness Avenue that will safeguard people crossing is extending sidewalks at intersections (also known as pedestrian bulb-outs), which makes people crossing the street more visible to drivers and also shortens crossing distances.

These bulb outs also slow drivers down when they are making a turn—which is crucial to improving safety as speed is a major factor in whether or not somebody survives a collision. In the event that people walking are not able to cross Van Ness in one light phase, wider medians with refuges will be installed in order to provide people waiting to cross Van Ness—or customers getting off the bus at a future center boarding island—a safe space to wait for the light to change.

One strategy for improving the safety of people walking on Van Ness has already

been implemented: most left turns on the corridor have been permanently removed. "One of the top three factors of people getting hit, not only in San Francisco but across the nation, is left turns," says John Knox White, who heads the SFMTA's implementation of Vision Zero.

Vision Zero is the city's policy and goal to eliminate street fatalities in San Francisco. Removing left turns not only helps improve traffic flow, but it also decreases the odds that people crossing the street will have conflicts with oncoming cars. Additionally, it reduces the likelihood of left-turning drivers colliding with other cars, making travel on all modes of transportation safer.

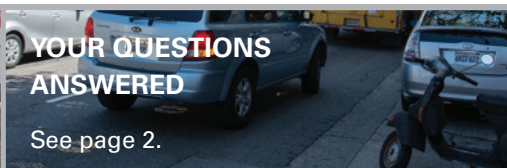
Re-allocating space on Van Ness for some of these changes has trade-offs

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 2



**SIDEWALK WORK BEGINS** Tommy's Joyr

See page 3.



**YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

See page 2.



**SCHEDULE UPDATE**

See page 2.

## Safety: Van Ness improvements

such as loss of parking spaces. Thinking about how the SFMTA is implementing similar changes to our streets citywide, John Knox White says, "It is important to recognize and acknowledge these trade-offs, as they do create inconveniences and affect people in their day-to-day lives. We don't make these trade-offs lightly. But it is also important to put them into the broader context of saving lives."

As construction moves forward and the project gets closer to completion, travelers on all modes of transportation can look forward to a more efficient, beautiful, and most of all, a safer Van Ness for all to enjoy.

### You Asked!

Why are there 'No Parking' signs posted where no construction is happening?

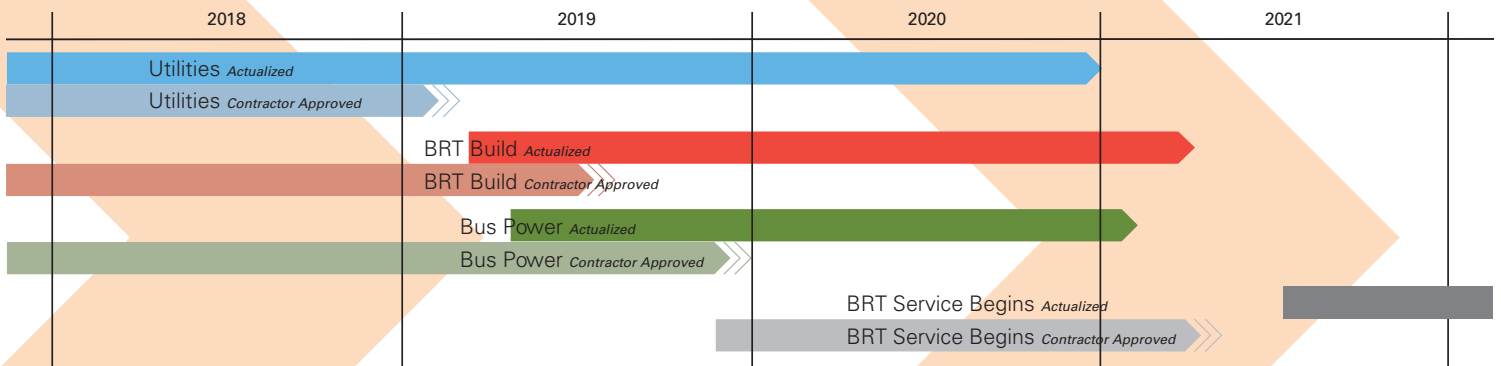
During construction on Van Ness, you may encounter "No Parking" signs in places where parking lanes are used to safely shift traffic around construction ahead. This ensures that drivers have enough room to safely merge before they encounter a construction zone. Another reason you might encounter this is in areas that must be cleared of parking in advance of scheduled work. Van Ness Improvement Project crews are making every effort to open up parking when it is no longer needed for safety or construction reasons. Stay up to date on where construction is scheduled by subscribing to text message or email updates at [SFMTA.com/VanNess](http://SFMTA.com/VanNess).



**Larry Yee, Traffic Engineer at SFMTA, has worked with the agency for over 5 years. He oversees traffic and parking issues related to construction of the Van Ness Improvement Project. He is also supporting various city projects such as the Polk Streetscape Project and Central Subway-Moscone Station.**

## Project timeline

Construction is 28 percent complete. Originally planned to open in 2019, delays have set back the projected opening to early 2021. Project staff continues to implement tactics to reduce the project's delay with consideration for San Francisco residents and businesses.



The Van Ness Improvement Project schedule above shows each phase of construction with the darker current projected schedule above the lighter approved baseline schedule. Project staff is working to get the project back on schedule.

## VAN NESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
One South Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94103

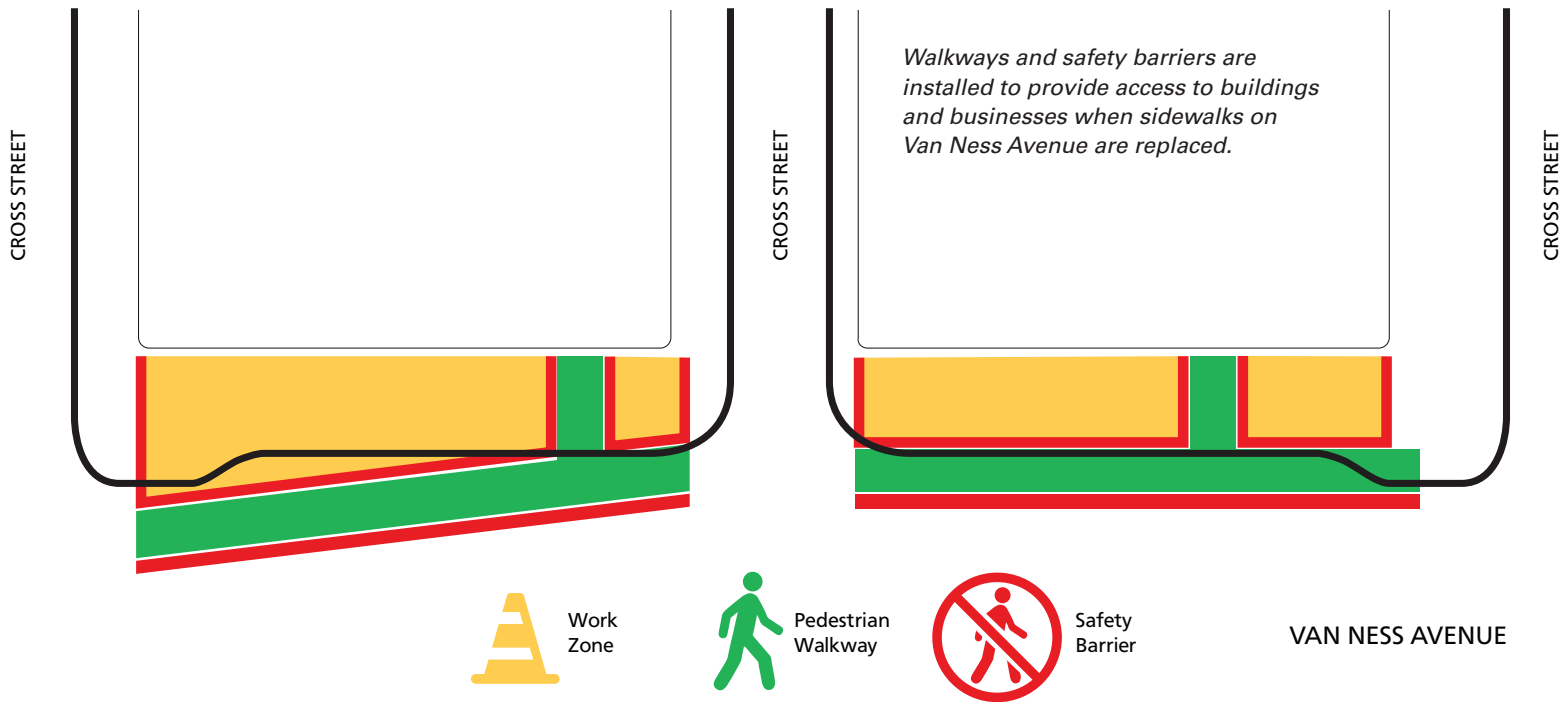
415.646.2310  
[VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com](mailto:VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com)

This civic improvement project on Van Ness Avenue from Aquatic Park to Mission Street provides transportation upgrades, including San Francisco's first Bus Rapid Transit system, a globally proven solution to improve transit service and address traffic congestion; utility maintenance, including street repaving, and sewer, water and emergency firefighting water system replacement; and civic improvements, including streetlight replacement, new sidewalk lighting, landscaping and rain gardens.

All images by SFMTA unless otherwise noted.

**311 Free language assistance** / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 지원 / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Filipino / การช่วยเหลือทาง ด้านภาษาโดยไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่าย / خط المساعدة المجاني على الرقم

# Replacing sidewalks on Van Ness



After sewer and water main is replaced on blocks on Van Ness Avenue, the team is replacing sidewalks. Repaving will occur on each block in two phases.

First, sidewalk will be replaced in the existing construction zone where sewer and water work has been finished, from the curb to the construction fence line. Once the sidewalk in the existing construction zone has been replaced, the remainder of the sidewalk will be replaced from the construction fence line to the property line.

Sidewalk replacement work is scheduled during daytimes, and

is expected to take three to four weeks per block. Curb ramps at intersections will be installed at the end of construction after both utility work and roadway repaving is complete (see schedule, p. 2).

Alternate walkways to buildings and businesses will be maintained at all times. Vehicle access to residences and businesses will be maintained for much of this work. Properties will be notified in advance if access needs to be temporarily limited.

Neighbors who have questions or concerns may contact 415-646-2310 or [VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com](mailto:VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com).



Open for Business wayfinding signage directs visitors to Van Ness businesses impacted during construction.



Van Ness Improvement Project mesh has been installed on fences facing the sidewalk all along the corridor.

# VAN NESS

# IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

MAINTAIN • RESTORE • MODERNIZE



## Community Drop-In Office Hours

**Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**(Excluding holidays)**

**180 Redwood Street, Suite 300  
(near Van Ness and Golden Gate)**

Have a question about construction or the Van Ness Improvement Project? Stop by our Community Drop-In Office Hours at our Field Office to get assistance from project staff Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00, or Friday mornings from 10:00 to noon.

To find out more and sign up for updates about the Van Ness Improvement Project, go to [SFMTA.com/VanNess](http://SFMTA.com/VanNess)

For questions or comments, contact us at [VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com](mailto:VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com) or 415.646.2310.

如有疑問或需要免費語言協助，請發電子郵件至 [VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com](mailto:VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com) 或致電415-646-2310。

Si tiene preguntas o para servicio gratis para el idioma, póngase en contacto con [VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com](mailto:VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com) o 415-646-2310.

**[SFMTA.com/VanNess](http://SFMTA.com/VanNess)**