



Building the BRT: Construction moves to the center

By Nehama Rogozen



This summer marks a major milestone: the transition from the utilities phase to the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) buildout phase. The work completed during this first phase sets the stage for the construction of the BRT, which will greatly improve transit service. It also means that some of the most disruptive tasks are behind us.

Crews have already started to move to the middle of the road to build the BRT system. This includes red transit-only lanes, median islands, new bus shelters, corner bulbouts and pole setting installations.

At the same time, extensive beautification work will take place, with the installation of landscaping, green infrastructure, rain gardens, new trees and civic art. Residents and visitors will see the historic Van Ness corridor revitalized around them.

The work done during the utilities phase focused on preparing the roadway for construction, replacing water mains from the 1800s, building an underground sewer system that can sustain an earthquake and the impacts of climate change, overhauling the city's emergency firefighting system that supplies water to more than 1,200 fire hydrants, updating streetlights and adding sidewalk lighting, and installing an electrical duct bank that will power the traffic signals and overhead contact system.



**WHAT TO EXPECT DURING
THE BRT BUILDOUT**

See page 2.



**CONSTRUCTION JARGON
EXPLAINED**

See page 3.



**SCHEDULE
UPDATE**

See page 3.

What to expect during the BRT buildout

You may have already noticed that construction on Van Ness Avenue looks different than it has in the past. Our crews have been hard at work transitioning construction activities from the sidewalk to the middle of the road in order to begin the buildout of San Francisco's first Bus Rapid Transit system. There will still be some utility interruptions and night work, but there will be significantly less noise.

Residents will also experience greater access to newly poured sidewalks and parking zones. Access to transit will be easier as well, with less shifting of temporary bus stops. Businesses along the corridor will be more accessible. We appreciate the patience that residents along the Van Ness corridor have shown during the utilities phase and are excited to be moving into the next phase of this project.



You Asked!

What is something unique you have seen while working on the Van Ness Improvement Project?

It has been incredible to witness old San Francisco being exposed, as construction work uncovered elements that had been buried for close to a century. During the excavation, we could see the old street car rails that were the predecessors of today's trolley car systems. The construction also exposed aged sewer, gas and water lines that hadn't been seen for almost 100 years, along with the debris from when these lines were first constructed.

This project is unique in that workers of several trades have been involved in placing and replacing these utility lines to maintain the safety, quality and integrity of these systems, while using updated materials that meld with the old designs.



Victor Valerio has been a Junior Engineer on the Van Ness Improvement Project for almost a year. He is responsible for assisting the Residential Engineer on Public Outreach, assisting on work site inspections, change orders revisions and other related duties.

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

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, 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

Construction jargon, explained



Ever wondered what a “punch list” is? Or why we use the term “substantial completion,” instead of just “completion?” Read on for an explanation of terms you may hear in the context of the Van Ness Improvement Project.

Punch list: List of items that need to be completed on a construction project. Today, software is used to manage the punch list, but the term comes from the original process of punching holes next to completed tasks as a mark on a checklist.

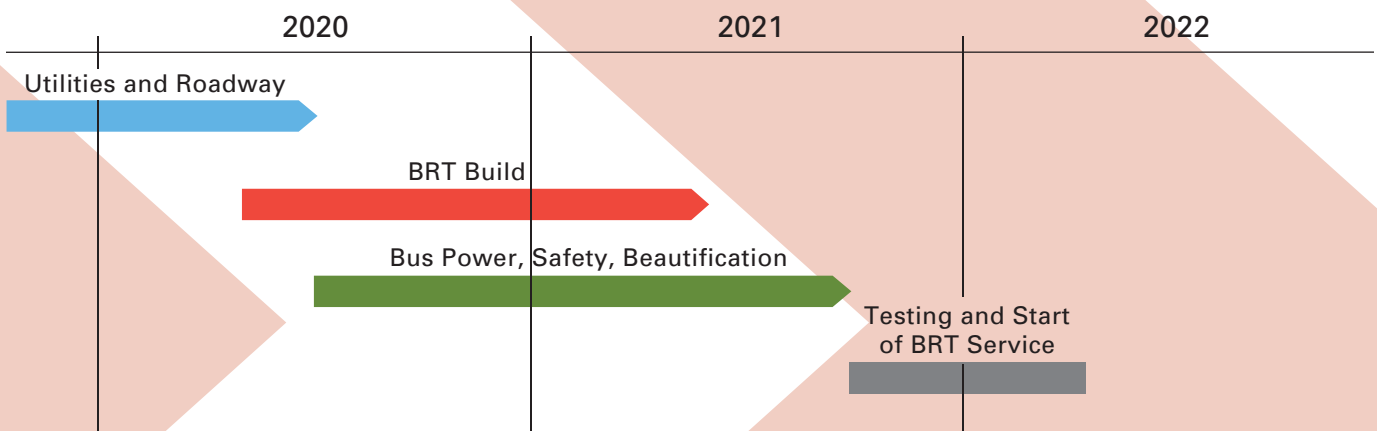
Substantial completion: This is when a project is completed enough to be used for its intended purpose, but some work may still need to be finished.

Final completion: At this point, all work from the punch list has been completed, all contract terms have been fulfilled and final inspections have been done.

Revenue service: When a transit system is available to the public and there is a reasonable expectation of carrying passengers that pay fares.

Project schedule

At press time, construction on Van Ness Avenue is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021. With the shift from the utilities phase to the BRT buildout this summer, the project team has updated the graphic below to provide additional details about the remaining phases of construction.



The Van Ness Improvement Project schedule above shows each phase of construction: Utilities include installing an electrical duct bank and replacing underground sewer and water systems, as well as a segment of the emergency firefighting water system to ensure reliable operation, new street and sidewalk lighting, sidewalk and roadway restoration; BRT Build includes building red center-running Bus Rapid Transit lanes, station platforms and medians; Bus Power includes building new sidewalk extensions, installing new overhead bus-power wires, painting crosswalks and training operators. Project staff is working to reduce delays in the schedule.



Information Gladly Given

Van Ness Improvement Project staff may be contacted directly by calling 415.646.2310 or emailing VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com. Due to the public health order, community drop-in office hours are temporarily suspended.

To find out more and sign up for updates about the Van Ness Improvement Project, go to SFMTA.com/VanNess

For questions or comments, contact us at 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 或致電415.646.2310。

Si tiene preguntas o para servicio gratis para el idioma, póngase en contacto con VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com o 415.646.2310.

SFMTA.com/VanNess



MAINTAIN • RESTORE • MODERNIZE

