



Connecting the Rapid Network

by Bonnie Jean von Krogh

When complete, San Francisco's first full-featured Bus Rapid Transit on Van Ness Avenue will be the anchor of Muni's Rapid Network. Muni's Rapid Network prioritizes frequency and reliability on its most heavily used routes—five bus and six metro lines. Rapid lines carry nearly 70 percent of Muni customers and form the backbone of the Muni network, a perfect outcome for Van Ness Avenue that was originally surveyed as the spine of San Francisco.

Muni's Rapid Network uses transit priority lanes with efficient stop spacing to move buses more reliably along its lines. The two miles of dedicated transit lanes under construction on Van Ness between Lombard and Mission streets will be used by Muni's 49 Van Ness-Mission, 47 Van Ness and 90 San Bruno Owl, as well as Golden Gate Transit.

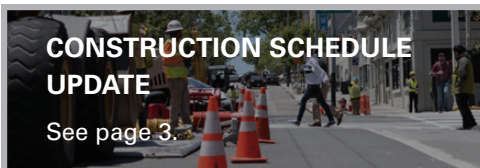
Improvements to Rapid lines are designed to address the root causes of delay and passenger frustration, like traffic congestion, transit stops that are spaced too close together, narrow travel lanes and slow boarding times. With improved boarding zones, Rapid stops make it safer and faster for passengers to get on board. Improved signage also makes it easier to find bus stops and bus shelters.

Van Ness Avenue's transit-only lanes will flank center landscaped medians and be physically separated from the two lanes of mixed flow traffic in each direction. They will also be colored red to improve visibility and awareness. Additionally, as with other Rapid routes, traffic signals will have "transit signal priority," which reduces delays to Muni by giving the green light to Muni buses when

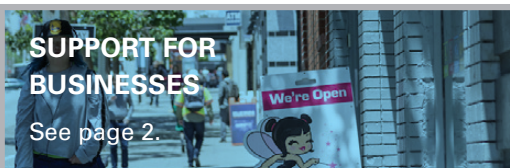
conditions allow. The planned improvements for Van Ness are expected to cut travel times for public transit on the corridor by as much as a third.

And, the Rapid Network is seeing results. In recent years Muni ridership has been rising citywide – but especially on the busiest routes where we've been focusing improvements. In the last three years, ridership on Rapid routes is up 22 percent. And by providing more service on our busiest routes, we're reducing overcrowding at the same time we're increasing ridership. The number of overcrowded trips on Rapid lines including the 5R Fulton Rapid, 14R Mission Rapid and 38R Geary Rapid has fallen from 13 to 2 percent.

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CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE UPDATE
See page 3.



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES
See page 2.



NEIGHBORING PROJECTS
See page 2.



The SF Business Portal provides business support

Managing your business on Van Ness Avenue and keeping your doors open is important and the San Francisco Business Portal, online at businessportal.sfgov.org, has an array of resources that can help with strengthening your operations; from helping with finding a location, to accessing professional services, to disaster preparedness and financial programs. The Portal is San Francisco's primary online business resource with comprehensive information and tailored for starting, running and growing a business in San Francisco.

The Portal helps entrepreneurs easily navigate the steps to start, manage and grow a business, to quickly learn what it takes to be compliant and to obtain resources along the way. The Portal also provides key dates and announcements, so you don't miss a deadline and so you stay informed about regulatory changes.

Businesses seeking assistance may also visit the Small Business Assistance Center in person, weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 110. To schedule an appointment, contact 415-554-6134 or sbac@sfgov.org. All services are available in English, Chinese and Spanish. See businessportal.sfgov.org for more.

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Rapid Network: Improving Van Ness transit

This success is driven by San Francisco's transit-first policy – adopted in 1973 – that prioritizes public transit, bicycling and walking on San Francisco's streets. By giving priority to buses and light rail trains, which use less road space per passenger than private cars, our transit-first policy makes Muni's entire Rapid Network possible. In fact, funding for Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit was authorized by voters to make transit-first improvements on this critical transit corridor. As a result, Muni's Rapid Network keeps San Francisco moving.

You Asked!

How can I find out when nighttime construction is happening in my neighborhood?

Each week a two-week construction forecast is published on SFMTA.com/VanNess, the project website, in the right-hand column under "Project Updates." The forecasts show the work planned for the following two weeks. The work is broken up by block so that you can easily access the information for the areas that are of most concern to you. Night work is shown in italics. These project updates are also available via email and text message subscription. To sign up, go to SFMTA.com/VanNess (see "Receive Updates" on right sidebar) or text the word CONSTRUCTION to 415.413.4201. Properties that are within 300 feet of any planned night work are also notified with door hangers.

Gene Chan is an Engineer at Public Works Construction Management who has worked with the City for over five years. Gene provides construction management support to the Ness Improvement Project as well as various other City projects.



VAN NESS

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
One South Van Ness Avenue
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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.

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Neighboring City Projects



The Polk Streetscape Project has wrapped up major construction. The project started construction in 2016 and brings many street and safety improvements to the bustling neighborhood. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned for early spring 2019. Stay tuned for details at sfpublicworks.org/polk.



The Geary Rapid Project is ramping up construction with the start of major utility replacement work this winter. Transit-only lanes have been completed throughout the project's limits, from Stanyan to Market. To get the latest details visit SFMTA.com/GearyRapid.



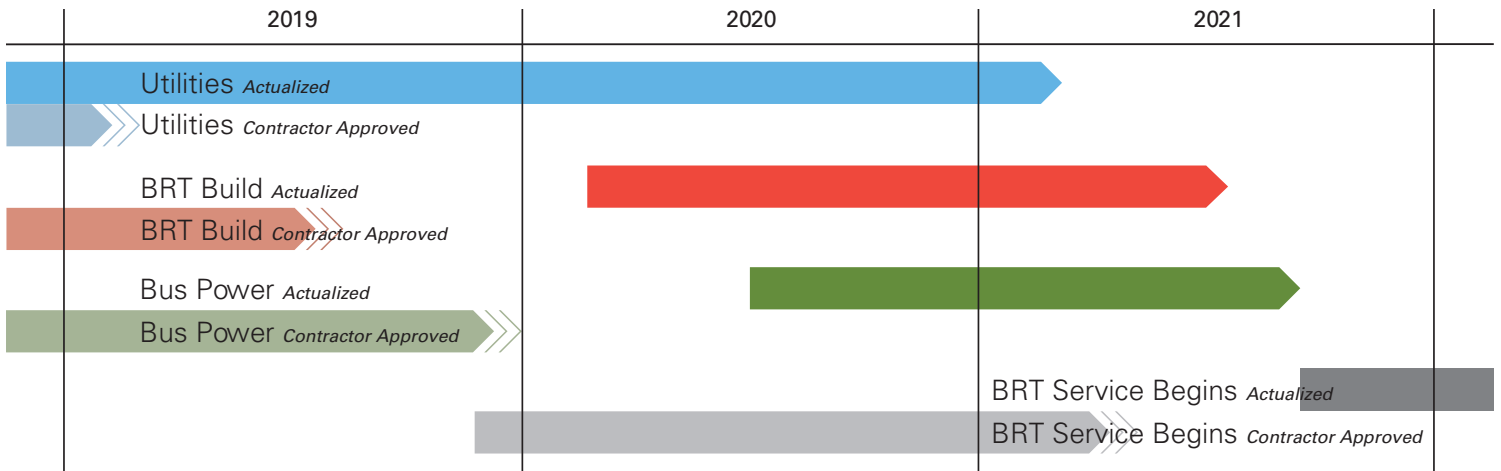
The Lombard Street Vision Zero project has been performing major utility replacement and streetlight work for the past few months. Construction has started on the westernmost area of the project limits, near Francisco Street, and is moving west towards the intersection with Van Ness Avenue. To get the latest details regarding construction visit sfpublicworks.org/Lombard.



Sutter Health opened its new hospital, the California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) Van Ness campus hospital at Van Ness Avenue between Geary And Post streets on March 2. The new, state-of-the-art facility features 11 floors, 274 acute-care beds. The hospital will focus on creating an inclusive and healing space while providing high quality patient care with cutting-edge technology.

Project timeline

Construction is 27 percent complete. Bus Rapid Transit is projected to begin service late 2021. Originally planned to open in 2019, delays related utility conflicts, contracting challenges and wet weather have increased the days of work necessary to overhaul corridor utilities. With consideration for San Francisco residents and businesses, staff is working to get the project back on schedule by making adjustments to procedures and increasing staff capacity.



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

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

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.

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