



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

VAN NESS

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SPRING 2020 | ISSUE 14



Getting where you need to go, rapidly

By Nehama Rogozen



Once work to replace vital utilities along Van Ness is complete, construction will shift to reconstructing the roadway and building the Van Ness BRT, which will be San Francisco's first BRT corridor. Over 30 cities in the United States have similar systems, which are globally proven to improve transit service and reduce congestion, getting customers where they need to go quickly.

BRT systems combine the speed of a subway system with the flexibility and access of a bus system. Residents, visitors and workers will benefit from increased frequency and reliability on Muni and Golden Gate Transit lines, since Van Ness Avenue is a major north-south arterial that crosses several neighborhoods. On an average weekday, there are over 21,000 transit trips on Van Ness. Projections show that transit customers will experience a 32% reduction in transit travel time on the corridor.

Dedicated bus lanes in the center of the road and state-of-the-art solutions like advanced traffic signal controllers, real-time traffic monitoring and transit signal priority optimize traffic and flow for buses.

The Van Ness BRT system prioritizes buses over other means of travel while creating a smoother experience for riders and keeping in line with San Francisco's commitment to its transit-first mandate.

Other components of the BRT system include low-floor buses and high-quality boarding islands with accessible shelters, seating and bus arrival predictions. These features allow customers to board, ride and arrive at their final destinations easily and rapidly. The Van Ness BRT also aims to be accessible and convenient for customers with disabilities or other access needs.

San Francisco residents know that BRT will improve their lives. In 2003, 75% of voters voted "yes" on Prop K, taxing themselves to better, more efficient public transit service on Van Ness," says Alex Wilson, Van Ness corridor resident and chair of the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee. "Cities throughout the world rely on BRT to improve transit systems' efficiency, predictability and flexibility. As a resident of the corridor, I know how critical the corridor is not only for me, but for other commuters."

SEE VAN NESS BRT, PAGE 2

VAN NESS

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



MAINTAIN • RESTORE • MODERNIZE



COVID-19 resources for San Francisco businesses



COVID-19 has affected businesses of all types and sizes. The City and County of San Francisco has pledged to help businesses recover from this difficult time, as well as to assist employees who have found themselves out of work or working reduced hours. The Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) has created a one-stop resource for both employers and employees, found at oewd.org/covid19. This site highlights different resources, contacts for

assistance and updates on new opportunities for employers and employees. OEWD will be updating this site as the situation changes and programs are created and expanded.

San Francisco is committed to quickly delivering resources to help sustain San Francisco businesses and workers as more significant state and federal aid is mobilized, and is also committed to helping the most vulnerable first.

VAN NESS BRT FROM PAGE 1

There are over 82,000 jobs and 29,000 housing units along the Van Ness Corridor, along with medical facilities, arts venues, grocery stores, auto dealerships, mom and pop shops and restaurants. With high-capacity buses arriving every few minutes, residents and workers along Van Ness will easily be able to run errands, commute and patronize local businesses. The Van Ness BRT unifies previously disparate neighborhoods and creates a sense of community along its 2-mile stretch.

New hybrid articulated buses already running on Van Ness Avenue during construction, will help ease crowding on the 47 Van Ness when service begins, expected in 2021. Once utilities work is complete, BRT lanes, station platforms, new medians and a zero-emissions overhead wire system to power buses will be installed. The Van Ness BRT is a significant addition to one of San Francisco's historic thoroughfares, and will improve the quality of life for those who travel, work, live and play along Van Ness.

You Asked!

Why has construction on some projects in San Francisco continued during the public health order?

As you may have noticed, work on the Van Ness Improvement Project has continued during the shelter-in-place order. This project is considered essential due to its necessary sewer and water improvements.

Reduced traffic on Van Ness Avenue has allowed the project team to shift schedules and conduct more work during the day, instead of at night, reducing disruption to communities along Van Ness. The SFMTA continues to partner with local businesses and community groups, and collaborate with the Supervisors and Mayor to make this project a success.



Siew-Chin Yeong, SFMTA's Director of Capital Projects & Construction, has more than 21 years of experience in design and construction. She oversees the capital improvement programs for all City and County transportation initiatives, including the Van Ness Improvement Project.

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

Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit features

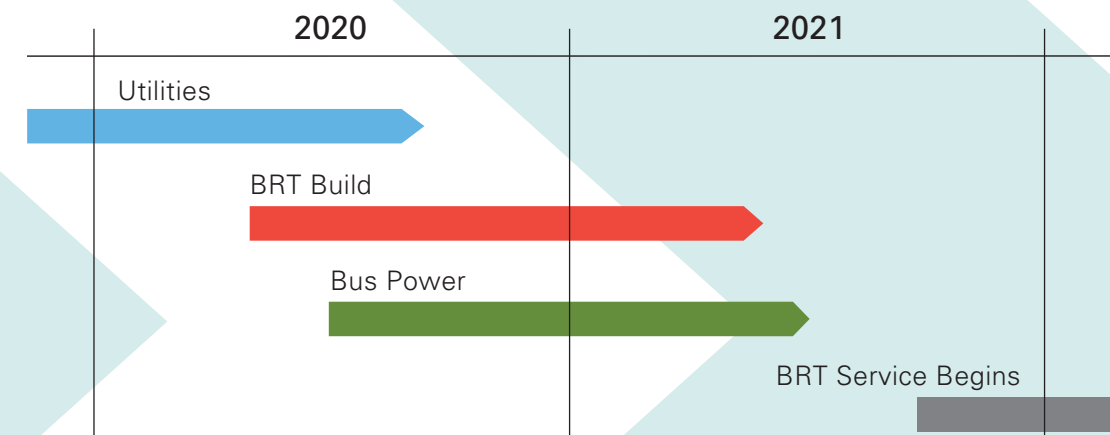


The Bus Rapid Transit corridor that is being constructed on Van Ness Avenue includes features that will prioritize frequency and reliability to improve public transit service for Muni and Golden Gate Transit customers.

1. Dedicated bus lane for Muni and Golden Gate Transit.
2. Traffic signals that give the green light to buses and are optimized for north-south traffic.
3. Low-floor buses for easy and quick boarding.
4. Safety features for people walking like countdown signals, median refuges, sidewalk extensions, zebra-striped crosswalks and left-turn restrictions.
5. High-quality boarding islands located at key transfer points.

Project schedule

At press time, Bus Rapid Transit on Van Ness Avenue is projected to begin service in late 2021. While the public health emergency may have an impact on construction progress and timing, the project team continues to work to reduce delays by making adjustments to procedures and staff capacity.



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.

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