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Municipal
Transportation
Agency

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****PRESS RELEASE****

The Central Subway Tunnel Portal Entrance Is Now Complete

With the completion of this structure the subway project remains on-time and on-budget

San Francisco— The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), which manages all transportation in the city, including the Municipal Railway (Muni), announces the completion of the Central Subway tunnel portal entrance, which was the final element to the overall tunneling contract. This portion of the Central Subway Project was completed on-time and on-budget.

“The Central Subway will help connect our dynamic neighborhoods and our growing city,” said Mayor Ed Lee. “This is a major milestone for the Central Subway project that will help us deliver on our promise of a world class, 21st century transportation system for San Francisco that is safe, reliable and affordable. It will serve residents and visitors alike, especially in our growing neighborhoods of Mission Bay, SOMA, Visitacion Valley and others.”

The portal, at 4th and Harrison streets, was initially called the “launch box” because it served as the entrance site of two 350-foot-long boring machines (TBMs). Each TBM tunneled 8,500 feet beneath SoMa, Union Square and Chinatown creating the Central Subway tunnels. The identical twin TBMs weighed-in at 750 tons each and were affectionately named Mom Chung – for Dr. Margaret “Mom” Chung, the nation’s first Chinese-American physician – and Big Alma – for San Francisco philanthropist and socialist “Big Alma” de Bretteville Spreckles. Now that the TBMs have completed their 1.5-mile journeys, the launch box has been seismically and structurally reinforced creating the portal where the Muni Metro T Third Line Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) will enter and exit the Central Subway.

The tunnel portal structure contract called for a final completion date of May 15, 2015. However, the crews met expectations by substantially completing the portal structure, constructing the twin tunnels and five cross passages a month earlier.

“It was not only imperative that the portal structure create San Francisco’s next generation of public transit,” said Ed Reiskin, SFMTA Director of Transportation. “It was crucial that we adhered to our commitment to the public. We promised to deliver on-time and on-budget, and the completion of this portion of the project is another milestone that demonstrates we deliver as promised.”

The project was complete within budget estimates of \$241 million. The federal Department of Transportation announced approval of the Full Funding Grant Agreement of \$942.2 million to fund nearly half of the Central Subway Project. The remaining budget is balanced by existing state and local grant funds.

The Central Subway is expected to open to the public in 2019 and will directly serve some of San Francisco's most densely populated communities including: the Visitacion Valley in the Southeast, east to the Bayview/Dogpatch, and west to the city's center. For more information about the Central Subway, visit www.centralsubwaysf.com.

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Established by voter proposition in 1999, the SFMTA, a department of the City and County of San Francisco, oversees the Municipal Railway (Muni), parking and traffic, bicycling, walking and taxis. With five modes of transit, Muni has approximately 700,000 passenger boardings each day. Over 1 million people get around this city each day and rely on the SFMTA to ensure safe and reliable travel by transit, walking, bicycling, taxi and driving.

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