



Red transit lanes unique in design

By Nehama Rogozen

The red transit lanes on Van Ness were recently completed. These transit lanes are unique for several reasons – this is the first project in San Francisco to use colored concrete, rather than simply painting regular concrete red. It is also the first project of its size in the region to use both integral color and color hardener techniques – together, these approaches ensure a longer lifespan for the road, approximately 40 years, rather than the typical 20. Crews were specially trained in using these techniques for the Van Ness Improvement Project.

It's helpful to think of roads as a cake with multiple layers of frosting, cake and other fillings. The first layer of the "cake" is 6 inches of concrete which serves as a foundation. Then comes a "frosting" layer, the curing compound, which is a grease-like compound applied to keep concrete layers separate from each other. Following the curing compound, dowel baskets are installed – these joints allow the concrete to expand but still maintain stability.

Once the dowel baskets are installed, it is time for the red concrete to be poured. Vermilion red integral coloring is mixed into the concrete inside the concrete mixer truck, and then it is poured onto the roadway.

Afterwards, color hardener, in the same vermilion red as the concrete, is applied using a device that vibrates the powder smoothly across the surface of the roadway, as crews make sure that it spreads smoothly despite any slope. The surface is then inspected for any imperfections, which are addressed immediately. The color was selected based on several criteria, one of which was ensuring that bus operators could easily see the busway without it being too reflective in bright sun.

The concrete on its own has a design strength of 5,000 PSI, meaning that each square inch can handle 5,000 pounds of pressure. The hardener adds an additional 3,000 PSI, bringing the total strength of the roadway to 8,000 PSI. Typically, freeways, airplane runways and roads have a PSI of 5,000. This technique extends the useful life of the road.

Once the concrete has been poured, crews strategically cut into the concrete at designated places. Because large slabs of concrete tend to crack about every 12 feet, making these strategic cuts allows the concrete to crack predictably underground at the dowel basket points, rather than on the surface. These cracks cannot be seen above ground but add to the structural integrity of the roadway.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

See page 2.

CONTRACT MODIFICATION APPROVED BY STMTA BOARD

See page 3.

SCHEDULE UPDATE

See page 3.

Support your local businesses



On June 15, California reopened and capacity limits on businesses were removed, along with physical distancing requirements. As the economy continues to rebound and people become more comfortable patronizing businesses, please support your local Van Ness cafes, restaurants, shops and services. 32 new businesses have opened on Van Ness Avenue between Lombard and Mission streets in the past six months, making it the

perfect time to get to know your neighborhood again. These new businesses include several new food establishments, personal services and professional services.

While you're out there, you may notice floor decals branded with the "Connect with Van Ness" marketing slogan. These, along with branded face masks, tote bags and hand sanitizer were distributed free of charge to all interested businesses on the corridor.

You Asked!

How did you pick the tree species on Van Ness?

A 12-month engagement process with several stakeholders was held in 2015 and 2015 to pick out the tree species that are currently being planted on Van Ness Avenue. As we narrowed down the tree species, we considered factors such as growth rates, water needs, and ability to adapt to existing structures such as overhead wires. We also had to consider urban survivability, which included examining San Francisco's microclimates and being sure that the trees could withstand the San Francisco environment.

The *Corymbia Citriodora* (Lemon-scented Gum) ended up meeting all of the criteria and was chosen to be planted along the median. Additional species that were chosen to replace trees that were sick or damaged along the sidewalk, including London Plane Trees and Brisbane Box. These were chosen based on replacing trees with a similar species to the existing trees already growing at those locations.



Tony Esterbrooks has been with San Francisco Public Works as a landscape architect since 2013. He feels fortunate to have the opportunity to help improve and beautify San Francisco and work with San Francisco's diverse communities.

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 on Van Ness Nears End



For five days in August, the intersection of S. Van Ness at Mission Street was closed to replace the roadway in one of San Francisco’s most important intersections.

The closure allowed for work to be done in just five days that would normally require two months completed one segment at a time. The goal was to minimize inconvenience for the public.

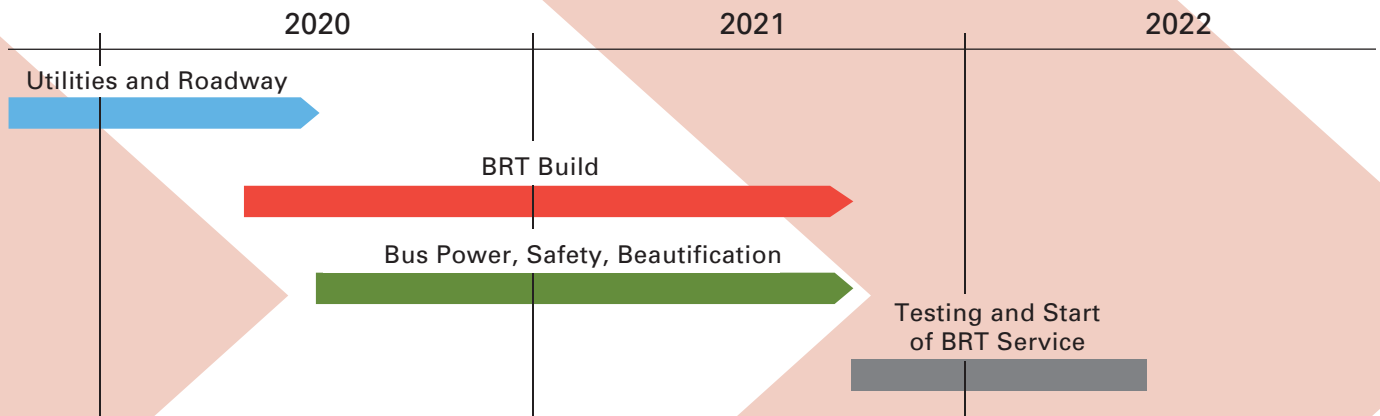
With the recent completion of the new red transit lanes along Van Ness Avenue, the Van Ness Improvement Project

is now focused on completing construction later this year: New overhead power lines for transit lines will be installed. And, crews will begin installing landscaping and irrigation systems, as well as pedestrian bulb-outs on sidewalks to aid in safer crossings for people walking.

Thank you to all the residents and travelers who have remained patient through the traffic reroutes, dust and noise! We appreciate your support and are excited to welcome you on to the new BRT in early 2022.

Project schedule

At press time, construction on Van Ness Avenue is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021. Muni and Golden Gate Transit service is expected to begin on the Bus Rapid Transit corridor in early 2022. The graphic below shows additional details about the remaining phases of the project.



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

