



Looking ahead to the end of construction

By Nehama Rogozen

Believe it or not, work on the Van Ness Improvement Project corridor is progressing rapidly and the end is in sight! Construction is projected to be finished by the end of this year, with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service running on Van Ness Avenue from Mission to Lombard beginning in early 2022 (see schedule on page 3).

With utilities work complete, the remaining work is taking place on the surface. Crews are finishing the BRT lanes, medians, road paving, sidewalk paving and installing poles that provide lighting and power the BRT system. This type of work is less disruptive and noisy than the previous utilities work, which required tearing up much of the roadway.

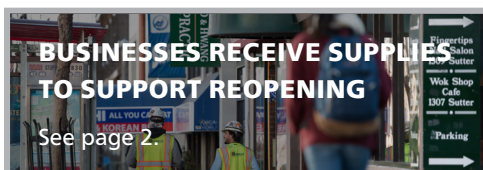
You have likely noticed the new red lanes that will allow buses to move Muni and Golden Gate Transit customers quickly, without getting stuck in traffic. To ensure durability and reduce fading, these red transit lanes are made

from poured red concrete, as opposed to red paint or thermoplastic on top of concrete.

Perhaps most visible and exciting to residents is the recent planting of hundreds of trees, with more on the way. You can read more about these new trees on page 3.

With the end of construction approaching, staff are planning for the transition that will happen sometime this fall, as construction winds down and testing on the new BRT system begins.

This step will require coordination between several SFMTA teams in order to ensure that things move smoothly as the project transitions from being a construction project to being a transit project. This step will also involve significant outreach to ensure that customers have the information they need to take advantage of San Francisco's first Bus Rapid Transit corridor when it opens.



BUSINESSES RECEIVE SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT REOPENING

See page 2.



TREES TAKE ROOT ON VAN NESS CORRIDOR

See page 3.



SCHEDULE UPDATE

See page 3.

Personal Protective Equipment distributed to Van Ness businesses

Businesses on Van Ness Avenue between Lombard and Mission streets recently received bags of personal protective equipment (PPE) to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission for themselves, their employees and their customers as the city moves towards re-opening and economic activity on the corridor increases.

This effort was spearheaded by the SFMTA, its Van Ness Business Advisory Committee and the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development,

and was modeled on a similar program designed by merchants affected by the L Taraval Improvement Project.

The bags contain hand sanitizer and face masks. Merchants could also elect to receive face shields and floor decals for social distancing.

If a business was unable to receive their bag due to limited operating hours or a closed storefront, they may contact VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com to coordinate a delivery.



You Asked!

What do I need to do if I'm moving to or from the Van Ness corridor?

If you're moving to or from a residence on Van Ness, you will need to coordinate with my team. Currently, moving trucks cannot load or unload on Van Ness. We will work with you and the construction contractor to find alternate locations on side streets that are safe and lawful for your moving truck, as well as arrange for no-parking signage at the staging location.

We make your move as smooth as possible, but can only do that if we know it's happening. Send your address, date and time of your move, and truck length to us at VanNessBRT@SFMTA.com, preferably with two weeks notice.

Let us know whether you're moving in or moving out – one factor we consider is the grade of the hill. We can avoid having your movers carry a couch uphill when it could have been carried downhill!

Please do not show up with a truck the day of the move and attempt to park in a live traffic lane. It is not safe, and you will be ticketed.



Garnet Wing has over eight years of transportation engineering and design experience working in consulting and at SFMTA. A licensed Civil Engineer, Garnet holds a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. She currently works on the Van Ness Improvement Project as part of the traffic engineering team, which handles traffic and parking issues related to project construction.

VAN NESS

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY
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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, sewer, water and emergency firefighting water system replacement; and civic improvements, including streetlight replacement, new sidewalk lighting, landscaping and rain gardens.

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Trees bring life to Van Ness corridor



Residents on Van Ness have recently seen several new trees being planted along the corridor. These trees are part of the project's commitment to replace any trees that were removed at the start of construction at a ratio of more than 2 to 1.

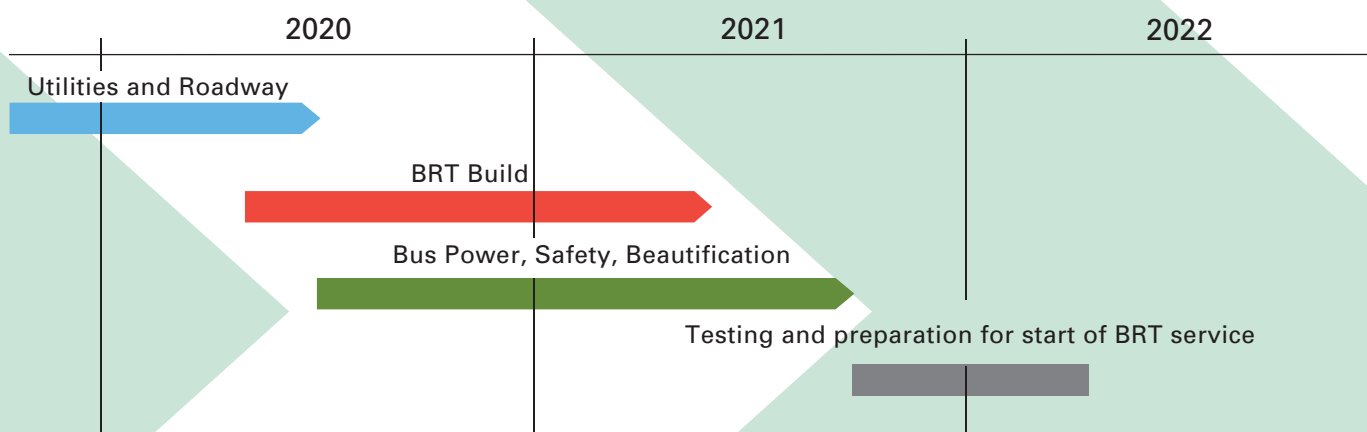
These trees were grown at nurseries in Colma and Linden specifically for The Van Ness Improvement Project. They were grown in pots with a 36-inch base width, the largest size possible that would allow for healthy and effective transplanting.

New irrigation systems were installed ensure that the trees receive the proper amount of water to thrive, with minimal waste.

There are four species of trees being planted: Lemon-Scented Gum in the median and London Plane, Brisbane Box and Palm in sidewalk tree wells where similar species were planted previously. These species were selected for their suitability to the neighborhood and growing environment along a state highway.

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.

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