

VAN NESS

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

FALL 2017 | ISSUE 6



Traffic Changes on Van Ness

By Sean Cronin

The Van Ness Improvement Project includes several phases of construction that require changing the way drivers get around on Van Ness Avenue. For each of these phases, a comprehensive plan must be developed that describes any changes and how drivers will be expected to navigate the newly configured roadway. These plans are detailed, require extensive vetting, and must be approved before work can begin.

In the coming weeks, as construction moves from the median of Van Ness to the curb for utility replacement, drivers can expect quite a few changes in the way they get around on the street. Traffic lanes will be shifted away from the curb and onto the recently repaved median, making room for the water and sewer work to be done over the next two years.

Drivers will also be routed around 12 protected trees in the median.

To best prepare drivers for these changes, traffic engineers from the SFMTA and Walsh Construction have been working closely together to develop a comprehensive traffic control plan that considers all vehicle types, drivers and pedestrians.

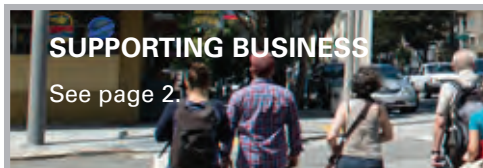
The traffic control plan for the upcoming utility replacements includes information related to roadway signs, traffic lane configurations and construction barricades. Every detail is accounted for, including the type of material to be used and its proper placement. Other information, like the width of each traffic lane and the length of any transition lanes for vehicles turning onto or off Van Ness, is also included and vetted through an

extensive review process with safety as a top priority.

But the traffic control plan isn't limited to drivers. Any changes for people who are walking or taking transit on Van Ness are also included in the plans, which highlight changes to sidewalk access and bus stop locations. This will be a critical component of the plan for the upcoming work as water and sewer lines are installed in the same spot buses pull over to pick up passengers today. "It's like an intricate dance to keep everyone moving on Van Ness," remarks project manager Peter Gabancho.

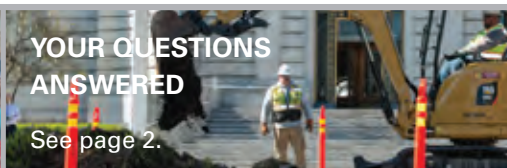
Once the final plan is vetted and approved following state and local guidelines, the project must adhere to it throughout that particular phase of work. Similarly,

SEE TRAFFIC, PAGE 2



SUPPORTING BUSINESS

See page 2.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

See page 2.



FIND YOUR WAY

See page 3.



Open for Business on Van Ness

Recognizing the difficulties that may arise for businesses during construction projects, the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) has created the Open for Business program. The Open for Business program will provide direct and customized marketing support to Van Ness corridor businesses through construction.

To identify the perspectives and priorities of local businesses along the corridor Van Ness merchants were surveyed, collecting responses from more than 75 percent of corridor businesses. Survey responses are helping those administering the Van Ness Open for Business program ensure that is tailored to meet the unique needs of the corridor. If you have questions about the program or how you can get involved, email vannessBRT@sfmta.com.

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Traffic changes: Utility work begins

a phase of work cannot begin until a traffic control plan is finalized and approved. If something isn't working as expected, though, there is still room for adjustment. Revisions would follow a similar approval process.

Over the next three years, as construction of the project progresses, there will be several changes to the way people interact with the street. But whether you're on a bus, in a car or on foot, the changes will make the corridor safer and more efficient while you wait for an improved Van Ness.

You Asked!

Why is Van Ness reduced to two lanes on blocks where there isn't active construction?

For safety and circulation while providing space to do construction work, Van Ness Avenue has been reduced to two lanes in each direction. While it may seem practical to open lanes to traffic where there is no active construction work to give traffic more space, safety and related logistics prevent this from being a possibility. Clear signage and lane markings help drivers stay safe in the construction zone. Significant logistics and resources would be required to adjust these as the construction progresses along the corridor. Meanwhile, a changing and unpredictable roadway configuration in the construction zone would be less safe and more difficult for drivers to navigate.



Joey Aduvoso, Office/Field Engineer at San Francisco Public Works, is involved in construction management for the Van Ness Improvement Project and looks for opportunities to integrate the Public Works core values of respect, integrity and responsiveness to the project.

VAN NESS

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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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.

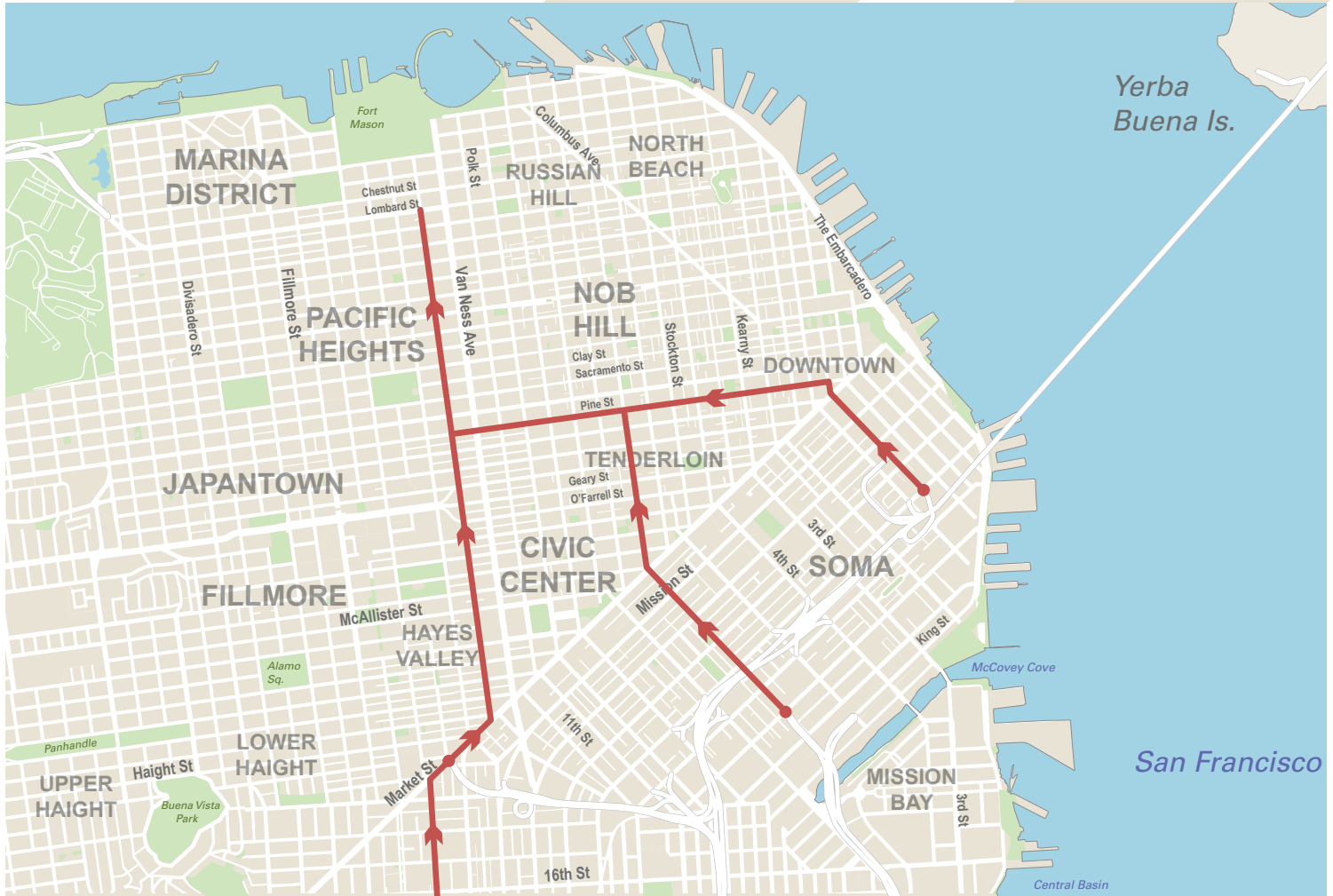
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GET AROUND

Navigating to western San Francisco without turning left on Van Ness

With left turns permanently removed from Van Ness Avenue to improve safety and circulation on the corridor, here are driving directions to assist people navigating to destinations west of Van Ness Avenue from the south and east. Directions are also available at sfmta.com/vanness.



From Bay Bridge

Exit Harrison or Fremont. Continue onto Fremont then Front streets. Turn left onto Pine Street and right onto Franklin Street.

From US-101 North

Turn right onto Market Street and left onto Franklin Street.

From 280 North

Exit 6th St. Continue onto 6th Street then Taylor Street. Turn left onto Turk Street, right onto Leavenworth, left onto Pine Street, right onto Franklin Street.

From Southeast San Francisco

Use Guerrero Street to get to Market Street. Turn left onto Franklin Street.





OFFICE HOURS

Community Drop-In Office Hours

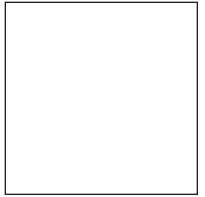
Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m

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. You may also contact project staff directly by emailing vannessbrt@sfmta.com or calling 415.646.2310.



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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