

48 Quintara-24th Street Safety

March 2023 Frequently Asked Questions



Why was the bus re-routed in July 2022 off of Third Street and onto Tennessee Street?

The reroute was due to safety reasons involving the turn from 3rd Street onto 20th Street, where there have been collisions involving buses in recent years. Because of the tight turns at 20th Street and 3rd Street, we have seen seven bus crashes at 20th Street between January 2021 to June 2022:

- Wednesday, April 28, 2021
- Tuesday, June 29, 2021
- Wednesday, June 16, 2021
- Friday, September 24, 2021
- Thursday, October 21, 2021
- Monday, December 27, 2021
- Thursday, March 31, 2022

Every collision involving a Muni vehicle is a cause for concern. They highlight potential for more serious collisions and every incident, no matter how minor, impacts transit service delivery. When a collision happens, that bus must be taken out of service, and the operator must turn their attention to the response to the crash instead of continuing on their run to serve riders. Additionally, vehicle repairs are costly.

Why wasn't a bus test done years ago that would have highlighted the difficult turn from Third Street onto 20th Street?

The safety issue is one that became worse in recent years, likely due to increased car travel on Dogpatch streets as the neighborhood's population doubled in recent years, and nearby destinations like Crane Cove Park and Mission Bay brought more people to the streets. Additionally, Shared Spaces added on 20th Street further constrained the street space available for buses and other vehicles navigating this space.

How did the July 2022 re-route that put the 48 route onto Tennessee Street happen without public hearings?

The SFMTA often makes routine changes due to technical or safety needs and the level of engagement with the community on these changes varies.

The SFMTA has broad discretion over routine and related changes. This is a critical part of the flexibility needed to run a complex and dynamic public transit system that requires regular adjustments for myriad reasons.

While we strive to consult the community on bus service or routing changes whenever possible, in some situations the need for a change due to safety heavily impacts the decision to make the change.

48 Quintara-24th Street Safety

March 2023 Frequently Asked Questions



Many streets in SF are difficult for buses to navigate so we often utilize certain streets that meet the necessary conditions for bus operation.

In the case of the 48 Quintara-24th Street, the bus was rerouted onto a street already designed for transit. The only stop affected by this change was the last stop one block before the terminal, which was mostly a drop-off only stop. Additionally, this change did not affect parking, which would have otherwise required a public hearing.

To inform community members, SFMTA staff notified community members in advance of this change through:

- June 14, 2022, DNA meeting update
- Change notification on Travel & Transit updates on SFMTA website
- Posting signage at affected locations on route, including the removed stop

After the changing the routing to include Tennessee Street in July 2022, we have received significant community feedback, which led us to consider a new re-route for the 48 Quintara-24th Street. For this reason, we reached out to the community to better understand preferences between its current routing and a possible re-route using Illinois and Maryland streets. From the survey results, it was clear the respondents preferred the alternate route that would take the route off of Tennessee Street, which is consistent with other feedback we have received.

While we understand the community's preference for rerouting the 48 Quintara-24th Street from Tennessee Street, we fortunately have not seen the same crash history that existed from the previous routing. In the nine months since service has moved to Tennessee Street, we have seen zero crashes occur there – by comparison, during the same timeframe in 2021-2022, there were four collisions involving Muni vehicles. That being said, we are working on alternate routing options that will remove the route from Tennessee Street.

Did the SFMTA test the current route that includes Tennessee Street before the July 2022 re-route?

Our bus tests are valuable in identifying pinch points, visibility issues and other constraints with existing street geometry. Through the bus test in January 2022, we were able to test turns from 22nd Street to Tennessee Street and from Tennessee Street to 20th Street and verified that the bus could safely operate on Tennessee Street and maneuver these turns, which remains true.

The 55 Dogpatch uses Tennessee Street, but that is a temporary route. That doesn't justify using Tennessee street for the 48 Quintara-24th Street long-term.

48 Quintara-24th Street Safety

March 2023 Frequently Asked Questions



The Tennessee Street routing was supported by community for current 55 Dogpatch routing. While we plan to move the terminal to the Potrero Power Station development site, this depends on the development's construction of streets and facilities, which depend on this development's years-long timeline.

I sometimes see buses saying 'Out of Service' on Tennessee Street – why are 'Out of Service' vehicles using Tennessee Street?

Because the 48 Quintara/24th Street travels on Tennessee Street directly before its final stop, you will regularly see an 'Out of Service' message displayed on buses that are in-service but en route to their last stop. After a bus's second-to-last stop, it no longer picks up passengers, so the 'Out of Service' message may display. The displays on the vehicles are all controlled by an automatic system that uses geographic references. Sometimes there is a delay in the systems updating especially at the beginning or end of a route.

I've seen buses doubling parking, picking up passengers in the middle of the street, or speeding on Tennessee Street – what can I do?

To your report of operators stopping on Tennessee Street midblock to allow passengers to board or alight, please share more information with Brian Haagsman (Brian.Haagsman@SFMTA.com), including the four-digit vehicle number and the time of the incident so we can investigate and remedy this. We do not have a bus stop there so we need to further investigate this reporting.

Thank you for raising your concerns with bus speeds on Tennessee Street. Unsafe speeds are cause for concern, and inspectors were sent out to observe if buses were speeding on Tennessee Street. During their observations, they did not observe buses speeding. We will have them go back out to do some additional observations as well as reminding operators of the speed limit on Tennessee Street.

What is next for getting buses off Tennessee Street?

We are now doing evaluation of alternate routing to remove the 48 Quintara-24th Street from Tennessee Street.

In the community survey that was offered from late January to late February, we shared one alternate routing that would take it bus through Pier 70 along Maryland Street. Unfortunately, we have since learned that that routing is not possible.

In our analysis, we consulted with peer City agencies and reviewed previously approved documents associated with nearby major developments at Pier 70 and the Potrero Power Station. Future SFMTA service routes were previously defined through extensive planning processes for these development projects that included high levels of participation

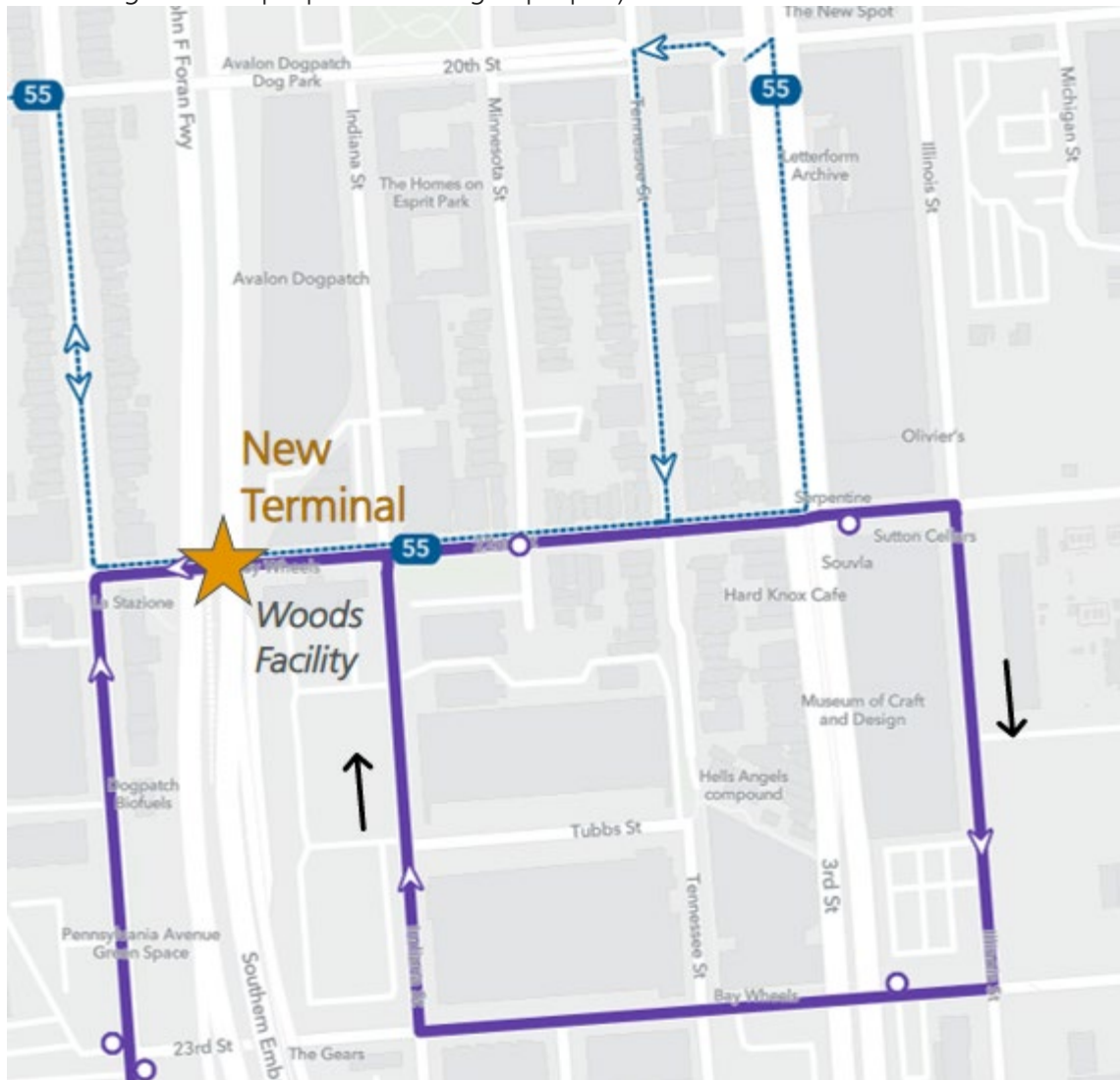
48 Quintara-24th Street Safety



SFMTA

March 2023 Frequently Asked Questions

from the Dogpatch community. Additionally, advancing this route would require the re-route to be dependent on the development timeline of Pier 70, and we understand the community's desire to move as quickly as possible to establish a new route that does not include Tennessee Street. Based on this, the SFMTA has developed alternate routing that responds to the community's preference for moving Route 48 off Tennessee Street that we are now evaluating. See the proposed routing in purple:)



Even if we can move forward with this routing, it will take a few months to move the route. We will need to get through the appropriate reviews and approvals for any parking impacts that will be necessary.

Why can't the 48 route be moved off Tennessee Street immediately?

48 Quintara-24th Street Safety

March 2023 Frequently Asked Questions



When determining a change to a route, the SFMTA must identify an alternate route that meets several needs: street geometry that allows for bus movements; connectivity to nearby destinations and transfer points; terminal needs, such as bathroom facilities; community input; route efficiency and more.

Even once an alternate route is proposed, we may need to hold public hearings and receive the SFMTA Board's and/or City Traffic Engineer's approval for changes (e.g. if parking is to be removed). And once an alternate route is approved, we need to make sure our riders know about the change via outreach like postings at stops, email/text communications to riders and also by incorporating these changes to third-party information sources: for example, Google Maps, Apple Maps and Transit app.

All these changes take time, and while we can do as much as possible to make progress move quickly, some of these steps depend on processes that we don't control, such as the legislative calendar, noticing requirements and third-party app updates, among others.

Who can I contact with other questions about the 48 Quintara-24th Street's routing through the Dogpatch?

Please contact Brian Haagsman at Brian.Haagsman@SFMTA.com or 415.646.2410.