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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, May 24, 2016 Contact: Paul Rose 415.601.1637, cell paul.rose@sfmta.com

PRESS RELEASE

First Step for Van Ness BRT: Consolidating Bus Stops to Save Travel Time

San Francisco—The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) today reminded the public that bus stops at nine locations on Van Ness Avenue will be consolidated in preparation for the start of the construction of the Van Ness Improvement Project this summer. The change will go into effect on Saturday, June 4.

The new stop spacing will align with the plan for San Francisco's first Bus Rapid Transit route, which will come with a package of transportation improvements to make Muni faster and more reliable. The idea is to provide an early boost for the 47 Van Ness, 49 Van Ness/Mission and 90 San Bruno Owl routes and help minimize travel delays during construction, which is expected to finish in 2019.

Here are the nine stops being discontinued:

Southbound

- **Greenwich Street** •
- **Pacific Avenue**
- Pine Street •
- **Grove Street**

Northbound

- **Greenwich Street** •
- California Street •
- Post Street •
- **Turk Street** •
- **Grove Street**

After consolidation, the bus stop locations will reflect as closely as possible where 18 furnished and accessible boarding islands will be built for the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit system.

These stops were selected through extensive community input and based on characteristics like stop spacing, street grades, transfer routes and passenger usage. When Van Ness BRT opens, Muni buses will have center-running transit-only lanes served by accessible boarding platforms at each stop.

To help inform customers and provide guidance on the stop changes, the SFMTA will have ambassadors along Van Ness beginning Monday. For the latest information on the Van Ness Improvement Project, be sure to <u>sign up for updates</u>. Customers can also contact the project team by emailing <u>vannessbrt@sfmta.com</u>.

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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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