Mission Bay Loop

Project Background

In 2007, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) began the T Third Street light rail service traveling through the Market Street Muni Metro stations and terminating in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood. The Mission Bay Loop (MBL) was designed as part of Phase 1 of the Third Street Light Rail Project, completed in 2003. An Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the project was completed and approved in 1999 by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the City and County of San Francisco.

Due to budget constraints, construction of the Loop was deferred. Approximately fifteen years after the EIS/EIR for the Third Street Light Rail Project was completed, the project secured funding under a partnership with the FTA for allocation of $10 million TIGER funds through the Department of Transportation and the Lifeline Transportation Program from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). In 2013, the FTA approved an updated Environmental Assessment for the Loop and construction commenced in mid-2015.

Benefits

The Mission Bay Loop is a key component for the City’s T Third Street light rail line and is critical to operating the T Third Central Subway service plan. The Loop provides turn-around capabilities for the T Third Street light rail line via a connection of trackway from Third Street to 18th Street, Illinois, and 19th streets, which will allow the SFMTA to operate the necessary service levels needed to support current and planned growth within the central waterfront area of San Francisco.

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