



Planning for the Future in Southeast San Francisco

Over the past decade, the southeast part of San Francisco from Mission Bay to Visitacion Valley has seen a surge in infill development such as the [Chase Center](#), the [Visitacion Valley/Schlage Lock Plan](#) and the [Candlestick Park and Hunters Point Shipyard](#). Many neighborhoods have also long seen disinvestment and a lack of sufficient transportation infrastructure. To begin to correct historical inequities and support new growth in this area, the SFMTA has executed a number of transportation related project since 2007.



Looking back to 2007, the T Third Light Rail service that links the Sunnydale neighborhood to Embarcadero Muni Metro Station helped improved transit access to downtown. Most recently, the development of the Mission Bay Loop between 3rd, 18th, Illinois, and 19th streets ensures that the T Third line can support peak period demand and special events at Oracle Park and Chase Center, while ensuring a reduction in pass ups and gaps to support customers traveling further south towards the Bayview and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods. The [Central Subway Project](#) that is expected to begin service next year, improves the T Third by directly linking mostly underground service from the 4th Street Caltrain Station to Chinatown. Despite these improvements, the SFMTA will continue to address customer concerns around service frequency, reliability, and crowding on the T Third.

As part of the agency's commitment to ensure transit is accessible, reliable, and affordable to all Muni customers the Muni Service Equity Strategy launched in 2014. The strategy focuses on nine Equity Neighborhoods including (e.g. Bayview, Chinatown, Mission, Oceanview/Ingleside, Outer Mission/Excelsior, Tenderloin/South of Market, Treasure Island, Western Addition, and Visitacion Valley). Around the same time, the [Bayview Community Based Transportation Plan](#) (Bayview CBTP) received a Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant to conduct community outreach and planning to understand how to use a \$600,000 grant administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to improve Lifeline Transportation services for residents with low incomes in the Bayview. The grant has spurred [Bayview Quick-Build](#) projects that are now in the planning phase or underway to improve pedestrian and bicycle visibility and access, and improve traffic flow and reduce speeds.

Most recently, the [Southeast Muni Expansion](#) project, whose goal is to update the Candlestick-Hunters Point Shipyard developments' transit plan to better address the current and future transit needs of the community, partnered with the Muni Service Equity Strategy, the Bayview Community Based Transportation Plan, and The San Francisco County Transportation Authority's (SFCTA) [District 10 Mobility Study](#) project teams to conduct community outreach and collect feedback. They received feedback from hundreds of Muni customers and Bayview-Hunters Point, Hunters View, and Visitacion Valley community members about their mobility needs and what Muni service performance improvements they would like prioritized.



Southeast Muni Expansion Outreach

The Southeast Muni Expansion team asked community members to review and fill out hard-copy and electronic surveys about ten (10) options involving Muni bus routes, route extensions and reroutes, and more frequent service on existing bus routes that could be incorporated in the Candlestick Point-Hunters Point Shipyard transit plan. Survey takers were asked to “like” or “dislike” each bus route option presented, in addition to picking their top three (3) choices or suggesting new ones. Due to the fixed amount of funding resources, the SFMTA will prioritize the community’s preferred bus route options to determine which ones to implement first.

Survey Results

The project team heard from residents in the Bayview, Hunters Point, Executive Park, Little Hollywood, and Visitacion Valley and received nearly 800 survey responses!

The survey produced the following top three choices:

- Option 4** – A new bus route between the Mission and Bayview neighborhoods
- Option 7** – Improve the 29 Sunset bus route
- Option 9** – A new express bus route between the Bayview and downtown



How the Southeast Muni Expansion informed other southeast projects

Collectively, community outreach that occurred between 2017 and 2020 helped inform existing projects that are taking place in Bayview-Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley.

The Bayview CBTP developed final recommendations based on what they heard at the joint community meetings. In addition, crosswalk corridor upgrades on Keith, Jennings, and Ingalls streets were completed in fall 2020.

One of the top options from the Southeast Muni Expansion survey is the Hunters Point Express a new route that connects the Shipyard with downtown. This feedback ushered the development of the new [Bayview Hunters Point Express](#) with many Bayview community leaders providing guidance and recommendations. A second community survey asked residents and riders to select a detailed, preferred route option. The new Muni route will run between Palou & Third Street, and 3rd and Market streets in downtown.



Another top priority identified in the Southeast Muni Expansion survey is improvements to the existing 29 Sunset, a cross-town bus route that serves several schools. This led to the launch of the [29 Sunset Improvement Project](#), which started in 2019 and solicited feedback from diverse stakeholder groups including students who rely on the 29 Sunset from the Bayview, Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods.

The initial project goals were to engage with the community to identify strategies to address long wait times and pass-ups due to crowded buses (pre-COVID-19). Although the project is currently on hold due to the ongoing pandemic and subsequent school closures, the 29 Sunset has remained a key route in the Muni Core Service Plan with frequent service to reduce crowding and support social distancing.

Joint outreach with the Muni Service Equity Strategy Fiscal Years 2019 to 2020 resulted in a number of Bayview-Hunters Point specific recommendations. The Equity Strategy Fiscal Years 2020 to 2021 also drew from the Southeast Muni Expansion outreach for updated recommendations. Some recommendations from both Equity Strategy reports include:

- Increase service on the T Third to reduce crowding
- Explore an express service from Bayview to downtown (now known as the 15 Bayview-Hunters Point Express route)
- Increase service on the 29 Sunset route and continue a community-based process to implement service improvements (the 29 Sunset Improvement Project)
- Increase service on the 8/8AX/8BX Bayshore routes to reduce crowding
- Upgrade weekday bus size on the 9R San Bruno Rapid from 40' to 60'
- Explore alignment adjustments on the 54 Felton to improve reliability on the entire route

Community members expressed a desire for improvements in travel time on the 54 Felton, a route, which connects the Bayview with Daly City BART and also serves Oceanview, Excelsior, and Portola neighborhoods. The [54 Felton Project](#) realigned the route in the Excelsior neighborhood to run more directly on Moscow Street, while continuing to serve critical schools like the June Jordan School for Equity. The new alignment was part of a Muni service change in fall 2019.

What's Next for Southeast San Francisco

As result of the extensive community outreach conducted around the Bayview CBTP, a number of planned Bayview Quick-Build projects will be installed in the next two years:

- February 2021: Evans and Innes avenues and Hunters Point Boulevard
- Summer/Fall 2021: Evans Avenue (Cesar Chavez to 3rd Street) and Williams Avenue (Phelps to 3rd streets)
- Winter 2021/2022: Nine pedestrian curb extensions (bulb-outs) and two pedestrian crossing signs known as rapid flashing pedestrian beacons (located at Williams Avenue and Apollo Street and at Innes Avenue and Arelious Walker Drive)

The next southeast community-based transportation plan began in November 2020 and focuses on the Visitacion Valley neighborhood and portions of the Portola neighborhood. The project team is currently reviewing previous planning efforts, including the Southeast Muni Expansion Project, to ensure familiarity with already conveyed needs without burdening the community with additional, unnecessary outreach. In-person outreach is anticipated to start in Fall 2021 and will last approximately a year, during which time community members can provide direct feedback to project staff. The project will wrap up at the end of 2022, resulting in a heavily community influenced transportation plan that prioritizes transportation investment in the neighborhoods.

The 15 Bayview-Hunters Point Express will launch Saturday, January 21, 2021. Further, the 29 Sunset Improvement Project will resume once public health restrictions lessen around in person public gatherings.

SFMTA staff is currently in the process of determining the funding sources needed to implement the remaining transit improvements identified in the Southeast Muni Expansion Project. These improvements are intended to be incorporated into the Candlestick Point-Hunters Point Shipyard transportation plans. If construction schedules for the development projects change, the timeline for implementing bus service improvements would change as well. Staff also began sharing the survey results and revised plans at community events as the shelter-in-place mandate took effect. The project team intends to continue sharing updates in-person once it is safe and appropriate to do so. Visit [SFMTA.com/SouthEastMuni](https://www.sfmta.com/SouthEastMuni) for project updates.