



Brick by brick, upgrading our aging infrastructure

We recently reached a major milestone in the Geary Rapid Project, wrapping up the first segment of utility work between Masonic and Fillmore streets. In coordination with San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), aging water and sewer mains—some dating back to 1840—have been replaced on those blocks with new pipelines. These new utility mains are more earthquake-resistant, can better withstand the effects of climate change, and will help ensure neighbors have uninterrupted sewer and water service for many years to come.

New fiber optic cable conduits were also completed on this segment, which will allow more reliable communications between traffic signals and make it possible to deliver future high-speed internet service.

As contractors clear the area to make way for street-level improvements like bus and pedestrian bulbs, crews are already underway installing utilities on the next segment from Fillmore Street to Van Ness Avenue. Work is also being done east of Van Ness Avenue to replace water mains.



Some sections of the sewer system being replaced on Geary are over a hundred years old and made of brick. The new system is being built with a combination of vitrified clay pipe and high-density polyethylene/plastic.

GEARY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

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PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TOOLKIT

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PROJECT SCHEDULE

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Safety improvements are coming to Geary

By Amy Fowler

Geary has the unfortunate designation of being part of San Francisco’s “High-Injury Network”, meaning that it’s one of only 13 percent of city streets where 75 percent of severe and fatal traffic injuries occur. Or, to look at it another way, a person walking on Geary is eight times more likely to be involved in a serious collision than on the average street in San Francisco. And seniors are at an even greater risk, comprising at least half of traffic fatalities.

To address this problem, the Geary Rapid Project includes a host of safety improvements from Stanyan to Market streets. Crews recently installed new pedestrian bulbs at O’Farrell and Larkin streets, the first of dozens of new bulbs that are planned at 18 intersections along the corridor. These pedestrian bulbs will include accessible curb ramps to allow people with disabilities to travel safely on the corridor, along with new curb ramps at some other locations where no pedestrian bulb is planned.

New or newly signalized crosswalks will also be installed at Commonwealth, Cook, Steiner, Webster and Buchanan streets, giving people more options to safely cross the street. These and four other crosswalks will have improved pedestrian refuges built in the medians—thumbnail-shaped concrete cutouts that provide a physical barrier to wait in if a person can’t cross the street in one traffic signal cycle.

While refuges are a good tool in our safety arsenal, pedestrian walk signals should ideally be long enough to allow people of all abilities to comfortably cross the street. In fall 2019, several traffic

signals along Geary were adjusted to meet new city standards and lengthen crossing times for people walking. Pedestrian countdown signals are also being added to intersections that don’t have them already.

By spring 2021, when these improvements are expected to be completed, Geary will be a safer, more enjoyable place for people to walk.



Crews recently installed the first of several pedestrian bulbs planned as part of the project at O’Farrell and Larkin streets.



Rendering of future crosswalk that will be installed at Geary and Buchanan.

The Geary Rapid Project, on Geary and O’Farrell between Stanyan and Market streets, aims to improve one of San Francisco’s busiest corridors with much-needed safety improvements and more reliable bus service.

NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY

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You Asked!

Can my business continue to receive deliveries during construction?

Contractors are required to maintain access to properties’ entryways at all times during construction. At times, crews may need to temporarily use loading spaces to access construction areas or store materials. While work zones typically can’t be relocated, often we can find a mutually agreeable solution to coordinate around a business’ loading schedule or create a new loading zone. If your business has a loading zone that is being impacted by construction, please contact the Geary Rapid Project team—we’re here to help!

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Breaking down the tools in our pedestrian safety toolkit

By Sophia Scherr

In addition to making transit more reliable, the Geary Rapid Project is improving safety for pedestrians by incorporating Vision Zero SF, the City of San Francisco's commitment to eliminate traffic deaths, safety treatments into the project design.

Beyond street design and engineering, there are two other areas of efforts to improve traffic safety: education and enforcement. "Educating the public on traffic safety and safety tools is one of the goals of Vision Zero SF," said Uyen Ngo, Outreach and Education Coordinator for the program, who recently worked with the Geary Rapid Project team to provide important Vision Zero Speed Safety campaign materials to Kaiser Permanente and Japantown garage drivers and employees.

A plethora of safety treatments are being implemented as part of the project and across the City, but the terminology can be confusing. Here's a breakdown of some of the tools in our safety toolkit, so that you can be a pedestrian safety expert.



Daylighting – Makes people walking more visible to drivers by converting the parking space closest to the intersection to a red painted curb



Advanced limit lines – Provides extra space between vehicles stopping at intersections and people in the crosswalk



Painted safety zones – Quick and cost-effective way to create distance between people walking and turning vehicles, and prompts vehicles to slow down as they turn



Pedestrian bulbs – Extends the sidewalk at intersection corners to make pedestrians more visible to motorists, shortens crossing distances and reduces vehicle turning speeds



Pedestrian countdown signals Let people walking know how much time they have left to safely cross the street



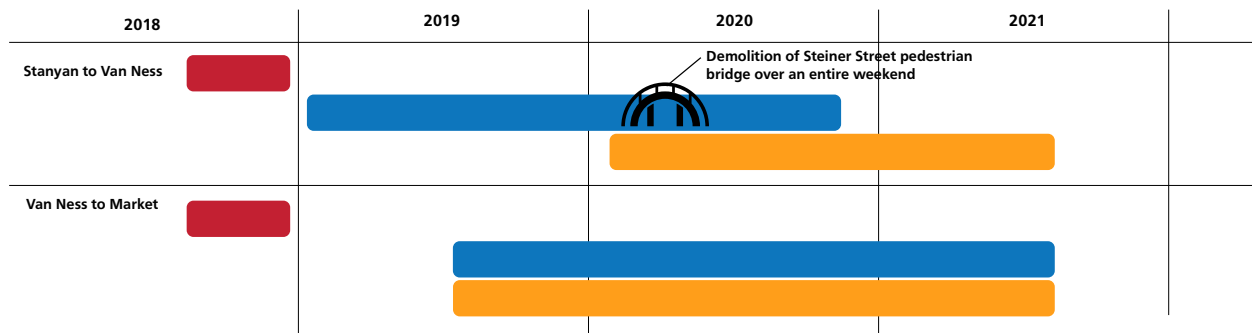
Rapid flashing beacon (RFP) Improvement to traditional crosswalk that uses LED flashing lights to make drivers more aware of people in the crosswalk



Shark's teeth – Shows drivers where to yield to pedestrians for safer crossings

Have you spotted one of these pedestrian safety treatments on Geary or somewhere else? Snap a picture and send it to GearyRapid@SFMTA.com to win a Geary Rapid Project goodie bag!

PROJECT SCHEDULE



Transit and safety treatments



Bus-only lanes



Pedestrian safety treatments



38 Bus stop changes



Roadway striping changes

Utility upgrades



Water main replacement on Geary (Masonic to Market)



Fiber-optic cable conduits (Stanyan to Gough)



Sewer main replacement (primarily Masonic to Van Ness)

Major transit and safety improvements



Bus bulbs



Upgraded traffic signals



Pedestrian bulbs



Roadway repaving (Masonic to Van Ness)

Stay Informed

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For questions or comments, please contact us at GearyRapid@SFMTA.com or 415.646.2300.

如有疑問或需要免費語言協助, 請發電子郵件至 GearyRapid@SFMTA.com 或致電415.646.2300。

Si tiene preguntas o para servicio gratis para el idioma, póngase en contacto con GearyRapid@SFMTA.com o 415.646.2300.



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