



VTA Rapid 522 Bus Service

Overview

VTA's Rapid 522 supplements VTA Line 22 service along the El Camino Real/Santa Clara Street/Alum Rock Avenue corridor. This corridor is the backbone of the VTA bus network, carrying over 20,000 daily riders, or 20% of VTA's bus ridership.

Rapid 522 provides faster, more frequent, and more direct service along the 26-mile route through the use of state-of-the-art technology and service enhancements. Travel time reductions of up to 25% are experienced when comparing Rapid 522 to Line 22. Daily weekday ridership on Rapid 522 is over 5,200 passengers. Since the inception of Rapid 522 service in July 2005, total corridor ridership has increased 15%.

Special signage along the bus route denotes VTA Rapid Service stops.



Rapid 522 Low-floor articulated bus with capacity for up to 97 passengers.

Program Features

Buses: VTA operates both standard 40-foot and 60-foot, high capacity articulated buses to transport more passengers along the corridor. Rapid 522 buses are specially wrapped to be easily distinguished from other VTA buses operating along the corridor. Low-floor buses allow for quick and easy passenger boarding and exiting.

Bus Signal Priority (BSP): BSP provides an advantage for buses when traveling through many intersections, by extending green traffic signals or reducing the red phase of traffic signals when a bus is approaching. BSP was developed and installed at 55 intersections along El Camino Real from Palo Alto to Race Street in San Jose by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in collaboration with VTA. BSP will be installed at additional intersections in San Jose in 2006 and 2007.

Limited Stops: Stops are spaced approximately one-half to one-mile apart compared to stop-spacing of a quarter-mile apart for local bus service.

Frequent Service: Rapid 522 operates every 15 minutes between 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. on weekdays and 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Rapid 522 does not operate on Sundays.

Headway-Based Schedules: Buses serve each bus stop approximately every 15 minutes. Rapid 522 buses will travel as fast as traffic and signals allow, meaning buses do not sit idle at bus stops when ahead of published time-schedules.

Queue-Jump Lanes: Allow buses to bypass traffic at congested intersections, by making use of an exclusive right-turn lane and a "receiving" lane across the intersection. Initial queue-jump lanes are located at the Page Mill Road and Arastradero intersections in Palo Alto.

Full Accessibility: Rapid 522 buses and facilities are fully accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

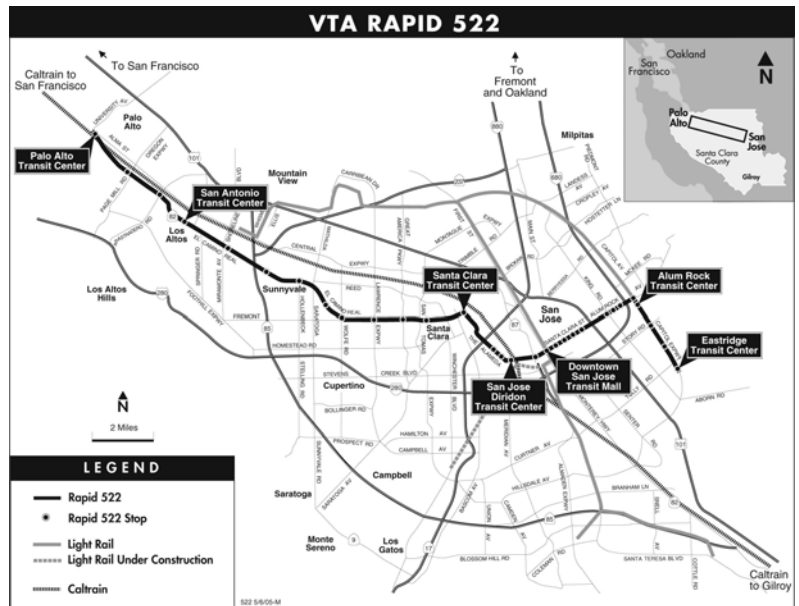


522 Rapid Service Route

VTA 522 Rapid Service operates along the east-west length of Santa Clara County between the Eastridge Shopping Center in San Jose and the Palo Alto Transit Center.

The corridor is 26 miles long and includes the cities of San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Los Altos and Palo Alto.

Rapid 522 operates along a 26-mile corridor through six cities in Santa Clara County.



Program Partners



Program Funding

Phase One:

\$3.5 million: \$1.6 million in funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air for queue-jump lanes and BSP implementation.

Future Phases:

VTA's 2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program includes local funding to design and construct BRT corridors in Santa Clara County.

Program Schedule

Phase One: Includes Bus Signal Priority, limited stops, frequent service, headway-based schedules, queue-jump lanes and near-level boarding. Service began July 2005.

Future Phases: Rapid 522 Bus Service is the precursor to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service in Santa Clara County. Stevens Creek Boulevard and Monterey Highway have been identified as potential BRT corridors.

Future improvements will include permanent rail-like stations, more BSP intersections, real-time passenger information at station displays and through wireless modes, new higher capacity vehicles, exclusive bus lanes, and off-vehicle fare payment

How to Reach Us

For more information on 522 Rapid Service, the Bus Rapid Transit Program, or other VTA projects, call VTA Customer Service at (408) 321-2300, TDD for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330, or visit us on the web at www.vta.org.