



Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project

Project Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) light rail system is one of the longest to be built in the U.S. in the past 50 years. It stretches for 42.2-miles throughout Santa Clara County, serving the communities of Campbell, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Milpitas and south, central and east San Jose.

The trackway in downtown San Jose has been in continuous use since construction in the late 1980s and has experienced significant rail wear, especially at locations with small radius curves. This wear has resulted in increased “wheel squeal” at those locations.

In addition, to address concerns regarding the noise created by light rail vehicles negotiating the curves, lubricants have been regularly applied to the rails and a number of granite pavers adjacent to the trackway now require cleaning or replacement.

Project Scope

The Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project will replace the curved rail at the corners of First and Devine streets, Second and Devine streets, and Second and San Carlos streets. In addition, adjacent granite pavers will be removed and cleaned or replaced, and new concrete poured, as necessary. Work at the two Second Street locations is scheduled for this spring, while work at the First and Devine location will take place this fall.

Similar track rehabilitation work at the intersection of First and San Carlos streets was completed in 2005.

Although most construction activities will be done during the day, one full weekend of continuous construction at each location will also be necessary. The light rail system in downtown San Jose will not be in service during these times. In addition, the granite pavers at both locations will be replaced during night time hours, when light rail trains are not running.

The weekday work involves sawcutting activities, and removing granite pavers and transporting them offsite for cleaning. A temporary concrete slurry will be poured to replace the removed pavers. The first full weekend of work at each intersection will include the demolition of existing concrete, placing the new rail, concrete pours and rail testing.

Neighborhood and business impacts, pedestrian safety, traffic flow in the downtown area, and public transit service have all been carefully considered during the scheduling of this project.

Traffic lane closures will be necessary on Devine, Second and San Carlos streets while crews are working. During the long weekend of work at San Carlos and Second, all westbound lanes of San Carlos between First and Second streets will be closed.

Sidewalks at both locations will remain open but temporarily reduced in width by construction fencing.

Impacts to local residents may include noise from daytime sawcutting activities and the removal of granite pavers, with weekend impacts including noise generated by demolition activities, concrete trucks and other construction vehicles, and pneumatic tools and air compressors. Impacts to light rail users include the total shutdown of light rail service on two different weekends in the downtown area, with substitute bus service instead being offered. Weekday service should not be impacted by this construction project.

Project Schedule

While VTA and its contractors strive to thoroughly investigate conditions before beginning work, conditions in the field can require changes in construction techniques or to schedules. All necessary updates will be posted to VTA's website and distributed by e-mail to interested stakeholders.

Second and Devine streets

March 31-April 11, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Sawcutting and granite paver removal

May 6-7, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Sawcutting

May 9-11, continuous 24-hour a day, 9 p.m. Friday until completed—Demolition, rail work, concrete pour

May 19-June 16, 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.—Granite paver replacement

Second and San Carlos streets

April 14-18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Sawcutting and granite paver removal

April 22-23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Sawcutting

April 25-27, continuous 24-hour a day, 9 p.m. Friday until completed—Demolition, rail work, concrete pour

May 5-16, 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., weeknights—Granite paver replacement

First and Devine streets

Work is tentatively scheduled for October

Cost

Stacy & Witbeck, Inc. has been awarded a construction contract for \$1,791,940.

How to Contact Us

If you have any question concerning the Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project, please contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575, TDD for the hearing-impaired (408) 321-2330.

If you wish to receive electronic e-mail updates about the project, please contact: community.outreach@vta.org. Project information will also be posted in the construction update section at www.vta.org.