

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) in San Francisco

Mayor's Disability Council 7-21-2023

APS Overview

Assist persons with visual impairments to cross the street at a traffic signal by communicating in a non-visual manner:

- Slow tick tone to find button
- During walk signal, button vibrates and gives a rapid tick OR verbal message
- Button arrow aligned with crosswalk
- Sign has street name in Braille
- Holding the button down 1 second provides audio of intersection name



Current Status

- 38% of signals with APS (490 of 1285)
- 41% of signals on Vision Zero High-Injury-Network (HIN) have APS (354 out of 858).
- SFMTA has met the goal of having APS on 40% of signals on the HIN by 2024 (per 2021 Vision Zero Action Strategy)
- 100+ locations receiving APS in the next few years via various signal upgrade, Muni Forward, and miscellaneous SFMTA projects



Technical Challenges & Cost

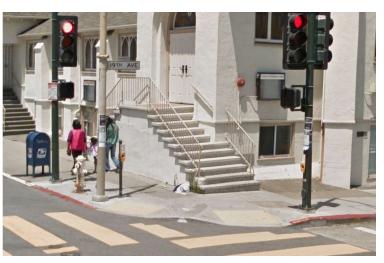
- Must have existing pedestrian countdown signals (PCS) for all crosswalks
- Existing underground pipes may be damaged/full and can not accommodate additional wiring for new PCS and/or APS (~\$150,000)
- Excavation for wiring & poles may necessitate new curb ramps (~\$200,000)



Mason and Union

Technical Challenges & Cost

- Minimum \$30,000 for new APS if ideal site conditions
- Upper range of \$1,000,000 for a new APS installation to replace all intersection components if infrastructure is old



19th Avenue and Judah



APS Included in Capital Projects

- SFMTA Policy: All new traffic signals and major signal upgrades will receive APS
- APS included with most large Streetscape, Muni Forward, Vision Zero, and Major Signal Upgrade Projects
- Most cost-efficient to include new APS with existing projects



Public Request Process

- Call 311 to request new APS or visit <u>SFMTA website</u>
- Intersections are scored and ranked based on factors including nearby ped generators, proximity to programs for the visually impaired, complex street geometry, presence of Muni, etc
- SFMTA responds with intersection rank & APS status within 90 days
- ~70 locations on request list. Most are receiving APS in next few years, while remaining locations are selected based on funding



Request an accessible crosswalk signal

SFMTA APS Website

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)

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An Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) is a pedestrian push button that communicates when to cross the street in a non-visual manner, such as audible tones, speech messages, and vibrating surfaces.

APS Statistics:

490 Number of signalized intersections equipmed with APS
68 Intersections requested to the public to have APS installed

(last updated 1-3-2023) Furthere: APS Intersection List

SFMTA's policy is to install APS at all neutrating signals and the results ting signalized intersection that is undergoing a major signal upgrade.

Requesting an APS at an Intersection

To request that the SFMTA install an APS at an intersection, a requestor may submit the intersection, their name and contact information, and the format in which the

Related Reports & Documents

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) -Additional Supporting Documents APS Technical Specifications APS Ranking Tool APS Policy

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) List of Intersections - Already Installed and Future Requests APS Intersection List 2023-01-03



https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/walk/accessible-pedestrian-signals



Maintenance & Operational Concerns

- Maintenance Issues:
 - Call 311 Field Response within 24 hours by signal shop.
 - Common issues: Button not vibrating, no audio or audio garbled
- Volume concerns: Engineering will evaluate settings (existing buttons adjust their volume up or down based on ambient noise)



Outreach

- SFMTA <u>APS Website</u>
- Twice-yearly APS status report sent to Walk SF, Lighthouse for the Blind, California Council for the Blind, Independent Living Resource Center
- Recent Events:
 - 3/24/22 WalkSF Senior and Disability Ped Safety Workgroup
 - 5/18/22 APS public informational session hosted by Community Living Campaign in coordination with Walk SF & Lighthouse
 - 5/18/22 Lighthouse APS article and interview with SFMTA
 - 11/16/22 Lighthouse SafeTea Event