



SFMTA

# 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



19<sup>th</sup> 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 [SFMTA website](#)
- 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





# SFMTA APS Website

## Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)

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SFMTA.com/AccessibleSignals



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 equipped with APS  
68 Intersections requested by the public to have APS installed  
(last updated 1-3-2023) Full list here: [APS Intersection List](#)

SFMTA's policy is to install APS at all new traffic signals and at any existing 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](#)

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Jul 1** **Innovation to Icon: 150 Years of Cable Cars**  
A collaboration between the SFMTA Photo Archive and the San Francisco History Center, this exhibit...
- Sep 30**
- Jul 11** **Potrero Yard Modernization Project Working Group Meeting #34**  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023

<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 [APS Website](#)
- 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