

Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP)

Draft Proposals to Transform Muni

Introduction

The Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) is the first comprehensive review of Muni in over a generation. The project is a joint effort of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), which operates Muni, and the Controller's Office. The TEP's preliminary proposals aim to transform Muni so people can get where they want to go quickly, reliably, and safely. The proposals would also help address Muni's structural budget deficit by making service more efficient, and would reduce traffic congestion and pollution by attracting new customers to Muni.

Highlights

- People from all parts of the City and all demographic groups said reliability was their biggest issue. San Franciscans want transit service that is on-time, consistent, predictable, and easy to use.
- Muni buses and trains make over 10,000 one-way trips per day, attracting approximately 700,000 daily boardings. Most of our customers would benefit from improvements to our 15 busiest corridors, which represent 75% of Muni boardings.
- The City's travel patterns have changed since the Muni network was last redesigned in the early 1980s. Better connections between some neighborhoods could be made, and transit service could be allocated to put more service on the most crowded routes.
- Muni travel times are significantly slower than those of other large U.S. transit agencies - leading to passenger frustration and increased costs.

TEP Priorities

Improve Reliability. Muni's reliability challenges are real and require a variety of solutions to achieve the kinds of improvements our customers demand. The first focus of the TEP is to make existing service more predictable to build customer confidence before implementing proposed route changes.

Reduce Travel Times. By reducing travel times, Muni would be able to reinvest savings into more service on the highest-demand routes. The key is to reduce unnecessary delays through strategies such as transit-only lanes, transit signal priority, and bus bulbs that allow buses to pick up passengers without pulling in and out of traffic.

Update Muni Routes. The TEP has developed a comprehensive package of draft route changes to get people where they want to go efficiently and safely. These proposals are based on a service policy framework, which establishes four route categories. The highest level of investment would go into the "Rapid Network," which most Muni customers use regularly.

Next Steps

The preliminary TEP proposals are the result of countless conversations with Muni customers and will be further refined through continued dialogue. Over the next two months, the TEP team will be collecting feedback through a variety of sources, including community workshops and the 311 Customer Service Line.

In late spring 2008, the TEP proposals will be submitted to the SFMTA Board of Directors after they have been revised to respond to community input. Route changes may happen as early as July 2009, following an environmental assessment. In the meantime, the SFMTA will continue to work to improve Muni reliability.

TEP Implementation Schedule

Reliability ... is the foundation	Improved On-time Performance Through Better Practices / Revenue-Neutral Improvements ONGOING									
Service Changes ... will not be implemented until reliability is stabilized		New Resources / Delay Reduction Teams / Systemwide Improvements and Ongoing Monitoring STARTING JULY '08								
		Proposals for Discussion / Community Meetings FEB-APR '08								
Reduced Travel Times ... will be implemented on an ongoing basis		SFMTA Board Review MAY-JUN '08								
		Environmental Assessment STARTING JUN '08								
		Implementation of Service Changes STARTING JULY '09 – CONTINUING 5-7 YRS								
		Pilot Projects to Reduce Travel Time ONGOING								
						Low-Cost Improvements STARTING 2009-2010				
		Capital-Intensive Improvements STARTING WHEN PLANNING COMPLETE								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	