

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for track replacement work and Hayward Maintenance Complex improvements between the South Hayward and Union City stations.

Why are you doing this work?

BART is moving forward with a systemwide rebuilding campaign supported by voter-approved Measure RR. The track replacement work happening near the South Hayward and Union City stations is critical to ensure the safety and reliability of the BART system for its riders. The work team will be replacing vital track components that have been in use since the start of service in 1972. Improving the Hayward Maintenance Complex will provide BART with the capacity to store more Fleet of the Future cars and support the effort to deploy more new trains. Thanks to voter-approved Measure RR there are now more rebuilding projects happening at BART than at any point in the system's history.

When will the work be happening?

Ten weekends have been scheduled for track shutdowns in South Hayward in 2022. There will be no train service between South Hayward and Union City on the following weekends: **April 16-17, April 30-May 1, May 14-15, May 28-30 (Memorial Day weekend), June 11-12, July 16-17, July 30-31, August 13-14, September 3-5 (Labor Day weekend), September 17-18.** Crews will also work during evening hours when trains are not in service throughout the project's duration. The work will also require BART to reduce service to a single track in the work area on select Saturdays and Sundays, which will cause delays of 15-20 minutes.

Why do you need to shutdown BART service instead of just reducing service around the work?

Safety always comes first for BART. That's true for our riders as well as our work crews. This project involves the removal and replacement of oversized trackway components making it impossible to run trains through the work area during much of the construction. Also, BART worker-safety rules prevent train service from continuing during this sort of work. Track maintenance at BART typically happens in the overnight hours when there is no service, but a project of this scope is too large to happen in such a short amount of time.

Why is this work happening now?

There's never a good time for a track shutdown but during this time of reduced ridership because of the global pandemic the work will impact fewer riders. BART strives to avoid track shutdowns, but they are necessary to perform large-scale rail replacement and rebuilding work such as is happening near the South Hayward and Union City stations. As much work as possible will be performed during overnight hours so we can limit the number of weekends when we must shut down the tracks. By doing shutdown weekends over holidays it gives crews the extra time they need to get the work done as quickly as possible.

Why are you doing a track shutdown during multiple holiday weekends?

These weekends are traditionally low-ridership periods for BART. Doing this work during three-day weekends allows BART to impact fewer people while gaining a huge increase in construction productivity. Whenever BART does track replacement work it takes a combined 14 hours to decommission a section of track and later recertify that the replacement track is ready for service. This fixed amount of time is a key factor in planning for any track project. During a typical weekend shutdown that allows a window of approximately 36 hours for productive construction work. But during a three-day period that window is extended up to 60 hours. That represents a nearly 67% increase in time for productive construction.

What's a bus bridge and how will it work?

Since we're unable to run trains between the South Hayward and Union City stations on shutdown weekends, regular service will be replaced with free buses provided by AC Transit between those stations. Riders at those two stations will be directed by BART staff on to the appropriate bus. There will be extra BART staff at both stations to help you.

Are bicycles allowed on the bus bridge?

Yes. AC Transit buses are all outfitted with racks to accommodate bicycles. Each AC Transit bus typically has a capacity of three bicycles.

Will the track shutdown between South Hayward and Union City impact BART service elsewhere in the system?

While we're advising riders who need to travel between the two stations to add 20-25 minutes to their travel plans, shutdown weekends should not impact service on the rest of the BART system. You are encouraged to plan ahead by going to the BART Trip Planner at <https://www.bart.gov/planner>.

Will this work be disruptive to the neighborhoods around the South Hayward and Union City Station?

In order to perform this critical work, BART crews will need to set up lights, cranes, generators, and other heavy equipment near and on the trackway. This will happen during track closure weekends as well as overnight hours on some weekdays. This will mean some neighbors will hear noises, which include but aren't limited to, beeping from trucks backing up, industrial sized saws, drills, and other powerful equipment. Residents will also see bright lights at night.

What are you doing to limit construction impacts for neighbors?

BART has mounted an extensive public outreach campaign leading up to the start of this vital track work. This includes direct mailers to neighbors of the work site, briefings for local elected officials, posts on social media, and outreach to the press. Noise levels are expected to be like sound levels from past maintenance work in the area. The results of this project will be safer and more reliable service for riders and a quieter system for neighbors.

Will riders see any benefits from this work?

Once the work is complete the noise level of trains will drop, and passengers will experience a smoother, safer, and more reliable ride. These track improvements will benefit thousands of riders every day for decades to come. Rebuilding projects like this one have helped BART to boost its on-time train performance to more than 90%.

Has BART done this sort of work before?

BART has successfully completed numerous track rebuilding projects. BART has successfully completed similar track replacement projects in Oakland, Concord, Lafayette, Orinda, Hayward, and Richmond. Those projects have delivered on the promise of providing riders with a more reliable, quieter, and safer ride.

How is this work being paid for?

Funding for the track rebuilding work is coming from Measure RR, which was approved by BART District voters in 2016. Measure RR provides \$3.5 billion in bonds to rebuild the BART system over the coming years. RR funds have also been used to rebuild other portions of trackway. The expenditure of RR funds is monitored by an independent Bond Oversight Committee to ensure projects are cost-effective, meet quality standards, and are completed in a timely manner. Funding for the new rail car storage facility is provided in part by a \$1.17 billion grant from the Federal Transit Administration. The storage facility is part of the [Transbay Corridor Core Capacity Program](#), which will dramatically increase the number of trains BART can run through the Transbay Tube.

What are you doing to protect workers on the project from the coronavirus?

BART has facilitated multiple vaccination events for employees at sites across the system. BART has adjusted its job site protocols and all contractors that perform rebuilding work are required to develop social distancing policies for all their employees. Job briefings that used to take place in a huddle are now happening in a way that allows workers to spread out. More vehicles are being used to transport workers to job sites. 55-gallon drums of clean water and soap are deployed at work sites and workers have been instructed to wash their hands more often. Social distancing is enforced during breaks and mealtimes. Workers are spread out on job sites but sometimes the nature of the project make it very challenging to achieve social distancing. In those instances, all BART workers are required to wear N95 masks.