



SFMTA

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) in San Francisco

Mayor's Disability Council 717-2026

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
- APS located within 5 feet of crosswalk
- Sign has street name in Braille
- Holding the button down 1 second provides audio of intersection name



Current Status

- 47% of signals have APS (611 of 1305)
- 47% of signals on 2024 Vision Zero High Injury-Network (HIN) have APS (419 out of 886).
- 80+ locations receiving APS in the next few years via various signal upgrade, Muni Forward, and miscellaneous SFMTA projects



Technical Challenges & Cost (1 of 3)

- 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 (~\$200,000)
- Excavation for wiring & poles may necessitate new curb ramps (~\$200,000)



Mason and Union

Technical Challenges & Cost (2 of 3)

- Minimum \$40,000 for new APS if ideal site conditions
- Upper range of \$1,500,000 for a new APS installation to replace all intersection components if infrastructure is old



19th Avenue and Judah

Technical Challenges & Cost (3 of 3)

- Available sidewalk width
- Conflicting underground & above ground utility infrastructure
- Sidewalk paths narrowed



Divisadero and Fulton

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 www.sfmta.com/aps
- 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. (Criteria vetted and agreed to by Lighthouse for the Blind)
- SFMTA responds with intersection rank & APS status within 90 days
- ~75 locations on request list. Some are receiving APS in next few years, while remaining locations are selected based on funding



Maintenance & Operational Concerns

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



PROWAG

- Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) adopted by the US Access Board in 2023.
- APS design guidelines became requirements.
- PROWAG codified many existing SFMTA APS design standards.
- Brand new signalized intersections meet PROWAG APS requirements



Outreach

- SFMTA [APS Website](#)
 - Lists APS requests from the public & intersection ranking and funding situation
 - Basic APS statistics for the city
- Twice-yearly APS progress report provided to Walk SF, Lighthouse for the Blind, California Council for the Blind, Independent Living Resource Center. Contact dusson.yeung@sfmta.com if you would like to join the mailing list
- Previous events held in 2022 with Lighthouse & Walk SF to increase awareness of APS program