

**APPENDIX A**

**THE HISTORY *of*  
TRANSPORTATION  
IN SAN FRANCISCO**

**ConnectSF**

MARCH 2018

**San Francisco** has a rich history, with transportation playing a critical role in the City's development. The timeline on these pages depicts a panorama of diverse transportation modes, which can still be seen today as the City has one of the most diverse transit fleets in the country. Our transportation heritage also shows that, as times change, our mobility options must also evolve to meet the ever-changing needs and demands of our residents, workers, and visitors.



People have been walking here for thousands of years...

Sand dunes in Golden Gate Park.  
Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



1849

The San Francisco – San Jose stagecoach is the first public transit in California. Horse-pulled rail cars begin replacing omnibus carriages in 1860, and the last one is retired in 1913 (pictured).

Mayor James Rolph and other officials taking the last horse car ride on Market Street.

Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



1848-50

The first wharf was built between 1848 and 1850, inaugurating the city's nearly century-long dominance as the main port of the West Coast. 1863: the first ferry terminal opens.

Ferryboat Alameda approaching the slip at Davis Street Wharf 1867.

Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



1864

The San Francisco and San Jose Railroad opens. The transcontinental railroad connects the Bay Area into the ever-expanding national rail network in 1869.

3 Engine S. P. Freight on 21st and Harrison streets.

Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Time Scale (years)



1848 - 1855:  
Gold Rush

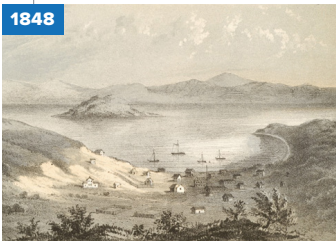
1868: Mary Ellen Pleasant wins court case, allowing African-Americans on streetcars

1776: Mission Dolores and Presidio of San Francisco founded

1835: Yerba Buena Pueblo founded

1850: California admitted to the union.  
City of San Francisco incorporated.

1861 - 1865:  
Civil War



1848

The Pueblo of Yerba Buena, founded in 1835, is a small grid of streets by a tranquil cove near what is now Portsmouth Square.

View of San Francisco in 1848.  
Photo: Bayard Taylor's Eldorado, British Library.

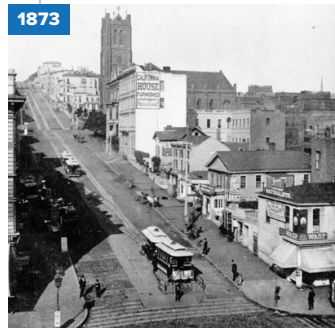


1849

The California Gold Rush brings rapid growth to the Pueblo of Yerba Buena, which becomes the city of San Francisco in 1850. As the city grows so does its grid, marching up the hills and extending west with the Van Ness Ordinance of 1865.

Views of San Francisco in 1849 showing the remarkable growth due to the Gold Rush.

Photo: Bayard Taylor's Eldorado, British Library.



1873

The city's first cable car line begins climbing Clay Street. By 1890, 23 lines are in operation.

California street cable car railroad, 1879.  
Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



1876

The first bicycle club is established in San Francisco. In 1896, 5,000 cyclists ride down Folsom Street in a mass demonstration calling for safer riding conditions through better street paving. About 3,000 cyclists are recorded in Golden Gate Park on just one Sunday.

League of American Wheelmen, Century Run, 6-1-1890.

Photo: California Historical Society



**1898**

The Ferry Building opens, offering convenient transfers between the city's transit spine and regional ferries.

Ferry Building, 1902.  
Photo: <http://ferryplaza.com>



**1936**

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opens, followed by the Golden Gate Bridge in 1937.

Both bridges are built in just over four years.

View of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge while under construction, 1936.

Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

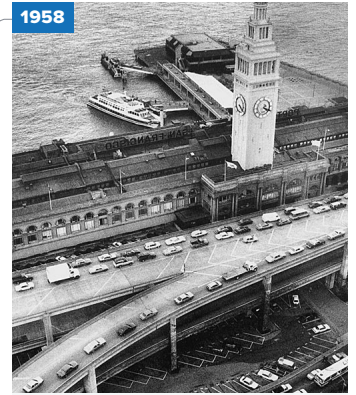


**1939**

Transbay Terminal opens. Key System trains use the Bay Bridge's lower deck, connecting directly to the new Terminal, allowing a transfer-free commute from the East Bay to downtown San Francisco.

TOP: Passengers on platform at Key System terminal, July 20 1953.  
Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

BOTTOM: Key System Transit Lines westward "B" train on Bay Bridge - 1955.  
Photo: John Harder.



**1958**

The Embarcadero Freeway is erected in front of the Ferry Building.

Ferry Building and Embarcadero Freeway.  
Photo: Chris Carlsson, <http://www.foundssf.org>



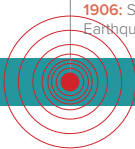
**1906**

Ferry Building, 1906.  
Photo: University of California, Bancroft Library



**1966**

Board of Supervisors hearing, 1966.  
Photo: Bill Young, Chronicle File.



**1906:** San Francisco Earthquake and Fire

**1967:** Summer of Love

**1933 - 1938:** New Deal Era

**1941 - 1945:** US involvement in World War 2

**1959 - 1966:** Freeway Revolt. City rejects most planned freeways.

**1973:** Transit First Policy adopted.

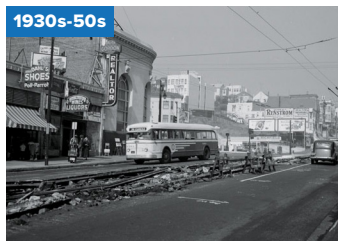


**1915**

The mass production of automobiles is exhibited at the Panama Pacific Exposition's Palace of Transportation.

Where an Automobile was born every ten minutes; Henry Ford's Concession, Palace of Transportation, Panama Pacific Exhibition 1915.

Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



**1930s-50s**

Most of the city's cable car and streetcar lines are replaced by buses (including Castro Street in 1948). For the most part, only lines which travel through tunnels or off of the regular roadway are spared.

Track removal Castro near 17th street showing Twin Coach on 8 line - July 3 1949.

Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



**1948**

The Trafficways Plan envisions a network of freeways crossing every portion of the city. Initial construction of part of this network sparks the "Freeway Revolt" across the nation. The final freeway link to the city, 280, is completed in 1973.

1948 San Francisco Trafficways Plan.

Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.



**1972**

Ideas for electric trains in an underwater tube between San Francisco and Oakland were discussed as early as 1947. The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District was formed in 1957, and construction on the BART system started in 1964. BART service begins in 1972.

President Richard Nixon prepares to ride BART at the Lake Merritt Station in Oakland in 1972.

Photo: Oakland Tribune archives.



1980

The Muni Metro system begins opening in phases. Construction of BART under Market Street creates the opportunity for the modernization of Muni's rail fleet.

Interior Shot of LRV in Underground Station - August 24, 1981. Photo: SFMTA.



Ferry service to the East Bay restored while the Bay Bridge is closed for repairs. WETA established in 2007.

Photo: San Francisco Bay Ferry



2011

King Tide. 2011. Photo: Dave Rauenbuehler



2012

Ride-hailing companies launch large-scale operations in San Francisco. By 2016, these companies made over 170,000 vehicle trips within San Francisco on a typical weekday - approximately 12 times the number of taxi trips and 15% of all intra-San Francisco vehicle trips.

Photo: <http://www.sfgate.com>



2013

Bay Area Bike Share launched.

A bicyclist riding a Bay Area Bike Share bike. Photo: SFMTA.



2014

Vision Zero policy adopted, to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2024.

Pedestrians at intersection. Photo: SFMTA.



2015

Testing of fully autonomous vehicles allowed in California.

Google automated car at intersection. Photo: Wikipedia: Grendelkhan.



2029

High-Speed Rail SF-LA Expected Opening

Photo: California High-Speed Rail Authority

1989: Loma Prieta Earthquake

2067

2017-2067: What are the possibilities? What are the challenges?

2017: WE ARE HERE



1991

Demolition of the earthquake damaged Embarcadero Freeway begins. Demolition of a portion of the damaged Central Freeway starts in 1992, replaced by tree-lined Octavia Boulevard, Patricia's Green, and new housing.

Embarcadero Freeway Teardown, 1991. Top Photo: Chronicle/Vince Maggiora



2019

Expected opening of the Central Subway.

The T-Third Line opened in 2007. Tunneling for the Central Subway, extending the T-Third north to Chinatown and connecting it to BART and MUNI lines at Powell Street, began in 2010.

Central Subway Tunnel Boring Machine. Photo: SFMTA.

2067 CONNECTSF VISION

