BART SILICON VALLEY
PHASE II EXTENSION PROJECT

# 2026 Construction Update: Year in Review

## VTA's BART Phase II:

### *2026 Construction Update: Year in Review*

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## West Portal

The project reached several major milestones this past year, most notably the completion of the launch structure ahead of schedule. Work progressed on all fronts in order to make this achievement possible.

Sheet pile walls and concrete slurry walls were first installed from the ground surface to create the boundaries of the launch structure. After the walls were completed, excavation of the launch ramp began at the shallow end and progressed downward. As the excavation became deeper, temporary steel bracing struts were added to support the walls and prevent them from moving inward.

Once the final excavation depth was reached, a concrete working slab was constructed at the bottom of the ramp. This slab provided permanent support to the walls, allowing some of the temporary bracing struts to be removed. The result was a stable working surface and additional open space within the ramp for transporting equipment, materials and supplies to and from the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) during tunneling operations.

At the deepest part of the ramp, approximately 83 feet below ground, the slurry walls were constructed in a "caterpillar" arrangement, which is why the area is called the Caterpillar Shaft. This wider configuration provided the extra space needed to assemble and launch the TBM before tunneling began.

With the launch structure complete, work on site now turns to setting up the remainder of the West Portal site for tunneling operations. In December, work at the West Portal Launch Structure will occur **Monday through Friday, 12 hours a day, 6:00am - 6:00pm, except on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Saturday work may occur on an as-needed basis.**

**Work Includes:**

- **Medium Voltage Switchgear System (MVSS) Equipment Installation:** Crews will install the MVSS equipment. Expect heavy crane lifts and rigging activity, haul trucks delivering electrical units and continuous construction noise.
- **Confinement Slab Construction:** Crews will excavate in the confinement area to construct the slab on top of the previously installed confinement walls. Expect truck traffic to support material removal.
- **Headwall Construction:** Crews will continue to install steel dowels into the headwall structure inside the Caterpillar Shaft. Expect crane and rigging activity, drilling operations and construction noise.

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## Future East Portal Area

Major restoration and improvement work progressed this year at the Future East Portal Area, including upgrades to parking areas, utilities, fencing and landscaping. Site preparation began with the demolition and removal of a vacant building at 530 N. Marburg Way. Restoration work then progressed on the adjacent Therma and A&F properties with new parking lots, drainage, utilities, lighting, fencing, landscaping, sidewalks and pavement improvements.

- **Parking Lot Restoration:** Construction will continue through December to restore and improve the property adjacent to East Portal with new parking lots, drainage, utilities, lighting, fencing, landscaping, sidewalks and pavement improvements. Expect construction equipment and trucks entering and exiting the work area, temporary noise, dust and vibration, temporary lane, sidewalk or driveway impacts as well as construction fencing around active work areas. Traffic control, signage and flaggers will be on-site as needed.
    - More information can be found here: Property Restoration Construction Notice

## Future 28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station Site

2026 brought significant progress in preparing the future 28th Street/ Little Portugal Station site for construction. Extensive site preparation took place throughout the future station area, beginning with soils testing and remediation of properties followed by above ground building demolition across the block which was completed in October.

## Future Diridon BART Station Site

A lot of important groundwork was accomplished around the future Diridon BART Station this year. Teams completed soils testing at the parking lot south of Santa Clara Street between Montgomery Street and Barack Obama Boulevard with the lot closed from mid-July until mid-October, while additional geotechnical investigations took place along The Alameda and Stockton Ave. to help guide future station development. Work continues to coordinate with key partners on alternative parking areas during upcoming construction.

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## Future Downtown San José BART Station Area

This year, coordination efforts continued between BSVII and AT&T to ensure that third party work was completed to prepare for major construction activities. Utility improvements advanced throughout Downtown San José with AT&T completing excavation, installation and shoring of underground manholes at several locations along West Santa Clara Street. Additional soils testing was conducted at 97 E. Santa Clara Street and sidewalks were restored following utility vault installation between 2nd and 3rd St.

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The progress achieved throughout the year reflects significant construction accomplishments. From deep excavations to large concrete placements, utility work, landscaping and remediation, each milestone has moved the project one step closer to launching the Tunnel Boring Machine and realizing the vision of a fully connected Bay Area transit network. We thank the community's continued support and look forward to sharing more progress in 2027.

***All VTA Construction Notices can be found here**: Construction Notices.*

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## *Major 2026 Milestones*



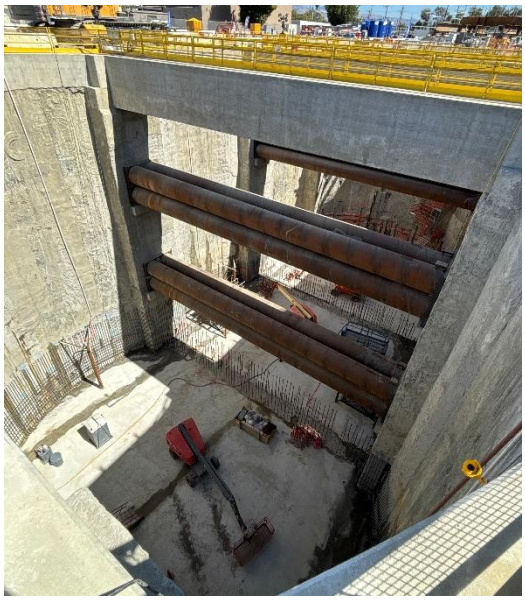
*Slurry Wall Excavation Using Hydraulic Mill*



*Looking Down the West Portal Launch Structure Ramp*



*Overview of Temporary Bracing*



*Caterpillar Shaft with a Mud Mat*

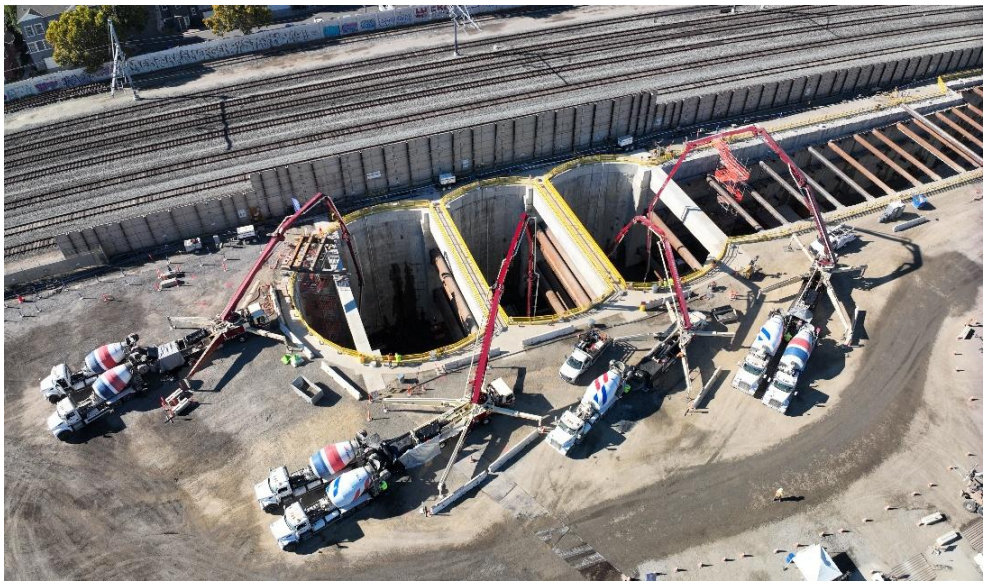
Valley Transportation Authority
Solutions that move you

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*Caterpillar Shaft Concrete Working Slab – Operation*



*Completed West Portal Launch Structure as of November 2026*

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