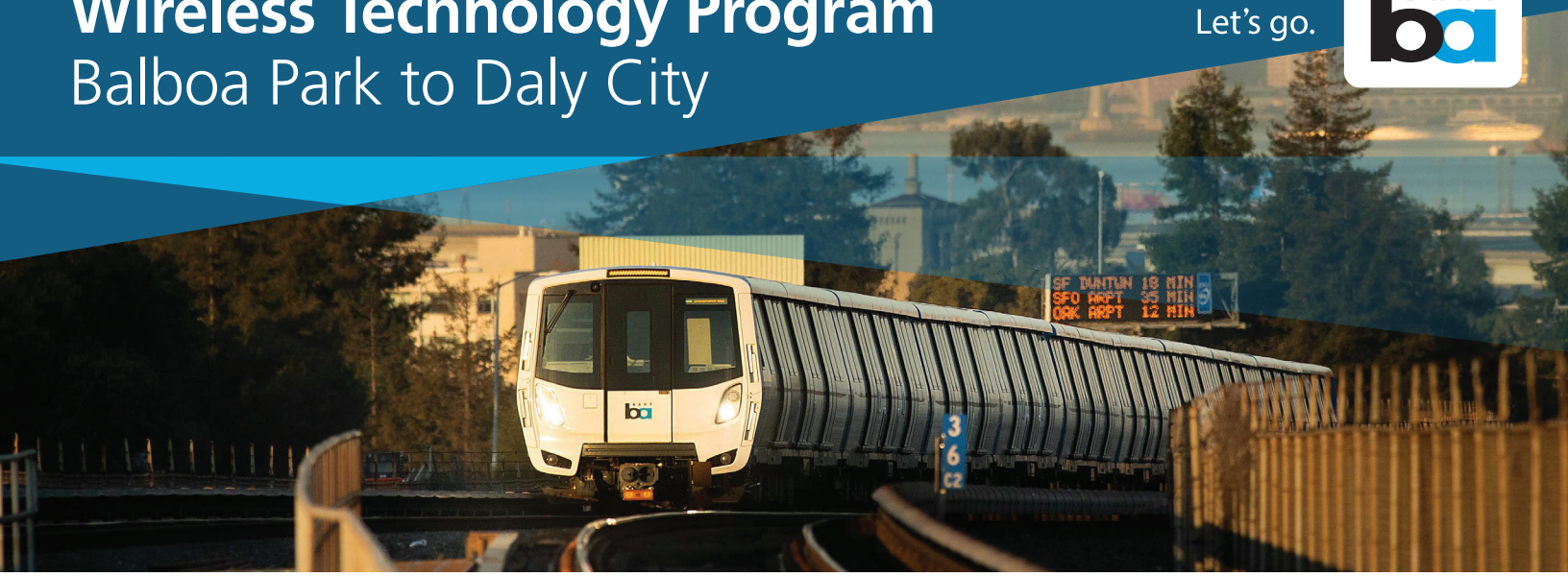
Wireless Technology Program
Balboa Park to Daly City

Let's go.



Project Overview

BART's Wireless Technology Program—a project to bring next-generation reliable wireless connectivity and innovation to the BART system—is underway.

Starting in November 2021, BART will install four short, low-profile poles along the BART trackway between Balboa Park and Daly City stations within the City and County of San Francisco but may be visible to some in San Mateo County. The installation of these poles is part of larger project to provide wireless connectivity to BART riders by installing poles approximately every one-half mile along our tracks systemwide.

When the project goes live in the fall of 2025, there will be improved cell phone connectivity across the system for BART riders with benefits that may extend into local neighborhoods.The project will also provide seamless Wi-Fi coverage in all stations and onboard Fleet of the Future trains. Learn more at **bart.gov/wireless**.

Project Benefits

Some neighbors living up to one-half mile from BART's tracks may:

- Enjoy expanded 5G cellular coverage
- Experience fewer dropped calls
- Have more reliable connectivity for on-demand video and audio streaming
- Experience less network congestion during emergencies or other disaster situations

BART riders may enjoy the above benefits plus:

- Improved app functionality even in underground stations and crowded conditions
- A better in-station customer experience, including the possibility of real-time, proximity-based communication through smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and other mobile devices

Project Impacts During Construction

Installation of each pole will take approximately one week, plus time to install supporting infrastructure such as power and fiber to each pole. For at-grade poles, a drill rig will be used for foundation holes and a small crane or an aerial lift will be used for installation. A truck and back-hoe will also be used. If the work location can be accessed from outside the BART fence, work would be performed during normal business hours; otherwise, work would occur on weekdays and possibly weekends between midnight and 4 a.m. outside BART's normal operating hours when trains are not running for safety reasons.

Depending on the location of the pole, there may be minor traffic impacts on local roads. Residents may also see bright lights at night. For more specific impacts on your neighborhood, please visit **bart.gov/wireless**.

Frequently Asked Questions

How safe are these poles and the wireless transmissions?

Poles meet all BART design standards as well as local, state and federal health & safety and exposure standards. The amount of Radiofrequency (RF) energy for anyone on the ground near the poles is less than one percent of the limits for safe exposure set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The poles from this project are safe to be placed near homes, schools, hospitals, or any other sensitive areas. The American Cancer Society notes there's no strong evidence that exposure to RF waves from wireless communication facilities such as these poles causes any noticeable health effects.

What are the dimensions of the poles?

Height at grade: Up to 39 feet above the BART tracks. Height adjacent to elevated tracks: Up to 25 feet above the trackway.

Does my local government need to approve of the poles?

Under California Government Code Sections 53090 and 53091, rapid transit districts such as BART are exempt from local land use plans, policies, and zoning ordinances (California Legislative Information, 2002).

What do the poles look like?

Poles have a much cleaner, sleeker, more modern look than typical cellular poles. *(See renderings below.)* They also come in four different colors.

Joint use pole

Non-commercial pole

Pole Color Swatches

Where will the poles be located in my neighborhood?