



**SHAMANN WALTON**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE: VISITACION VALLEY CELEBRATION  
FOR THE CENTRAL SUBWAY\*\*\***

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – Just in time for the upcoming Lunar New Year, the T-Third started its historic new route on Saturday, January 7, providing a direct Metro connection between Sunnydale Station in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood to the Chinatown-Rose Pak Station. This new route provides a vital connection for residents living in Visitacion Valley and Bayview directly to Chinatown. The Visitacion Valley and Bayview neighborhoods are home to a large population of Chinese Americans, many of whom rely on public transportation to visit Chinatown for their necessities, groceries, and in-language services.

District 10 Supervisor and Board President Shamann Walton hosted a community celebration with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a short speaking program highlighting community members at Sunnydale Station simultaneously with the big celebration at Union Square. Members of the community received commemorative SFMTA gift bags to mark the historic occasion.

“Rain or shine, we were out at Sunnydale Ave and Bayshore Blvd to celebrate this historic new T-Third route coming from a Chinatown Rose-Pak Station to Sunnydale Station connecting the Visitacion Valley neighborhood!” said District 10 Supervisor and Board President Shamann Walton. “Now residents can take the T-Third all the way to Chinatown just in time to celebrate the Lunar New Year at the flower market this coming Saturday and Sunday. Thank you, SFMTA, community, and everyone who worked to make the Central Subway a reality. This project was a long time coming and it was important that we celebrated this in the community today at the very last station of the line.”

“Public transportation is crucial to how many youths, families, and seniors get around the city, and I am delighted to be here to see another historical route connecting our communities in Visitacion Valley and Bayview to Chinatown,” said District 10 Youth Commissioner, Vanessa Pimentel. “Bringing more access to safe, reliable, and affordable modes of transit to the southeast of San Francisco is an equity issue and, as someone who grew up going to school on the opposite



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side of the city, it wasn't an easy trip — having to walk through hills and having to take multiple bus rides — and I think this really gives people another method to travel places rather than the 8 Express that doesn't reach the Bayview.”

“I have spent the last few years in District 10 and I rely on public transit to get around in San Francisco,” said Raymond Zhang, a member of the Community Youth Center. “A lot of people who live in the Southeast commute to Chinatown every day, including my family, for groceries, medical appointments, and to visit extended family. This is such an important line for working families and immigrant families to be connected to jobs located in Downtown and Chinatown.”

“The Visitacion Valley community has waited a very long time for this project to finish,” said Southeast Community Facilities Commissioner and longtime Visitacion Valley activist, Marlene Tran. “We finally can see the fruition of years of planning from the city and multiple city supervisors over the years. The direct connection to Chinatown is so important for many residents here, especially those who speak monolingual Chinese and need to access services in-language in Chinatown.”

“This is another big win for the Visitacion Valley neighborhood,” said Rex Tabora, Executive Director of APACC. “During the pandemic, the community pushed to bring a new line: 15 Express and to bring back the 8-AX and 8-BX lines. This is a community that doesn't rely on cars and needs reliable public transportation to get to different parts of San Francisco, especially to Chinatown where driving is not the most convenient option.”

Many Lunar New Year festivities will happen beginning this weekend up and throughout January and February in Chinatown including: The Flower Market Fair on January 14 and 15; Chinese New Year, Choy Sun Doe Day on January 22; the Chinese New Year Parade on February 4, and the Community Street Fair on February 4 and 5. Attendees may now take the T-Third directly to the Chinatown-Rose Pak Station.

Service on the new T-Third route runs Mondays through Fridays, 6 a.m. to midnight every 10 minutes, and Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m. to midnight every 12 minutes.

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