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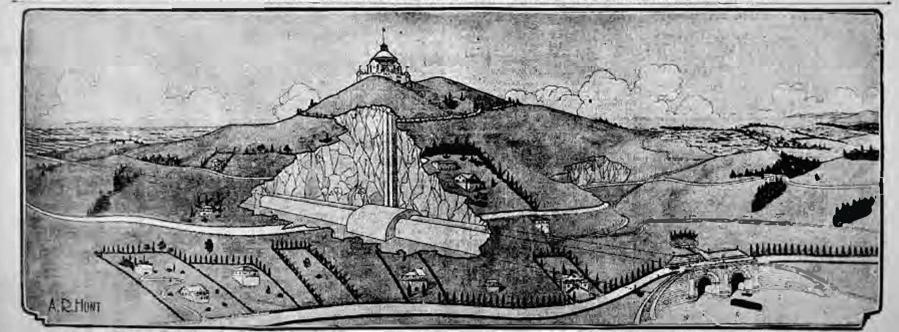
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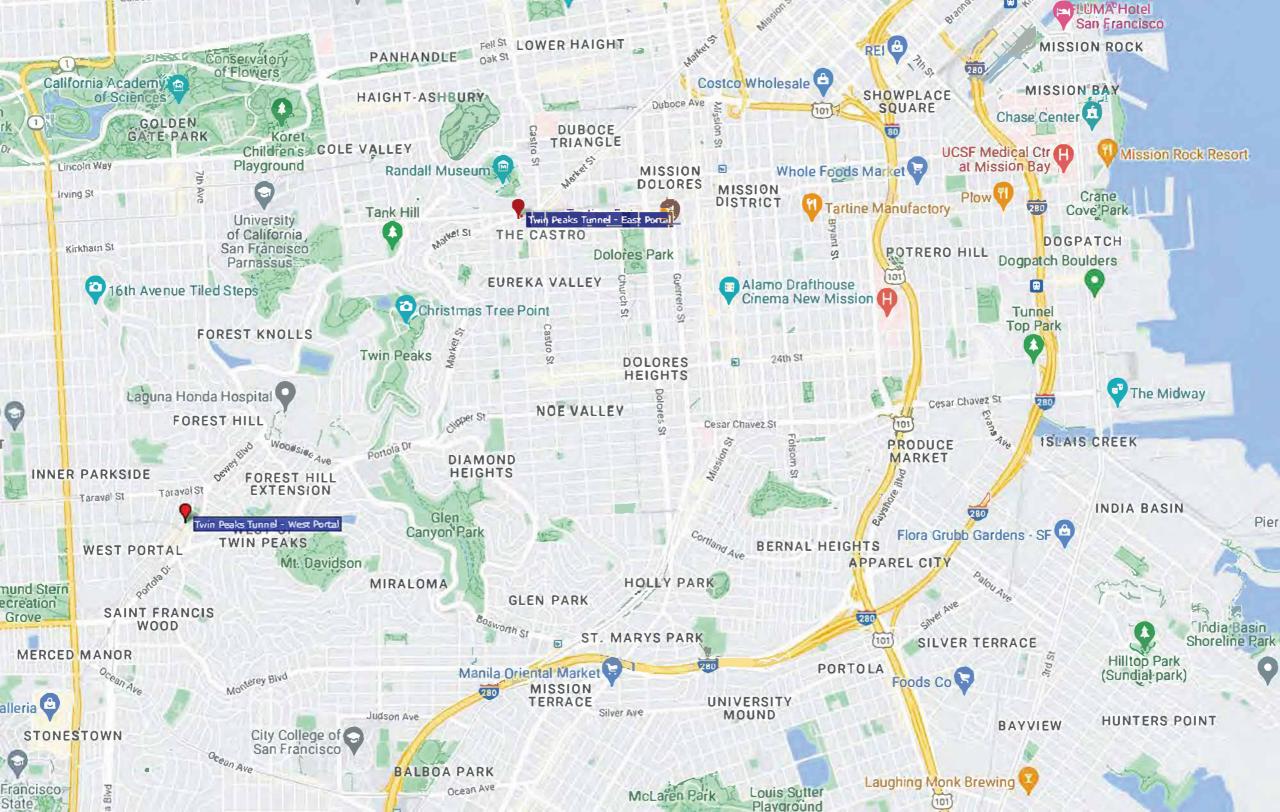
THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1910.

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OFFICIAL PLAN ADOPTED FOR BUILDING THE GREAT TWIN PEAKS TUNNEL

PROPOSED PLAN FOR TWIN PEAKS TUNNEL AND OBSERVATORY. LENGTH OF TUNNEL 1.200 FEET (154 MILES), ESTIMATED COST \$2,300,000.





References

Twin Peaks Tunnel - Wikipedia

Twin Peaks Tunnel: A Portal to the West - SFMTA

Twin Peaks Projects

History in Motion

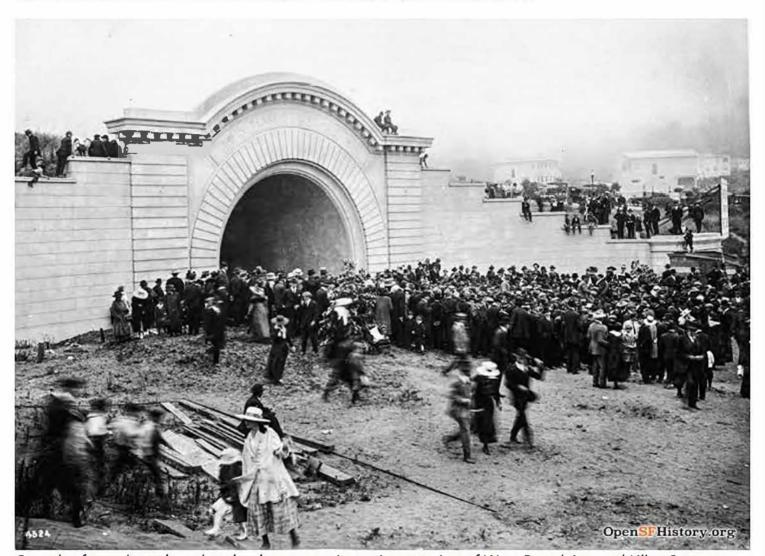
Twin Peaks Tunnel: A Portal to the West

From SFMTA: https://www.sfmta.com/blog/twin-peaks-tunnel-portal-west

By Jeremy Menzies

Thursday, January 25, 2018

On a foggy summer day in July 1917, multitudes of San Franciscans turned out to dedicate one of the city's most transformative public works projects- the Twin Peaks Tunnel. Two short miles of tunnel undercut the range of hills in the heart of the city that had essentially blocked westward expansion for years. This feat of engineering, and the streetcar lines that later ran in the tunnel, would propel the imminent neighborhoods around the tunnel's West Portal, as well as Forest Hill, Stern Grove, Lake Merced, Parkside and St. Francis Wood into sudden growth and prosperity.



Crowds of people gathered at the then non-existent intersection of West Portal Ave and Ulloa Street to watch then Mayor James Rolph and City Engineer M.M. O'Shaughnessy drive a ceremonial spike to mark the completion of the bore on July 14, 1917. Photo courtesy OpenSFHistory / wnp36.01654.jpg.

Although two streetcar lines already reached the southwest area of the city by circuitous routes, access was difficult and slow and nearly 4,000 acres of land lay undeveloped. Public debate, studies and tunnel proposals started as early as 1908 but it wasn't until 1914 that the plans were finalized and money secured to build a streetcar tunnel under Twin Peaks and finally connect the area directly to downtown.

Following two and a half years of construction, the tunnel was complete by mid-1917 and the final pieces of streetcar infrastructure were laid in place later that year. In early 1918, Muni's K Ingleside streetcar made its debut through the Beaux-Arts style façade of the West Portal of the Twin Peaks Tunnel to a crowd of cheering people.



Seen here in 1919 is the original archway of the West Portal of the Twin Peaks Tunnel. Within ten years of this photo being taken, the area started to look <u>similar to today</u> as houses and businesses sprouted up around the portal. From SFMTA https://www.sfmta.com/blog/twin-peaks-tunnel-portal-west

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A small rail conveyor system was built to haul away excavated dirt on the eastern portion of the tunnel. This view looks east down Market Street near Diamond Street.

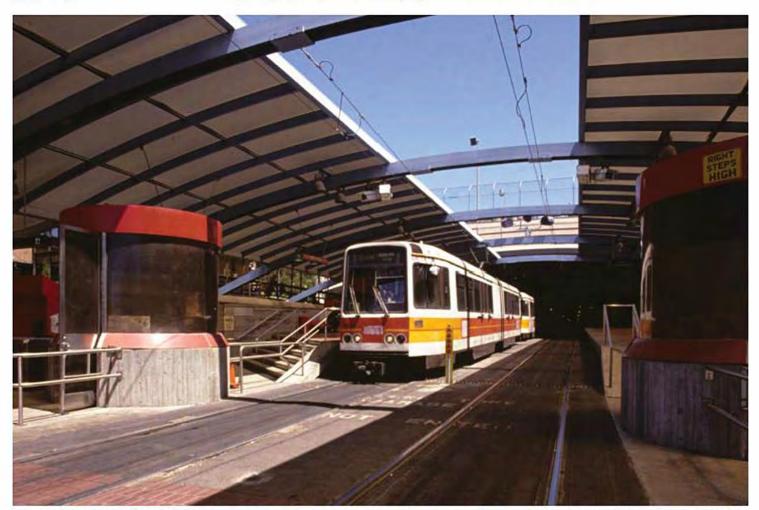
From SFMTA https://www.sfmta.com/blog/twin-peaks-tunnel-portal-west



The East Portal of the Twin Peaks Tunnel in 1935 with a K Line streetcar at Market and Castro.

Prior to the creation of Muni Metro and its Market Street subway tunnel, the Twin Peaks Tunnel emerged heading towards downtown at its East Portal on Market at Castro, with streetcars continuing above ground. By the late 1970s, preparations for the new Muni Metro subway and Boeing light rail vehicles meant that both East and West Portals were reconstructed. West Portal was rebuilt into the station you see today with long, high-level platforms and Castro Station occupies the former East Portal location.

From SFMTA https://www.sfmta.com/blog/twin-peaks-tunnel-portal-west



The new, larger West Portal station designed to work with Boeing light rail trains was dedicated on April of 1979, seen here around that time.

The tunnel continues to play an important role in the Muni rail system today. It carries about 80,000 customers daily on the K Ingleside, M Ocean View and L Taraval lines. In summer 2018, SFMTA will be replacing the tracks and making vital upgrades to the tunnel's infrastructure to keep it going for years to come. More information about the project can be found on the <u>Twin Peaks Tunnel Improvement Project page</u>.



The Twin Peaks Tunnel, which runs between West Portal and Castro stations, will undergo a major rehabilitation and replacement of its 40+ year old infrastructure, including fixtures that are original to the tunnel, circa 1917. The new tracks will improve safety and reliability for Muni trains and keep the tunnel in good working condition.

Planned work includes replacing tracks and track infrastructure, replacing the drainage system, repairing tunnel walls and ceilings, completing seismic upgrades to the original east entrance of the tunnel (Eureka Valley station), and making structural repairs and inspections.

Construction is expected to start summer 2018 during a single closure up to 60 days long. Transit service will be modified during construction.

Twin Peaks Tunnel opened for service on February 3, 1918. A vital connection between downtown San Francisco and southern and western neighborhoods, the tunnel carries over 80,000 customers daily.

TIMELINE

When:

June 25 2018 for 2 months

Muni Metro Changes:

Bus substitute for M Ocean View and L Taraval; K Ingleside operating modified train route

Bus Routes Affected:

48, 57, Nx, L OWL, 91 OWL



