

The Pont-Neuf Tunnel. *paris 1*

Under the Rue du Pont-Neuf in Paris's 1st arrondissement between the Quai du Louvre and the Rue Saint-Honoré

The underground space of the former Pont-Neuf exit, which was part of Les Halles' underground road network, is included in this call for projects. It lies below the Rue du Pont-Neuf, between the Rue Saint-Honoré and the Quai de la Mégisserie. This space of approximately 2,000 sqm in the very center of Paris, between Les Halles and the Seine, used to be a tunnel to the Les Halles neighborhood. Located under the public roadway domain, this southern section of the tunnel is approximately 300 meters long with a floor-to-ceiling height of around 2.5 meters. The space comprises former roads (approximately 1,800 sqm) and sidelong ventilation and illuminated panels of around 1.2 meters wide (i.e., a surface area of approximately 36 sqm). It also includes an operational pumping station.

This space is only accessible to pedestrians via three entrances:

- entrance 1: from the Les Halles underground road network (VSH), near where the former Pont-Neuf exit diverged from the VSH loop. This entrance is located at roadway point 410 on the underground roadway loop.*
- entrance 2: a hatch located on the west sidewalk of the Rue du Pont-Neuf followed by a caged ladder (which is also the entrance to the Pont-Neuf pumping station, used to pump out flood waters).*
- entrance 3: a hatch located on the square between the Rue du Pont-Neuf and the Rue de la Monnaie followed by caged ladder.*

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Existing structure(s)

The space offers a usable surface area of around 1,800 sqm with an approximate 2.5-meter clearance and is entirely covered in concrete in good condition. The wall, located at the back of the space, marks the limit to another space housing Clichy's main sewer pipeline chamber and the ventilation ducts for the underground roads.

Development for this vast space will require asbestos and lead removal, additional entrances for accessibility and evacuation, and the installation of smoke extraction ventilation systems. Site preparation renovations for the interior space must include fixing leaking fissures as well as the collection and drainage of water infiltration up to the pumping station. The electricity connection will need to be studied in accordance with the Flood Risk Prevention Plan. Consideration must also be given to separating the space from Clichy's main sewer pipeline chamber, connecting the space to various utilities and installing all necessary protection systems for the determined use.



Programming/possible future uses: the site could be converted into a nightclub, subject to public building standards upgrades (ventilation, emergency exit, etc.), or an urban logistics space.

Type of property transfer proposed: public domain occupation agreement or volume division.

Owner: City of Paris.

Cadastral reference: N/A.

Surface area: approximately 2,160 sqm.

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Current occupation

The space has been vacant since 2012.

When the decision was made to close this part of the tunnel, several use possibilities were considered before the tunnel's entrance was ultimately blocked.

Urban context

The site is located on the Seine's right bank. It is located near the Rivoli and Seine neighborhood development project. This mixed-use program includes businesses, social housing, offices, a hotel and restaurants. The reopening of a large department store will have a positive impact on the neighborhood's activities and surrounding businesses. It is part of a neighborhood renaissance and the revitalization of the city center. The site is also close to the international tourist area of Les Halles.

Access (all options)

Metro – Pont-Neuf station on one side and Châtelet-Les Halles stations on the other.

Regulatory ordinances

Local City Plan (PLU)

- Space located underneath the street level
- General urban zone

Flood Risk Prevention Plan (PPRI)

- N/A.

