



## Geary Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m.  
Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Geary CAC Members	Project Staff
Annie Lee	Daniel Mackowski (SFMTA)
Sana Ahmed	Liz Brisson (SFMTA)
Daniel Calamuci	Amy Fowler (SFMTA)
Joon Choi	Mariana Maguire (SFMTA)
Louis Grosso	
Joshua Kelly	
Victor Olivieri	
Susannah Raub	
Kevin Stull	
Robbie Silver (stand-in for Bri)	
Paul Epstein	
Marian Roth-Cramer	
Dina Polanco-Mendoza	

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

- a. Annie Lee called meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

#### 2. Virtual meeting etiquette

#### 3. Roll call

#### 4. Ice breaker activity

#### 5. Approval of minutes – [May 19, 2020](#)

- a. Susannah Raub motioned to approve. Lou Grosso seconded. Minutes approved by voice vote at 6:21 p.m.

#### 6. Public comment

- a. None

#### 7. Temporary Emergency Transit-Only Lane (TETL) proposal for Geary Boulevard Improvement Project limits

- a. Liz Brisson presented on this item.
- b. Paul Epstein asked for clarity on what the problem is that this proposal is trying to solve.
  - i. Liz: Maintain bus speeds and reduce crowding so that people do not have to spend more time than necessary on Muni. Car traffic is up to 60% of normal



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- on the Bay Bridge while Muni ridership is only 15% of normal. Physical distancing requirements reduce bus capacity significantly. Faster bus speeds allow us to increase service with the buses we have, which improves overall capacity and avoid having to skip passengers because buses are full.
- c. Marian Roth-Cramer asked about construction and other impacts on storefronts and business owners.
    - i. Liz: Construction is limited to brief installation of paint and signs over a few hours in any given block. We are proposing very limited parking removal only between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> avenues and will conduct outreach to adjacent businesses and aim to address any access needs such as moving loading zones to cross streets.
  - d. Kevin Stull: Are we planning to add any parking to side streets? Will there be outreach to businesses?
    - i. Liz: Parking availability didn't appear to be an issue during a recent walkthrough of the area. SFMTA will reach out in advance to any adjacent businesses.
    - ii. Marian: Parking is probably fine in this area, however concerned about further west. On some blocks 3-4 businesses/block are closing.
    - iii. Liz: There is no parking removal proposed further west
  - e. Victor Olivieri: the slides look like there is room for angled parking between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> avenues westbound and people may have questions as to why this block could not also have angled parking.
    - i. Liz: there is not room for angled parking, the proposed transit queue jump and a right-turn pocket
  - f. Sana Ahmed asked whether transit only lanes would have to be removed 120 days after they were installed.
    - i. Liz: Temporary lanes must be removed within 120 days after the state of emergency is lifted, which could continue for a year.
  - g. Annie Lee: Keeping buses running and safe for those who are transit-reliant is important. Expressed concerns about potential driver confusion by changing driving lanes. Would also like to apply any lessons learned, ideas, best practices to the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project.
  - h. Susannah: Agreed that keeping buses running is important.
  - i. Public Comment
    - i. Larry Yee (?) expressed a preference for transit lanes on the side of the street instead of in the center of the street, and asked where he can find information about the status of the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project (GBIP).
      - 1. Liz: Explained that the current agenda item on TETL is about installing a transit only lane on the side of the street next to the



parking lane, but the longer term GBIP proposes center running lanes. More information is available at [SFMTA.com/ImproveGeary](https://www.sfmta.com/ImproveGeary).

- ii. Tom Barton expressed concern about inability to maintain social distancing on buses and asked how TETL will improve the ability to social distance while onboard.
  1. Liz: When SFMTA can run buses through the system quicker, we can return them into service faster, increasing frequency and capacity for people to be able to maintain social distance.
  2. Amy: More info and an animation about how TETLs work can be found at [SFMTA.com/TempLanes](https://www.sfmta.com/TempLanes).

#### **8. Geary Rapid – Project update**

#### **9. Geary Rapid – Implementation update**

- a. Daniel Mackowski presented on these items.
- b. Josh Kelly asked if there's concern that the budget for the Geary BRT will be impacted by the shortfalls in the SFMTA overall budget.
  - i. Dan: A lot of the funding for the Geary Rapid Project is grants that will still be reimbursable and should not be impacted. Project team will continue to monitor. Phase 2 of Geary BRT continues to have a funding gap.
- c. Lou Grosso: Thanked Dan for quickly taking care of a noise issue in front of St. Francis Square.
- d. Annie asked if construction is still moving forward on schedule despite COVID.
  - i. Dan: Confirmed that this is correct, and that each contractor has COVID precautions and safety procedures in place.

#### **10. Geary Rapid – Outreach update**

- a. Amy Fowler presented on this item.
- b. Kevin: Are wayfinding signs being updated when there are changes, such as businesses closing?
  - i. Amy: We are updating signs and adapting our strategy as needed in light of COVID-19 challenges.
- c. Robbie Silver thanked Amy for efforts to work with businesses, highlighted the challenges for businesses right now with foot traffic down over 90%, and the benefits of wayfinding signage even for businesses that are temporarily closed.
- d. Public Comment
  - i. Tom Barton commented that social distancing is not possible 60-70% of the time on the 38 Geary.

#### **11. Adjourn**

- a. Paul motioned to adjourn. Susannah seconded. Voice vote to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.