



Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 23, 2016

6:00-7:30 p.m.

One South Van Ness, 7th floor, Union Square Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Public comment (see policy on reverse): Members of the public may address the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee on matters that are within their jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.
 - a. No public comment was heard.
3. Member comment. Members of the Community Advisory Committee may address the Van Ness BRT project staff on matters not on today's calendar.
 - a. Don Savoie attended an Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation where it was announced that street closures for San Francisco Pride would happen two days early in 2017. He mentioned the arts organizations on Van Ness are concerned about the street closures having a negative impact on their business that week.
 - b. Bob Bardell attended a recent Union Street Association meeting where members raised concerns about the elimination of left turns off Van Ness and a decline in business.
4. Minutes for October 27, 2016, and November 17, 2016, meetings were approved by a voice vote.
5. SFMTA staff updates.
 - a. Project schedule.
 - i. Construction continues to be affected by wet weather and conditions.
 - ii. Construction in the median is expected to continue through March and April. Utility work is expected to begin in May 2017.
 - iii. Catherine Tran asked staff to provide additional schedule information including the original estimated schedule and current schedule that shows delays.
 - b. Construction update.
 - i. Crews are continuing with median removal including concrete curbs, contaminated soil and median trees.
 1. Daytime tree removal is complete and nighttime tree removal will begin this week.
 2. Other night work includes the removal of the Overhead Contact System that powers the electric buses.
 - c. Lighting on Van Ness Avenue.
 - i. The Final Environmental Impact Report contains a mitigation measure that has led some members of the public to request an alternate design for the street lights along Van Ness.
 1. "Design and install a replacement OCS support pole/streetlight network that...retains the architectural style of the original OCS support pole/streetlight network."
 - ii. Project staff expects to go before the San Francisco Arts Commission Civic Design Review Committee in March.
 1. The Historic Preservation Commission has jurisdiction over the Civic Center Historic Landmark District. The San Francisco Arts Commission has jurisdiction over the remaining length of Van Ness.
 - iii. CAC members asked staff to continue to track schedule and budget impacts of an alternate design option.

- d. Update on neighboring projects.
 - i. Polk Streetscape Project.
 - 1. The Polk Streetscape Project team has made changes to the design of the raised bike lane northbound from McAllister to Pine streets. After reviewing data from a raised bike lane on Market Street, the bike lane will now be at road level with safe-hit posts and a painted buffer zone to separate it from traffic lanes.
 - 2. A crosswalk design at Polk and Green streets will be modified to a high-visibility, zebra-striped crosswalk.
 - 3. Wet weather has affected the project schedule. Signal work at Union, Broadway and Pacific has been temporarily delayed.
 - 4. Emergency sewer work began this week on Polk Street at Broadway and Post streets. This emergency work is expected to be complete in two weeks.
 - ii. Lombard Street Safety Project.
 - 1. Winter weather and the holiday moratorium has shifted the project schedule. Near-term safety improvements are expected to be completed within the next two months.
- 6. Outreach update.
 - a. Recent public engagement activities.
 - i. Meet the Expert: Funding for City Projects event.
 - 1. Ariel Espiritu Santos and Kamini Lall from the Finance and Information Technology department at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency discussed how large construction projects receive funding from local, state and federal sources.
 - ii. Historic Preservation Commission hearing.
 - 1. On January 18, staff presented a long-term treatment plan for four trolley/light poles in front of City Hall and War Memorial Court and a unique shelter design for McAllister Street boarding platforms.
 - a. Commissioners preferred a long-term treatment plan that includes the replacement of the existing concrete pole structure and the reuse of historic cast iron fixtures.
 - b. Unique shelter design was less industrial and more transparent, fading into the background and highlighting the Beaux-Arts features within the Civic Center Historic District.
 - 2. Staff also gave an informational presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission on work done to date related to an alternate trolley/light pole design.
 - a. Commissioners were not enthusiastic about the alternate design options and said they would conflict with the Secretary of Interior standards and create false historicism along the corridor.
 - b. HPC staff submitted a summary of comments to Sup. Peskin.
 - iii. Public notifications.
 - 1. Neighbors continue to receive 72-hour notice for nighttime construction activity through door hangers. Currently, these are primarily for the removal of the Overhead Contact System and upcoming tree removals.
 - 2. At the recommendation of the Business Advisory Committee last month, staff is developing cards that direct people to hail their rides on side streets instead of Van Ness.
 - b. Outreach Calendar.
 - i. Office hours.
 - 1. Project staff continue to host office hours twice a week for members of the public to come with questions or concerns.
 - a. 180 Redwood Street, Suite 300, Third Floor
 - b. Tuesdays, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to noon.
 - 2. CAC members recommended informing 311 about office hours.
 - ii. Historic Preservation Commission hearing for public art.

1. February hearing was postponed at the request of the San Francisco Arts Commission. Staff will notify CAC members when a new hearing date has been scheduled.
 - iii. Groundbreaking Ceremony.
 1. The Van Ness Improvement Project Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held March 1 at 11:00 a.m. at San Francisco War Memorial Court.
 2. Speakers will include Mayor Ed Lee, members of the Board of Supervisors, agency heads and community members.
7. Next meeting — Thursday, March 23, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - a. April 27, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - b. May 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Every agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.

Public comment will be taken for each agenda item after discussion of the item by the Van Ness BRT CAC.

Privilege of Floor and Public Participation. The privilege of the floor shall be granted to any member of the public or officers of the City and County of San Francisco, or their duly authorized representatives for the purpose of commenting on any question before the Committee. Each person wishing to speak on an item at a regular or special meeting shall be permitted to be heard once per item for up to three minutes. The presiding officer shall be the judge of the pertinence of such comments, and have the power to limit this privilege if in the presiding officer's opinion the comments are not pertinent to the question before the Committee or the comments are merely reiterative of points made by previous speakers.

Presentations. After a presentation, the Van Ness BRT CAC Chair will ask committee members if they have any questions and then will open the meeting to public comment. When members of the public ask a question of the presenter, presenters should not respond, nor engage in any conversation. First, the commenter should finish their commentary. After which, if the Van Ness BRT CAC Chair or any committee member wants the presenter to respond to that question, the presenter will then respond to the Committee and not to the public.

MEMBER COMMENT

Every agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the Committee to address project staff on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.

Privilege of Floor and Public Participation. The privilege of the floor shall be granted to any member of the Committee. Each person wishing to speak shall be permitted to be heard for up to three minutes. The presiding officer shall be the judge of the pertinence of such comments, and have the power to limit this privilege if in the presiding officer's opinion the comments are not pertinent to the question before the Committee or the comments are merely reiterative of points made by previous speakers.