

Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee**Thursday, October 25, 2018, 6:00 p.m.****One South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room**Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. Public comment.
 - a. None heard.
3. Approval of minutes – [September 27](#).
 - a. Approved by a voice vote.
4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding update from SFMTA staff.
 - a. Project schedule.
 - i. The project is now about 537 days delayed.
 - ii. Bob Anderson: What happened?
 1. There was an effort to re-sequence some of the water work that would cause 40 days of delay to the schedule. The SFMTA is rejecting this plan which would mean that 40-day increase would not go into effect.
 - iii. Bob Bardell: In the handout that was provided with a broken-down projected schedule, it seems like some of the phases overlap in the same locations. How is that possible? Will that mean there might not be room to preserve pedestrian walkways at some point?
 1. It is possible that different blocks within each group of blocks will be in different phases at some point, but staff will verify that it is not a mistake in the estimated times. The plan is to maintain pedestrian pathways in all phases of construction.
 - b. Construction update.
 - c. Outreach update.
 - d. Update on neighboring projects.
5. Member comment: Members of the committee may address the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.
 - a. Catherine Tran: I read an article about businesses that were being impacted by the construction of the project. How has the SFMTA responded?
 - i. The SFMTA has Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings every month. We developed the signage on Van Ness in partnership with the BAC. We also work directly with businesses to address their concerns. We are able to offer marketing support, but any campaign has to include all relevant businesses because we are a government agency. We can and have offered advertising space on buses at no charge (which has a value of tens of thousands of dollars) but we cannot provide the printed materials if they are specific to one business only. We also continue to seek the input of merchants and community members of Van Ness on ideas that we can pursue as an agency to support

businesses through construction. Something like providing specific businesses with financial support would require legislation.

- b. Bob Bardell:
 - i. Businesses in the area where Bootleg Kitchen & Bar is located have also had trouble staying afloat in the past, regardless of construction.
 - ii. It would be appropriate to give the community more updates about reaching the halfway point of the different phases of work, and it would give an opportunity for emphasizing that once the utility work is done in one side of the street, the same work will be performed in the opposite side.
- c. Robert Lockhart:
 - i. When are light poles going to be installed?
 - 1. It will vary by location, but it looks like they will be installed in either the first or the third phase of construction.
 - ii. When we had the sidewalk work in our block we were originally told it would be on certain dates, and then we received updates of changes to that schedule. While not ideal, neighbors appreciated the fact that the contractor reached out, and then reached out again with more up-to-date estimates when changes occurred.
 - iii. Is the size of the sidewalks going to change?
 - 1. Currently the plan calls for the distance between the property line and the curb to remain the same.
- d. Bill Crissman: It would be helpful if the construction forecast stated when a phase of construction was completed in a certain block and when the next phase of construction was expected to begin in that block.
 - i. Staff is careful to share detailed predictions of the work schedule given that it changes so regularly. We are looking into ways to share the most up to date information in a way that is both digestible and helpful and welcome the Committee's feedback on how to do that.
- e. Bob Anderson:
 - i. The work you are doing is extremely disruptive to neighbors. I understand the schedule is challenging but any information about what to expect that you can share with neighbors is highly valuable, even if it relies on estimates.
 - ii. The crosswalk at Hickory is in very poor shape. It would be very challenging for a person with a disability to cross the street there.
 - iii. There is a new beautiful mural on Hickory, just off Van Ness. Members are encouraged to go check it out.
- f. Alex Wilson:
 - i. There is a scary blind spot when you are crossing Geary at Van Ness, in front of where the medical office building is being built.
 - ii. The pedestrian walkway between Jackson and Pacific requires pedestrians to go out into the crosswalk to enter the path, and it is not very clear where you're supposed to go right away. It would be challenging for someone who was visually impaired in particular to navigate it.
- g. Erica Murdock-Waters: Giving neighbors broken-down estimates of the work schedule, even in broad strokes, would be helpful.

- h. Kate McCarthy: Joanna Gubman is moving from the Bay Area and is giving up her seat on the Committee. Staff will begin preparations to recruit a new member for the CAC. In looking to the new year, CAC members are encouraged to let staff know in the coming months if they are thinking of vacating a seat so we can recruit members all at once.
- 6. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m. by a voice vote.