



## Geary Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

6:00 p.m.

One South Van Ness, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Union Square Conference Room

### Geary CAC Members

Dan Calamucci  
Brianna "Bri" Caspersen  
(filled in for Ben Horne)  
Lou Grosso  
Joshua Kelly  
Annie Lee  
Terilyn Love (called in)  
Victor Olivieri  
Marian Roth-Cramer  
Kevin Stull  
Andrei Svennson

### SFMTA Staff

Liz Brisson  
Lulu Feliciano  
  
Kim Le  
Sophia Scherr  
Hester Yu

## Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

- a. Annie Lee, Geary CAC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### 2. Roll call

### 3. Announcements

- a. New CAC member Terilyn Love introduced herself via phone.
- b. CAC meeting time poll results: Current meeting date & time of the third Tuesday of every other month at 6 pm works for most members, so the meeting will remain as is.
- c. Staff received resignation from member Fay Fua. Between now and the next meeting in May, staff will be appointing a new member to the CAC to replace Fay.

### 4. Ice breaker activity

- a. Members participated in a short ice breaker exercise.

### 5. Approval of minutes – [January 15, 2019](#)

- a. Lou motioned to approve. Kevin seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by a voice vote.

### 6. Public comment: Members of the public may address the Geary Community Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.

- a. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
- b. Josh Kelly: Are there plans to add a covered bus shelter at the Geary and Van Ness stop by the new CPMC hospital?



- i. Liz Brisson: Staff recently completed the permitting process to add a shelter there and it should be installed soon. We're also going through the process to permit and install bus shelters at the newly consolidated stops at Masonic-Presidio (inbound) and Fillmore-Webster (inbound).

#### **7. Geary Boulevard Improvement Project update**

- a. Liz Brisson provided Geary Boulevard Improvement Project updates in lieu of Project Manager Kannu Balan's absence.
- b. Kevin Stull: Are the sub-sidewalk basement information gathering only for businesses?
  - i. It is for all property owners. If we plan to do excavation work at that location, we would need to know if they have sub-sidewalk basement.
- c. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

- a. Liz Brisson presented on Geary Rapid Project implementation updates.
- b. Marian Roth Cramer: In comparison to Phase I, Phase II has more businesses in terms of square footage. She suggested reaching out to the local and Russian papers in the Richmond to share stories such as the one Liz mentioned about the project making parking changes to accommodate business access needs to assuage some of the concerns that merchants in the Richmond have about project impacts. Marian also commented that the Steiner Bridge demolition timing might concern parents and the school if it ended up taking longer than the planned weekend.
  - i. Liz Brisson thanked Marian for her suggestions and said that project team will take note for outreach to merchants and schools.
- c. Annie Lee: Will all the traffic lanes be closed when the Steiner bridge demolition happens?
  - i. Liz Brisson: Yes, during the weekend period when the bridge is demolished, all lanes would need to be closed on Geary at Steiner.
- d. Kevin Stull: The sewer work was delayed because of the heavy rain?
  - i. Liz Brisson: To clarify, the work wasn't delayed. The contractors worked during the rain. However, the groundbreaking was rescheduled because of the rain.
- e. Kevin Stull: Why did it take so long to install pedestrian countdown signals at the Leavenworth and O'Farrell intersection? Most of the Tenderloin is on the city's Vision Zero high injury network, so it is frustrating that it takes so long to install pedestrian countdown signals.
  - i. Liz Brisson and Hester Yu: We're not sure why it took so long at this location. Usually, installing pedestrian countdown signals requires there to be certain infrastructure in place. As part of the Geary Rapid project, all signalized intersections will have pedestrian countdown and audible signals.
- f. Annie Lee: How many lanes will be reduced at the CPMC hospital location?



- i. Liz Brisson: At this location, one peak period towaway travel lane will be removed, so there would be two general purpose travel lanes, one transit-only lane, and one parking lane.
  - g. Annie Lee: At St. Joseph's, when the split phase was first introduced, it was confusing for me as a driver to know it was ok to turn left, because I thought I had to yield to oncoming cars and I did not know they had a red light.
    - i. Liz Brisson: As compared to St. Joseph's, when we implement this change at Laguna, we will have Parking Control Officers (PCOs) there during the initial days of installation and there will also be signage to alert drivers.
  - h. Annie Lee: Are there any issues in terms of budget and cost overruns yet?
    - i. Liz Brisson: The project is still on budget and we are monitoring closely. We are still awaiting bids on three contracts, after which we will have a better idea of whether our budget is adequate.
  - i. Annie Lee: Was the fire and explosion at Parker part of the project?
    - i. Liz Brisson: No, that was a private contractor doing fiber optic conduit installation.
  - j. Andrei Svennson: In the future, would the project's fiber optic conduit trenching eliminate private contractors from having to dig up trenches for their work?
    - i. Hester Yu: That is one purpose. There will be two fiber optic conduits for SFMTA and two for the Department of Technology to be used at their discretion.
  - k. Andrei Svennson: Are the buses going to be electrified?
    - i. Liz Brisson: SFMTA has a policy to electrify all the new fleet by 2035, so all new bus procurements will be battery electric buses.
  - l. Lou Grosso: Is construction work going to happen during the day or night?
    - i. Liz Brisson: Most work will happen during the day, outside of the peak periods. There is one component of water work which will happen late at night because it requires brief disruption to water service and this is the least inconvenient time to do the switchover. This work tends to be noisy as well. In advance of this work, the PUC will do rigorous outreach to impacted properties.
  - m. Josh Kelly: Are there plans to close Stockton Street for the holidays?
    - i. Bri Caspersen: The Union Square BID had advocated to keep Stockton closed, but other hotels and Chinatown stakeholders wanted to keep it open, so the City decided to re-open it.
  - n. Bri Caspersen: There's a traffic signal issue on Ellis at Stockton with the green light being on for only about three seconds.
    - i. Liz Brisson: We will share this feedback with our traffic engineers.
  - o. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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



- a. Sophia Scherr provided an update on recent outreach, including staffing at the Russian Festival and the Geary Rapid Project groundbreaking ceremony.
- b. The link to the groundbreaking recap blog is at:  
<https://www.sfmta.com/blog/video-geary-groundbreaking-recap>
- c. Annie Lee: It was a great event. A number of Geary CAC members attended. She lauded the theme of reconnecting the communities in the Fillmore and Japantown.
- d. Public Comment: There was no comment.

#### **10. Geary Rapid – Business Construction Mitigation Plan**

- a. Liz Brisson presented on the Geary Rapid Project's business construction mitigation plan.
- b. Annie Lee: Are CAC members allowed to go to the meetings with the merchants?
  - i. Liz Brisson: It may depend on what the merchants want and what they're comfortable with. We can follow-up if you would like to attend the meetings.
- c. Annie Lee: Are you taking lessons learned from the Van Ness BRT project about construction impacts?
  - i. Liz Brisson: There are major differences in the scale of construction between the Geary Rapid Project and the Van Ness BRT Project. The Geary Rapid cost and scope are much less than Van Ness. For instance, Geary Rapid is not building new center medians. In general, construction for Geary Rapid will happen block-by-block so that construction disruption will occur block-by-block and in a more defined time frame instead of spanning years through the entire corridor like on Van Ness. Having said that, construction disruption is inevitable, and we will make every possible effort to minimize it. We've also heard from this body about bus stop relocation confusion, so we're taking lessons from Van Ness to try to improve notification and signage about temporary bus stop relocations.
- d. Kevin Stull: Do businesses have access to a 24-hour hotline for OEWD business support services?
  - i. Liz Brisson: The Geary Rapid Project has established a 24-hour hotline (415.646.2300). Any urgent construction issues can be addressed immediately, any other topics are recorded for follow-up during business hours. Businesses will have access to OEWD staff resources during normal business hours to provide support such as business marketing and technical assistance.
- e. Dan Calamucci: Businesses dislike construction staging and parking taken up by construction staging and crew. What staging plans are there for this project?
  - i. Liz Brisson: Currently, the parking lane closest to the curb is used for staging near the active construction area. The contractor is looking into



a centralized ongoing staging area but have not yet identified one. We'll follow-up about the construction crew parking issues which are specified in the construction specs

f. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

**11. Adjourn**

a. Annie Lee motioned to adjourn. Kevin Stull seconded the motion. All approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.