



Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 22, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

One South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Called at 6:05pm
 - b. Introductions (new SFMTA staff: Erin McMillan, Sophia Scherr, and Patricia Quintero)
2. Public comment: Members of the public may address the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar
 - a. None heard.
3. Approval of minutes — October 26 and November 16, 2017.
 - a. Approved by voice vote.
4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding SFMTA staff updates.
 - a. Project schedule.
 - i. While some work is progressing ahead of schedule, the project is behind its projected schedule by slightly less than a year.
 - ii. The extent of utility conflicts requires great care to identify and manage. This work is increasing the time it will take to complete this phase of work.
 - b. Construction update.
 - i. Joint trenching ongoing.
 - ii. Addressing utility conflicts.
 1. Kevin Bosch and Kelly Burnett from Walsh Construction discussed abandoned utility lines in the project corridor and procedures to identify them.
 2. Walsh highlighted the complexity of the work being done, and the desire to resolve conflicts as safely and quickly as possible.
 - iii. Sub-sidewalk basement assessments are ongoing.
 - iv. Overhead cable replacement is ongoing.
 - v. Sewer installation.
 1. Recently has been very intensive work, causing loud noise and strong vibrations.
 2. Currently working on alternatives to limit most intensive work to daytime hours, and lessen impacts on neighbors.

- c. Update on neighboring projects.
 - i. Polk Streetscape Project.
 - 1. Work is ongoing including installing bus pads and ADA curb ramps. Catch basin, hydrant and sewer work is also happening.
 - 2. Upcoming paving work: crews will be working 2 days per location, taking over parking spaces. Construction team to be cognizant of releasing said parking spaces immediately after concluding work.
 - 3. Attendees were advised to look at the Polk Streetscape Project [web page](#) for further information.
 - ii. Sewer Replacement Project on Van Ness.
 - 1. Public Works will be replacing sewer lines on northern Van Ness Avenue after internal video showed breaks and cracks in the system.
 - 2. Work Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - a. January through March 2018: Van Ness Avenue from Bay to Francisco streets.
 - b. March through May 2018: Van Ness Avenue from Francisco to Chestnut streets.
5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Outreach update.
- a. Upcoming outreach activities.
 - i. Changes to the Geary 38/38R Bus stop at Van Ness.
 - 1. 38/38R stop on Geary will move from the east side of Van Ness to the west side, and the 38/38R stop at Geary and Franklin will be discontinued. Expected March 2018.
 - 2. The new stop will include a bulb-out (more space for loading) and a transit shelter to accommodate passengers.
 - a. Outreach
 - i. Ambassadors will be deployed to inform commuters of the change before it happens, and to assist them in the transition after it does.
 - ii. Signage will go up, and service alerts will go out via email and text to inform commuters of the change.
 - ii. Advisory Committee member recruiting. Currently recruiting for one seat on the Community Advisory Committee for the Van Ness Improvement project and many seats for the Business Advisory Committee. Current members should reach out to potential candidates.
 - b. Walking tour with the Construction Management Association of America on March 8, 2018.
 - c. SFCTA Board of Commissioners meeting on March 13, 2018.
 - d. Van Ness Business Advisory Committee.
 - i. Next meeting: March 15, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
 - ii. The committee has developed a directory of businesses on the corridor and wayfinding signage that should go up soon, as part of its Open for Business Campaign.

- iii. Mesh hoardings for construction fencing has been purchased and should go up any day. They will reflect Van Ness Improvement Project branding and messaging.
- 6. 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. 47/49 Van Ness buses at the completion of the BRT project
 - i. The same 47 and 49 buses that will travel on Van Ness BRT lanes will continue servicing the remainder of their routes. Passengers will not have to transfer to a different bus at the end of the BRT lanes.
 - b. Discussion on left turns on Van Ness and traffic circulation.
 - i. Circulation has improved by restricting left turn lanes, but more data is being collected to understand how construction is having an impact on traffic circulation as well.
 - ii. There are both safety and traffic circulation concerns regarding the remaining left turns on Van Ness.
 - c. Discussion on City of San Francisco political landscape and the possibility of impacts to Van Ness Improvement project.
 - i. Staff are mindful of the changing political landscape of the City and upcoming elections.
 - d. Paratransit buses are reportedly double-parking on Van Ness around Sacramento (to serve the CPMC), which is causing traffic delays on the corridor. Also, double-decker tourist buses are inappropriately using Muni-only turning lanes on Van Ness. Staff to follow-up.
- 7. Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

Next meetings:

- a. Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee, March 22, 2018, 6:00p.m., One South Van Ness, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room.
- b. Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee, April 26, 2018, 6:00p.m., One South Van Ness, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room.

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 Business Advisory Committee.

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 Business Advisory Committee 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 Business Advisory Committee 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.