



Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 24, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
One South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order by voice vote at 6:02 p.m.
2. Presentation and discussion of City Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment.
3. Public comment.
 - a. None heard.
4. Approval of minutes – [April 26](#).
 - a. Approved by a voice vote.
5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding SFMTA staff updates.
 - a. Project schedule.
 - b. Construction update.
 - i. Bob Anderson: The construction forecast is not accurate which makes it difficult for neighbors to make arrangements to go somewhere else when there is night construction. The information that is being shared with the neighbors needs to be more accurate and timely.
 1. Staff acknowledged that construction forecasts are subject to change and that the team is actively working to provide the most accurate information possible in a timely fashion.
 - ii. Alex Wilson: If the project team is certain of night construction on shorter notice (on the day of, for example), maybe there could be a system with either with physical signage, or through social media, for the project team to notify neighbors of the most up-to-date information regarding night noise.
 1. Project staff and contractor are brainstorming the logistics of such a system.
 - iii. Martha Knutzen: What is the reason behind the 10 day-delay of the schedule that seems to be happening every month? What steps are being taken to remedy the loss?
 1. Crews are still encountering utility conflicts, which causes activities to take longer than anticipated. As the project enters into Phase 1B, the hope is that the lessons learned in Phase 1A will help expedite the process of addressing utility conflicts, and other challenges as well.
 - iv. Bob Bardell: Peter D's café is going out of business, and conversations on the app Nextdoor were attributing it to the Van Ness Improvement Project.

- v. Bill Crissman: Peter D's is the 3rd or 4th café to go out of business on Van Ness since the beginning of the project.
 - 1. Staff have been meeting and working with businesses on the corridor to help address their concerns regarding construction.
 - c. Update on neighboring projects.
 - i. Polkstreetscape Project Activity summary.
- 6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Outreach update.
 - a. Stephen Pepple: There needs to be better bus stop relocation signage. Riders, especially in the northern end of the corridor, are finding it challenging to figure out where the buses are stopping.
 - b. Martha Knutzen: Highlighting the temporary nature of changes, and the dates on the signs for when the change was active, would make it a lot clearer for Muni riders.
 - i. Staff has installed larger signs at high transfer points with other Muni lines, such as at the stops that connect with the 38/38R Geary bus, but they have also recommended that the project procure the larger signs for temporary stops all along the corridor.
 - c. Hillary Brown, member of the public: The SFMTA logo and branding is different than what was on the printed materials for previous meetings.
- 7. 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. Bob Bardell: A good topic for a Meet the Expert event would be to explain what the different materials and machinery that you see in staging areas and construction areas along the corridor are, and what they are used for.
 - b. Bob Lockhart: Are the ad kiosks that replaced bus shelters permanent? Sometimes people confuse them with bus stops so adding signage that clarifies it is not a stop, and that points to what the next bus stop actually is, would be helpful.
 - i. They are temporary and will be replaced by bus shelters at the end of the project.
 - c. Anne Turner: Sometimes the signage on the kiosks comes loose and flap in the wind, making them unsafe.
 - d. Joanna Gubman: Wooden platforms for temporary bus stops feel flat, steady, and safe. New wayfinding signage for businesses looks nice. A CMS (changeable message sign) was spotted when walking southbound towards Market Street that was alerting about construction with a start date that was more than a month old and no end date. It would be more helpful if the messaging for those signs were updated and clearer, with start and end dates for any advisories.
 - e. Randy Uang: Is there a definitive date for the left-turn removal northbound at Hayes?

- i. The estimated date for the removal is at the end of June; staff to provide an update when they have a definitive date.
 - f. Alex Wilson: Motion to add an item to next meeting's agenda for project staff to provide a presentation on the following topics: A plan to recover or halt the increase in days of delay that the project is experiencing month after month; an updated cost increase for the project because of the continued days of delay in the schedule; and, an assessment of risk that contractor would breach project contract.
 - i. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
- 8. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m. by a voice vote.