



Geary Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Geary CAC Members	Project Staff
Annie Lee	Daniel Mackowski (SFMTA)
Rich Hashimoto	Liz Brisson (SFMTA)
Louis Grosso	Amy Fowler (SFMTA)
Joon Choi	Mariana Maguire (SFMTA)
Andrei Svensson	Aaron Tennyson (Esquivel)
Kevin Stull	
Dina Polanco-Mendoza	
Daniel Calamuci	
Paul Epstein	
Susannah Raub	

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- a. Annie Lee called meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Virtual meeting etiquette

3. Roll call

4. Approval of minutes – [July 21, 2020](#)

- a. Rich Hashimoto motioned to approve. Lou Grosso seconded. Minutes approved by voice vote at 6:11 p.m.

5. Public comment

- a. Tom Barton: Requested an update on Geary and Beaumont.

6. Geary Rapid – Geary west surface contract update with Esquivel Grading and Paving, Inc.

- a. Dan Mackowski presented on this item.
- b. Aaron Tennyson presented additional information.
- c. Rich Hashimoto: Why are construction notices arriving late, after work is completed?
 - i. Aaron: Required by the city to send notices in a timely manner and they are sent, but other factors may impact timely delivery. Will ensure they continue to be sent on-time.

7. Geary Rapid – Overview of pedestrian safety features

- a. Liz Brisson presented on this item.
- b. Lou Grosso: The median on the west side of Laguna extends through the crosswalk, which forces people to go over or around it close to traffic. I heard that 30 inches would be removed.



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- i. Liz Brisson: Both the medians in the eastern and western crosswalks across Geary at Laguna will be reconfigured to address this issue and provide a safe and accessible median refuge as a part of the Geary Rapid Project. In addition, in response to St. Francis Square's request, we have been able to arrange for the contractor implementing Geary water and sewer upgrades to make a more immediate upgrade to cut approximately 30 inches off the westside median and flatten to crosswalk level.
- ii. Dan Mackowski: There are utilities in the median currently that need to be dealt with, but because our utility contractors are there now for testing, they can make some short-term improvements in about a week.
- c. Lou Grosso: The eastbound transit lane and bus stop location at Laguna has made the approach to Gough confusing, with buses trying to merge from the right to the middle lane.
 - i. Dan Mackowski: This is an interim condition that will be improved with final striping and a 20-foot bulb-out, which will also help calm traffic near Laguna. Because there are many seniors in the area, we needed to keep the bus stop on the near side where it's flatter.
- d. Annie: Has the second right turn lane from Geary to Gough been removed? How is traffic as a result?
 - i. Liz Brisson: Yes, one turn lane was removed in Fall of 2018. There were initially some 311 complaints and some data showed slower traffic at certain times of day, but neither suggested anything problematic.
- e. Tom Barton: At 8th Avenue how long will SFMTA extend the pedestrian crossing? I see seniors still crossing when the signal indicates not to cross with the blinking red hand.
 - i. Dan Mackowski: We will be looking into refining traffic signal timing west of the Geary Rapid limits. I'm not sure yet how much time we would add, likely about 3-4 seconds.
 - ii. Andrei Svensson: If we extend the blinking red portion of the signal cycle, people will stop paying attention to its intended purpose. There is probably an ideal percentage between the white walk signal/red flashing.
 - 1. Dan Mackowski: Will find the percentile/more info for the next meeting.
 - iii. Lou Grosso: Silent countdowns are not useful to the blind. And if the APS on the median or curbs are too quiet then we're stuck. It would be great if the countdowns could be communicated to us.
 - 1. Liz Brisson: The new signal upgrades as part of the Geary Rapid Project will add Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS), including at Buchanan.
 - 2. Dan Mackowski: Will check the volume of audible signals.
 - iv. Annie: Will there be buttons at the medians if people get stuck?
 - 1. Dan Mackowski: Yes, where there is space for people to wait, there will be a button in the center.
 - v. Andrei Svensson: Are there apps for a countdown timer? Or is that something that could be programmed or looked into?
 - 1. Dan Mackowski: SFMTA has thought about additional features and we can provide an update in the next meeting.



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8. Geary Rapid – Project update

- a. Dan Mackowski presented on this item.

9. Geary Rapid – Implementation update

- a. Dan Mackowski presented on this item.
- b. Tom Barton: Thanked Dan for his work and everyone on the committee. Hopefully there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Commonwealth/Beaumont signal. Will take photos when construction there begins .

10. Geary Rapid – Outreach update

- a. Amy Fowler presented on this item.

11. Geary Temporary Emergency Transit Lanes Update

- a. Liz Brisson presented on this item.
- b. Lou Grosso: Near St. Francis Square, noticed 38 Geary buses are crowded.
 - i. Liz Brisson: We are monitoring crowding levels and just launched a new data [dashboard](#). One of the reasons there is crowding is when buses bunch up due to traffic. The proposed emergency transit lanes are intended to help address this issue so people on the bus can maintain adequate social distance.
- c. Tom Barton: Asked if the proposed Geary emergency transit lane is not yet confirmed; what might change based on public comment? Why are some Muni drivers not pulling up to the curbs to let people on and off the bus?
 - i. Liz Brisson: Correct, the proposed Geary emergency transit lane is not yet approved. The purpose of the public hearing is to take feedback. During initial outreach directly to businesses adjacent to parking changes, we made updates to the design. So far we haven't received any other feedback with specific concerns; the City Traffic Engineer will review all feedback provided at the hearing prior to considering approving the project. Regarding buses pulling up to curbs, sometimes operators don't have enough space to pull over and sometimes it's an error. The temporary bus bulbs will help; you can report it to 311 if you experience that again.

12. Scheduling

- a. Annie: Current meeting schedule should not interfere with upcoming holidays so they will remain as is.

13. Adjourn

- a. Kevin Stull motioned to adjourn. Rich Hashimoto seconded. Voice vote to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.