

Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee**Thursday, February 28, 2019, 6:00 p.m.****One South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room**Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Public comment:
 - a. None heard.
3. Approval of minutes – [January 24.](#)
 - a. Approved by a voice vote.
4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding update from SFMTA staff.
 - a. Project schedule.
 - i. Through a resequencing of the schedule, the project team has decreased the days of delay by about 80 days. However, the team has concluded that the base of the roadway is inadequate in many locations throughout the corridor and is working on repairing it. This will expand the scope of the project and thus, add days of work to the schedule.
 1. Robert Bardell: What condition is the roadway in?
 - a. The adequate standard for a roadway as busy as Van Ness is to have 10-12 inches of concrete with about 3 inches of asphalt on top. In certain locations the team found about 10 inches of asphalt with no concrete base. The team will be working to restore the base to that 10-12-inch minimum concrete base before repaving the road with asphalt.
 - b. Construction update.
 - c. Outreach update.
 - d. Update on neighboring projects.
 - e. Catherine Tran: The SFPD nighttime patrols will be timely. We have noticed a higher incidence of break-ins and unauthorized entries into our building, and more incidences of people camping out on the sidewalks or construction areas. How will that work?
 1. The project has funding available to address public safety issues, be it traffic control or site security, and we have decided to fund some extra patrolling time from SFPD on the corridor to address some of these safety concerns we've been hearing from the community.

2. Martha Knutzen: The areas around Turk and Willow, where the new CVS is, have been particularly vulnerable to crime lately.
 - ii. Martha Knutzen: The update shows you are working on sidewalk replacement. Which blocks are you currently working on?
 1. We are in different phases of sidewalk, curb and parking lane replacement on several blocks (Sutter to McAllister on the west side, Jackson to Sutter on the east side). We'll also be replacing the road base and paving several intersections in the coming weeks. Recently, we've been replacing the sidewalk near Tommy's Joynt at the Geary intersection, to give an example. And crews have been performing extensive work on the intersections of Post, Geary and O'Farrell in preparation of the opening of the new CPMC hospital.
 2. Robert Lockhart: When will you work on the northern blocks of the corridor, like around Union and Filbert?
 - a. Tomorrow we are working Lombard to Greenwich on the northern end. We should be finishing up roadway and sidewalk work on some of the other blocks on the northern side of the corridor in the next few weeks as well.
5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding update about the public art component of the project from the San Francisco Arts Commission.
 - a. Catherine Tran: Of the 170 applicants that applied to design this art installation, how many were women? How many finalists were women? How many panelists (the people tasked with choosing the artist) were women?
 - i. We wouldn't be able to say from memory, but we know at least one of the finalists for this project was a woman. We also know that the Arts Commission overall has a 50% rate of commissions for projects throughout the city that go to women. The commission also has a high percentage of projects that are commissioned to artists of color, such as this one.
 - b. Alex Wilson: How are you gathering public input for this proposal?
 - i. At this stage, we have been presenting these more finalized designs at different community forums such as this one, and the Van Ness Business Advisory Committee, the Historical Preservation Committee, and the War Memorial Complex. Once we finalize the renderings, we will also be putting them up on our website. Next week, we'll be presenting it for the project's monthly Meet the Expert.
 - c. Stephen Pepple:

- i. It's good that the process is transparent, but do you have any community driven-criteria? It is not clear that the community's input shapes the outcome of the project.
 - 1. We heard input from the community for our first proposal and that prompted a significant change on the proposal. We redesigned it because of the feedback we heard. We also have a community representative in the selection panels for the Commission.
- ii. Where the art will be located seems like an ideal spot. It is usually thought of as a pass-through and it will be good to help create a place of interest in this neighborhood.
- iii. Is this permanent artwork and will it be maintained?
 - 1. Yes, it is permanent, and yes, the Arts Commission is responsible for maintaining it.
- d. Robert Bardell: The vandals are going to love it. You should be prepared for that.
 - i. The installations will have industrial grade paint and an anti-graffiti coating. The Arts Commission is well prepared to deal with these challenges as it is common throughout many of our projects in the city.
- e. Martha Knutzen: Will the installation leave room to congregate around it, or will it be more of a space you pass through quickly as you walk to where the buses will stop?
 - i. The platform will be nine feet wide and the installation will be a little less than three feet wide, leaving about six feet to walk past it or stand by it. It will be hard to predict how the public will use it until the art is installed.
- f. Alex Wilson
 - i. The spheres that you are using on the ground to make it navigable for people with disabilities is really phenomenal, and it is not only functional and accessible, but it aesthetically blends with the installation.
 - ii. Will there be some sort of sign or placard with the artist's name?
 - 1. Yes, the installation will include a placard with the artist's and the art's name, which in this case is "Untitled," along with a short description or tidbit about the art.
- g. Robert Lockhart made a motion to write a letter of support for the art proposal, which Martha Knutzen seconded.
 - i. Alex Wilson mentioned it would be important to be clear in the letter that it will be from the Van Ness BRT CAC specifically and not exactly from the overall community or neighborhood.
 - ii. The motion was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

6. Member comment.
 - a. Robert Bardell: When the project reaches its midway point, it is imperative that we let neighbors know we reached this milestone, and it would be a great opportunity to let them know what to expect for the other half of the project. The community really has been impacted by this project and it's been hard on the people that live on the corridor. It could be a bulletin that is mailed out with this information, similar to the newsletters.
 - b. Robert Lockhart: I have noticed they have installed some more temporary lights which certainly improve visibility, but I heard from a neighbor at the intersection of Greenwich that a new light was shining too brightly into their apartment.
 - i. Staff can follow-up with the construction team to make sure any construction lights are adjusted so that they don't bother nearby properties.
7. Meeting adjourned by a voice vote at 7:02 p.m.