



## Geary Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

6:00 p.m.

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

### Geary CAC Members

Sana Ahmed  
Robbie Silver (filling-in for Ben Horne)  
Joon Choi  
Paul Epstein  
Joshua Kelly  
Richard Hashimoto  
Annie Lee  
Daniel Calamuci  
Susannah Raub  
Andrei Svennson  
Kevin Stull  
Victor Oliveri

### Project Staff

Liz Brisson (SFMTA)  
Lulu Feliciano (SFMTA)  
  
Amy Fowler (SFMTA)  
Sophia Scherr (SFMTA)

## Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

- a. Annie Lee, Geary CAC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### 2. Roll call

### 3. Ice breaker activity

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

### 4. Approval of minutes – [May 21, 2019](#)

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

### 5. 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:
- b. Tom Barton: Received a list of transit shelters on Geary from Van Ness Ave to 33<sup>RD</sup> Ave indicating which have power and real-time information displays. Many are not powered, and I am concerned that people with disabilities will not be able to get information via the push to talk button. Is the SFMTA looking into installing solar panels at new shelters?
  - i. Susannah Raub: Does the Geary Rapid Project include adding power to shelters as well as installing new shelters? If so, when will new



- shelters be installed? Does the SFMTA have plans to install shelters or real-time information displays at existing stops that don't have them?
- ii. Liz Brisson: The project team is making efforts to try to install shelters at stops that don't have them, but there is a permitting process that can be hard to get through without the support of adjacent property owners, which makes shelter permitting challenging. Some shelters do not yet have power, but will have power added as a part of the project's capital upgrades. SFMTA is finalizing a contract for the next generation of the real-time information system. Part of the contract includes providing solar- powered real-time information displays at places that can't accommodate shelters, but it will be over a year until this equipment is available.
  - c. Kevin Stull: The project recently made changes to traffic signal at Geary and Laguna. A few weeks after those changes, a pedestrian was hit and killed at the intersection. Were the traffic signal changes a factor in that collision? When there is any change there might be an adjustment period for both pedestrians and drivers.
    - i. Liz Brisson: The SFMTA is aware of the collision that happened at Geary and Laguna and it is incredibly sad and upsetting. There was no connection between the signal changes and the collision, as the pedestrian was crossing Geary against a red light. As a Vision Zero city, San Francisco wants a transportation system such that even when mistakes are made, they do not result in a serious or fatal collision. One potential change that might help would be a lower speed limit which the project team hopes to pursue as a part of project improvements.

## **6. Geary Rapid – Project Update**

- a. Liz Brisson presented on the Geary Rapid Project Update
- b. Kevin Stull: The budget total should be \$39.6 million, not \$38.9 million.
- c. Paul Epstein: When you say budget, does that mean funding has been identified?
  - i. Liz Brisson: Yes, the budget for SFMTA's scope in the Geary Rapid Project is \$35 million and all that funding is identified/committed to the project.
- d. Kevin Stull: The table states that 98% of the project design is supposed to be done by summer, so does that mean by next meeting the design will be finalized? What does the 20% total mean?
  - i. Liz Brisson: Yes, project design should be completed by the end of summer. We will follow-up with a response on the 20%.
- e. Annie Lee: Has the SFMTA found a contractor for the Steiner Street bridge demolition?



- i. Liz Brisson: No, the SFMTA is advertising the Steiner bridge contract soon and will keep the CAC posted when a contractor is selected.
- f. Public Comment:
- g. Tom Barton: Regarding the Commonwealth/Beaumont pedestrian crossing, can a flashing light signal be installed instead of a traffic signal?
  - i. Liz Brisson: That type of traffic control device is mainly used on lower traffic streets with fewer travel lanes and is not recommended for a high-traffic, multi-lane street like Geary Boulevard.
- h. Sana Ahmed: Is there a certain speed limit for the flashing light signal to be installed?
  - i. Liz Brisson: I will have to get back to you with that information.

## **7. Geary Rapid – Near-Implementation initial evaluation results**

- a. Liz Brisson presented the near-term initial evaluation results
- b. Susanna Raub: Regarding the definition of bus reliability, I view that as the bus comes when I expect – is that what you looked at?
  - i. Liz Brisson: The metric I shared tonight was travel time reliability on the bus, meaning how variable is the time that it takes when you are riding the bus. What you are referring to is how variable the travel time is of how long you wait for the bus, which is affected by bunching and gapping of buses. We did take a preliminary look at bunch/gap data, but we didn't see any clear trends. We think the reason for this is the analysis was clouded by the ongoing operator shortage, but we will continue to monitor this metric .
- c. Daniel Calamuci: Is there any interest in publicizing this data? I think it would be interesting for the feedback from riders to be shared more broadly.
  - i. Liz Brisson: Yes, the CAC is our first step in sharing information, but we plan to include it in future email updates, blog post and/or newsletter.
- d. Paul Epstein: It shows that people have a perception that there is a 10-minute gain in time saving, but the actual data shows that it is only about a minute in time savings?
  - i. Liz Brisson: The data showed that on average people perceived 11 minutes of travel time savings, but only experience 1-2 minutes of savings. The public perception is that the time savings is greater than they are. This
- e. Joon Choi: How many buses operate along Geary? Does it vary by time?
  - i. Liz Brisson: I will have to follow up with the exact number, but during peak hours, we run buses as frequently as every 2 minutes including local, Rapid and Express services.
- f. Public Comment: there was no public comment

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



- a. Liz Brisson presented an implementation update.
- b. Kevin Stull: Regarding the Steiner bridge demolition, when the contract is awarded, can the contractor get their permits before they NTP or do they have to wait until after NTP? Will the demolition date be set before the contract is awarded?
  - i. Liz Brisson: Typically, contractors don't finish securing permits until after the Notice to Proceed is issued. The demolition date for the Steiner Bridge will not be set until after the contract has been awarded.
- c. Annie Lee: Will the SFMTA re-do the roadway striping on Geary after the Steiner bridge demolition because there will no longer be bridge columns in the roadway? If so, what would that look like?
  - i. Liz Brisson: I will have to follow up with that information
- d. Public Comment: there was no public comment.

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

- a. Amy Fowler presented an outreach update
- b. Robbie Silver: Do you have an ETA on when you will be conducting outreach to Union Square and other stakeholders in the Geary East contract?
  - i. Amy Fowler: We don't know the construction sequencing for the Geary East contract yet, but we will be doing initial outreach soon if it looks like construction will reach Union Square first.
- c. Kevin Stull: Will you be reaching out to the Tenderloin CBD?
  - i. Amy Fowler: Yes, we just started to have initial conversations with them, however, they don't represent the entire construction area in the Tenderloin, so we will also conduct door-to-door merchant outreach.
- d. Annie Lee: How is the newsletter coming along?
  - i. Amy Fowler: It is very close to being completed and we will send it to print this week or next. This edition will be mailed and digital.
- e. Public Comment: there was no public comment.

#### **10. Adjourn**

- a. Susanna Raub motioned to adjourn. Kevin Stull seconded the motion. All approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.