

Geary Boulevard Improvement Project Virtual Meeting – Community Enhancement

9/11/2024, 6pm via Zoom

Overview

The Geary Boulevard Improvement Project will include a community enhancement element to beautify the corridor. In April 2024, Richmond District residents and businesses were asked to share their thoughts about potential enhancements along Geary Boulevard between Stanyan Street and 34th Avenue. Based on the results of the survey, the project's community enhancement element will include about 50 new street trees and decorative concrete with glass aggregate sidewalk designs at some Rapid bus stops, with designs featuring the nature of the Richmond District. A second round of outreach in September 2024 is underway to seek feedback on tree species and sidewalk design details. The virtual meeting was one component of this outreach.

Meeting Summary

Supervisor Connie Chan made opening remarks and SFMTA staff gave a presentation overviewing the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project and the Community Enhancement elements that are open for community feedback. Participants were invited to share feedback and ask questions that SFMTA and SF Public Works staff responded to. This document summarizes community questions and feedback organized into the following three topics: trees, decorative sidewalks, and other project questions and comments.

Trees

Comments:

- 1. Appreciation for advancing plans to expand the Geary Boulevard tree canopy.**
- 2. Preference to prioritize tree species that are fastest growing.** All three median trees species that we are seeking community feedback on are relatively fast growing, while all four sidewalk tree species that we are seeking community feedback on are relatively moderate growing which is typical for an urban sidewalk environment.
- 3. Opposition to sidewalk trees due to limited sidewalk space, potential damage to sidewalks from tree roots, and concerns about security and pests.**

Questions:

- 4. Can the project install landscaping in the Geary median as well?** The Geary Boulevard Improvement Project has one-time capital funding that can be used for an enhancement but cannot cover ongoing maintenance needs. SF Public Works is responsible for maintaining the existing median plantings but has insufficient funding to expand its landscaping maintenance responsibilities.

5. **Is there any analysis of streets tree impact on crime?** Follow-up since the meeting: studies indicate that [streets with tree canopy are associated with a decrease in crime](#). Outreach would be conducted to any stores before planting a tree on their fronting sidewalk.
6. **Can trees be placed in both the sidewalk and the median?** Yes, the survey asks whether respondents would prioritize new trees in the sidewalk, the median, or both equally.
7. **Would any of the tree species have droppings?** Yes, all the trees would have some amount of droppings that would either be washed away or decompose. The tree installation will include a tree basin that would minimize the amount of droppings that end up on the sidewalk. Among the different species, the timing, type and amount of droppings may vary somewhat but not significantly so.

Decorative Sidewalks

8. **Preference to prioritize new trees and not install any decorative sidewalks.**
9. **Suggestion to partner with schools to have students help make the design.**

Other Project Questions

10. **Who may I contact for more questions?** ImproveGeary@sfmta.com
11. **Are there plans for security camera views of bus shelters?** The City and County of San Francisco does not have security cameras on Geary Boulevard and does not have plans for cameras in shelters. Police will often ask private businesses for footage in the event of a crime.
12. **When will bus shelters be available at bus stops that were relocated in the Quick Build phase last Fall 2023?** All shelters have been permitted. We are now waiting on inventory to arrive in late October for anticipated November 2024 installation. The only stop within the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project limits (33rd Avenue to Stanyan Street) that will not have a shelter due to space constraints is the 22nd Avenue outbound stop.
13. **Are there plans to repair broken real-time information signage? When will new digital signage be installed at Geary bus stops?** The best way to deal with broken signs is to report them via 311 so they're logged into the system. The 38 Geary corridor is in process of having SFMTA's newest [customer information system](#) digital signage installed. Some of the new signs have already been installed and some installation is coming soon. All new shelters being installed within the Geary Boulevard Improvement

Project limits will have the newest version of digital signs. Some will get it as soon as the shelter is installed if existing power is available; others will wait until new conduits are installed during the main construction phase to be complete by the end of 2027.