



Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 22, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

One South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order. Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee members please sit at table.
 - a. Called at 6:04 p.m.
 - b. Introductions (new SFMTA outreach staff: Amy Fowler and Patricia Quintero, new Walsh staff: Margena Wade).
2. Public comment: Members of the public may address the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.
 - a. None heard.
3. Approval of minutes — February 22.
 - a. Approved by voice vote.
4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding SFMTA staff updates.
 - a. Project schedule.
 - i. The project is now delayed by almost a full year. It was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019, and it is now projected to be completed at the end of 2020.
 - b. Construction update.
 - i. Construction is approximately at 16% completion.
 - ii. Joint trenching ongoing- ahead of schedule.
 - iii. Addressing utility conflicts.
 1. This phase of work will be taking a lot longer than predicted. All aspects of the utility construction phase are now projected to continue through 2020.
 2. Questions were raised regarding the protocol the contractor follows when encountering unmarked or abandoned utilities. The contractor follows the appropriate protocol as delineated on the specifications of the contract. There are concerns over how the public is notified of the existence of utility lines that the contractor is finding when working on Van Ness, that seem to have not been properly registered and/or installed.
 - iv. Overhead cable replacement.
 - v. Sewer installation – intensive night noise.

1. Staff have been successful at shifting a lot of the most disruptive activities of sewer installation into daytime shifts, to relieve the impact on neighbors of the corridor. The project now also has new outreach staff to help communicate with neighbors and merchants on the corridor.
 2. In some locations, this type of work still needs to happen at night because of traffic restrictions, but staff is working to limit the number of nights in a row those activities will happen at the same location.
 3. Kelly Burnett from Walsh explained the necessity to trench in the center of the street around Filbert. It is in order to tie into existing sewers located in the center of the roadway. This forces the work to happen at night.
 4. When the sewer work is finished on one side of the street, crews will have to return to their locations at some point to do the same type of work on the other side of Van Ness.
 5. Staff is working with the contractor to define when disruptive activity is happening at night, as to be able to properly notify the public, and particularly the neighbors that are most likely to be impacted.
- vi. Sidewalk tree removals.
- c. Update on neighboring projects.
 - i. Polk Streetscape Project.
 1. Crews are currently scheduled to work on sewer, ADA curb ramps, catch basins, street light upgrades, among other features.
 2. Paving on Polk is scheduled to happen in three phases. The first phase is on Polk from Bay to Lombard streets, and is scheduled from March 26-27. The second phase is on Polk from Lombard to Filbert, and on Chestnut and from Polk to Van Ness, and is scheduled from March 28-29. And the third phase, on Polk from Filbert to Vallejo, has yet to be scheduled.
 - ii. Sewer Replacement Project on Van Ness
 1. Currently on hold.
5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Outreach update.
 - a. Recent Milestones.
 - i. Construction Management Association of America- Project staff gave a walking tour on March 8.
 - ii. Changes to bus stops on Geary at Van Ness, Franklin- Effective on March 19, 2018.
 1. 38 Geary/38R Geary Rapid bus stop was relocated from the east side of Van Ness to the west side of Van Ness.
 2. 38 Geary bus stop at Franklin was discontinued.
 3. Outreach: Signage was posted. Ambassadors were deployed before, during and after the change. Service alerts and emails to project subscribers for Van Ness Improvement Project and Geary Rapid Project were sent.

- iii. Advisory Committee member recruiting—ongoing.
 - 1. The Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee and the Van Ness Business Advisory Committee are accepting applications to fill vacant seats.
 - 2. Application deadline: April 4, 2018.
 - 3. Applications and information are online at sfmta.com/vanness.
 - 4. Members are reminded to reach out to potential candidates.
 - b. Upcoming outreach activities
 - i. SFCTA Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting is March 28, 6:00 p.m., 1455 Market St., 22nd Floor.
 - ii. SFCTA Board of Commissioners Meeting is Tuesday, April 10, 10:00 a.m. City Hall Room 250.
 - iii. Van Ness Business Advisory Committee Meeting is Thursday, April 19, 3:00 p.m. One South Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor, Civic Center Conference Room.
6. 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. Susie Criscimagna: Is there potential for new routes to be added to the Van Ness BRT corridor?
 - i. There are no service changes planned for the 47/49 bus lines after the project is completed, though Muni bus routes in general are evaluated on an ongoing basis.
 - b. Bill Crissman: Forwarding complaints and concerns to outreach staff
 - i. As construction ramps up on Van Ness, the level of concerns and complaints are increasing as well. Members are encouraged to forward concerns to project staff so they can be aware and properly address them.
 - c. Joanna Gubman: Assistance from construction team at crosswalks
 - i. Construction crews have been observed being mindful and vigilant of directing people who are crossing the streets at locations impacted by construction activities, like around McAllister. It is helpful to people walking on Van Ness, and increases safety.
 - d. Bob Bardell: Discussion of construction and developments along Van Ness Avenue.
 - i. It is now apparent construction is happening on the corridor, and there is a sentiment that people are pleased to see the project is now well underway.
 - ii. Bill Crissman: There seem to be plans to start developing a project at 600 Van Ness, before the end of construction of the Van Ness Improvement Project. Construction equipment currently staged at that location for Van Ness is not planned to remain there until the project's completion, and will have to be moved elsewhere.
 - iii. Many other developments are under construction or being planned along the corridor. Development activity could be a result in part of the new upgrades and transit infrastructure the Van Ness Improvement Project will build.

- e. Alex Wilson: GPS navigation software for Van Ness.
 - i. GPS navigation apps continue to direct traffic to go into Van Ness, even in periods of heavy congestion. This is particularly problematic on ride-sharing services such as Lyft or Uber. Project staff to follow-up on the possibility of reaching out to companies to improve their understanding of traffic conditions on Van Ness, and update their navigation systems.
 - f. Bob Lockhart: Paratransit buses are reportedly double-parking on Van Ness around Sacramento (to serve the CPMC), which is causing traffic delays on the corridor. Also, double-decker tourist buses are inappropriately using Muni-only turning lanes on Van Ness.
 - g. Randy Uang: Sewer work on Hayes Street.
 - i. Work is happening on the 300 block, and is scheduled to start on the 200 block (between Franklin and Van Ness) starting the following week.
7. Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned by a voice vote at 6:48 p.m.

Next meetings:

- a. Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee, April 26, 2018, 6:00 p.m., One South Van Ness, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room.
- b. Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee, May 24, 2018, 6:00 p.m., One South Van Ness, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room