



## **Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee**

Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Minutes**

1. Call to Order by voice vote at 6:04 p.m.
2. Public comment.
  - a. Hillary Shehova introduced herself as a member of the public who was very interested in this project, as she has been a Muni rider for 25 years. She is disabled. She is a frequent rider of the 47/49 Van Ness bus routes. She is glad that the committee exists, and wished that she knew about it before. She would like to contribute and help the project improve communication moving forward.
3. Icebreaker activity – Introduce new members of the committee.
  - a. Martha Knutzen.
  - b. Anne Turner.
4. Approval of minutes — March 22.
  - a. Approved by a voice vote.
5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding SFMTA staff updates.
  - a. Project overview by staff for the benefit of new members.
    - i. Bob Anderson asked if there was a set date for removal of the northbound left turn at Hayes Street. It is scheduled to be removed at the next stage of construction, which is projected to begin this summer.
    - ii. Adam Mayer asked whether taxi cabs would be allowed on the red BRT lanes. The lanes are planned to be transit-only lanes, and so taxi cabs are not allowed on them. They are to be used only by Muni and Golden Gate Transit buses.
    - iii. Joanna Gubman asked about procurement of fully electric, battery powered buses. Those were considered and tested a number of years ago for other Muni lines, but were not suitable for San Francisco's topography. Staff did not have more recent updates on procurement of those types of buses system-wide, but the ones for this project have already been procured and are not of that type.
    - iv. Anne Turner asked for an example of a "utility conflict." Project Manager Peter Gabancho provided the example of an abandoned retaining wall that was used to support a building while it was being constructed and left in place after it was no longer needed.

- v. Adam Mayer asked if we had an archeologist on site. Walsh does have an archeologist on call, and he will be our guest at the May 2 “Meet the Expert” event.
  - b. Project schedule.
    - i. Martha Knutzen asked about the major causes of delay of the project. The major causes have been heavy winter rain during the first year of construction, contracting challenges that delayed the start of the utility work and the extent of abandoned utility conflicts that crews are finding and having to work around.
    - ii. Bob Lockhart asked if it was normal to have a crew dig a trench, do some work, fill it and dig it up again to do more work later on. That is not normally how work is sequenced. However, sometimes crews find something that they can’t quickly address, so they fill the trench and come back to it later to address the conflict or issue. Another reason it may appear that is what is happening, is that different utilities require different trenches that are near each other, but are not completely aligned with each other. And so the work requires multiple nearby trenches to be dug and filled as the work progresses.
    - iii. Anne Turner asked what would happen on the sidewalks as part of the project. The plans are to replant trees and repave sidewalks on the corridor. The details of surrounding that work are still being worked out.
    - iv. Catherine Tran asked what liquidated damages there were for the project. Kate McCarthy explained that liquidated damages are assessed for noncompliance with the contract agreement. For example, for each day late that the project is finished behind the approved schedule, the contractor will be assessed \$50,000 in liquidated damages.
    - v. Catherine Tran commented she heard from neighbors that bus stop changes for the 38 and 38R Geary near Geary and Van Ness were frustrating to customers, who found the changes unclear and confusing. Staff is actively working on diminishing negative impacts to customers as the project moves forward, and as they revise proposed temporary bus stop relocations in the future.
  - c. Update on neighboring projects.
    - i. Staff discussed updates on the Polk Streetscape Project.
- 6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Outreach update.
  - a. Staff discussed recent outreach milestones, and upcoming outreach activities, including an upcoming “Meet the Expert” event with archeologist Alex DeGeorgey on May 2, 2018.
- 7. 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. Bob Anderson asked about the status of the public artwork. Project staff are awaiting an update from the San Francisco Arts Commission.

- b. Bob Lockhart shared that members of the 1487 Greenwich Street Home Owners Association Board would like to be added to the Van Ness Improvement Project email list. Staff will follow up and add them to the list.
  - c. Bob Lockhart noted that the issue of the Paratransit vans double parking near the CPMC building seemed to be getting better. He is seeing it happen less often.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. by a voice vote.