



Geary Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

6:00 pm

One South Van Ness, 7th floor, Union Square Conference Room

Geary CAC Member Attendees

Sana Ahmed
Daniel Calamuci
Louis Grosso
Richard Hashimoto
Benjamin Horne
Annie Lee
Victor Olivieri
Rose Priven
Susannah Raub
Marian Roth-Cramer
Kevin Stull
Andrei Svensson
Fay Fua

Staff Attendees

Liz Brisson
Kannu Balan
Noreen Chan
Meghan Daniels
Colin Dentel-Post
Amy Fowler
Kim Le
Daniel Mackowski
Kate McCarthy
Sophia Scherr

Minutes

1. Call to Order.

- a. Annie Lee, Geary CAC Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll call.

- a. New CAC Member Benjamin Horne introduced himself to the group.

3. Ice breaker activity.

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

4. Approval of minutes — [March 20, 2018](#).

- a. 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. Tom Barton commented that he was involved in the Geary Ride Audits. He wants to facilitate a meeting with merchants and transit riders to discuss the proposal to make the Spruce stop serve only local buses and no longer serve Rapid buses.
- b. Paloma Gao commented that she thinks the surface crossing of Geary on the east leg of Webster is not necessary. She also commented that she would like the inbound Laguna stop to be on the east side of the street and that she believes the street grade there should not preclude a bus stop.

6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding an overview of Geary sewer and water upgrades (SFPUC presenting).

- a. Louis Grosso asked about the laying of conduits for fiber optics and if that means that the City will reopen the street again later to run the cables through the conduit.
 - i. Noreen Chan responded that all surface work will be coordinated with SFMTA
 - ii. Daniel Mackowski added that the project will install pull boxes on every block, so when the fiber optic cables need to be put in, they can do so without disruption (no excavation work).
- b. Kevin Stull asked if the water system is seismically retrofitted.
 - i. Meghan Daniels responded that major investments have been made in retrofitting the water system and one of the specific issues SFPUC looked into was the effects that fault lines have on the system.
- c. Susannah Raub said she has observed construction work happening on Webster Street near California Street, where workers seem to open and repave the street and re-open again regularly. This seems inefficient and asked whether this type of sequence would happen with the Geary project.
 - i. Noreen Chan responded that at times during the SFPUC work, parts of the street will be excavated, but with temporary steel plates over the work when construction is not active. The PUC contract does not include full roadway re-paving though the roadway will be restored once all excavation work is complete.
 - ii. Liz Brisson added that the Geary Rapid project work will occur through four different contracts and that following the SFPUC contract, re-paving would occur between Masonic and Van Ness after all underground excavation is done.
- d. Richard Hashimoto asked if vermin issues during excavation is a concern for merchants.
 - i. Noreen Chan responded that the project is managed by a construction management team that will address construction site housekeeping concerns including pests. The project team will work with the Department of Public Health to identify and address issues as needed.
- e. Susannah Raub asked about the delay that the Van Ness Improvement project is having regarding abandoned utilities and if it will be the same case with the Geary Rapid and Geary Boulevard Improvement Projects.
 - i. Noreen Chan responded that a Notice of Intent (NOI) is sent to all utilities companies involved who typically respond to identify any utilities/utility work that is in the area. PUC has put out a notice for the work along Geary and will do exploratory potholing along the corridor.
 - ii. Kate McCarthy added that the team is regularly applying lessons learned from the Van Ness Improvement project to the Geary Rapid and Geary Boulevard Improvement projects.
- f. Kevin Stull asked for an example of abandoned utilities.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that for Van Ness, an old retaining wall was found that had been used in the construction of a building and was abandoned in-place (underground) once its construction was complete.

- g. Kevin Stull asked what type of material is used to line water and sewage pipes.
 - i. Milton Wong responded that the liners are made of a polyethylene plastic that is warmed to make them flexible so they can be inserted into the existing underground pipes and cured so they become rigid.
 - ii. Andrei Svensson asked a follow up question regarding price. Milton responded that the liners eliminate the need for excavation and re-paving which reduces costs and construction impacts.
- h. Benjamin Horne asked if there would be similar utility scope east of Van Ness.
 - i. Noreen Chan responded that all of the work east of Van Ness would all be constructed under one contract that would include surface work such as bulbs as well as water main replacement along Geary Street only. There would be no sewer main work.
- i. Annie Lee asked if bids have been received by contractors and if it is coordinated with other Geary construction contracts.
 - i. Noreen Chan responded that PUC has just opened bids and are currently verifying minimum qualifications. SFPUC is working with SFMTA to coordinate this work with the other three Geary construction contracts.
- j. Ben Horne asked if there was any re-paving work east of Van Ness.
 - i. Liz Brisson responded that there is not re-paving in this part of the corridor because the pavement condition is not below the threshold SF Public Works uses to determine when a street should be repaved.
 - ii. Dan Mackowski added that pavement deteriorates faster at bus stop locations and that the project will install concrete bus pads and repair the pavement at these spot locations.
- k. Public comment:
 - i. Tom Barton commented that there is construction happening near a senior center on Castro and PG&E continues to dig up the street without coordination with SFPUC.
 - ii. Anuradha Munshi stated that she is from Sundraft Energy and asked if there will be any funds within the project for beautification.
- l. Susannah Raub asked SFMTA staff to address the question regarding the coordination between PG&E and PUC regarding street construction.
 - i. Dan Mackowski responded that the work on Geary has been coordinated with PG&E. He added that once the City repaves a street with new pavement from curb to curb, there is a five year moratorium that prohibits any excavation except in emergency situations.
- m. Annie Lee asked if there is beautification within the project scope.
 - i. Liz Brisson responded that within the Geary Rapid project there aren't extensive streetscaping elements other than bus stops with bus bulbs with brick decorative edges, and amenities such as trashcans, bike racks and bus shelters. The goal of the Geary Rapid project is to invest in cost effective remedies that will improve pedestrian safety and transit performance and reliability.

7. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding update on Geary Rapid Outreach.

- a. Sana Ahmed asked if Open Houses will be targeted to people that are directly impacted by the project.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that the upcoming Open House series will be open to the public but particular focus will be on noticing stakeholders in close proximity to the corridor. The outreach team will do the following outreach surrounding the open houses: send a mailer to a 2-block radius of the corridor, a blog article will be posted to the SFMTA website promoting the Open House series, signs with open house information will be posted along the corridor, subscribers to Geary Rapid project updates will be informed via email blasts, and the outreach team will work with stakeholder groups to leverage relationships to promote the event.
- b. Louis Grosso asked if the Open House series will be promoted on Muni buses.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that though a good idea, the return on investment is low. The challenge is that each division serves many routes and buses may not be on the same route from one day to the next. However, the project team will be posting signs near bus stops and stationing ambassadors to hand out open house information leading up to the events.
- c. Victor Olivieri asked if the proposed improvement portion of the Open House will be thematically arranged.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that each station has a theme, however, the improvements will be described generally in the “proposed improvements” section, whereas block by block details will be presented in detailed drawings along the project drawing wall.
- d. Rose Priven suggested that Open House information should be posted on apartment buildings’ bulletin boards. She also asked if there will be seating at the Open Houses for the elderly.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that there will be tables and chairs located in the center of the room for visitors to stop, rest and write down their feedback.
- e. Daniel Calamuci asked what the “speak/listen” section of the Open House is and if there will be a place for construction mitigations.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that the “speak/listen” portion of the Open House will showcase the ways that the project has been modified as a result of feedback from the community. The focus of the Open House is to seek input on the final design before legislation of the project, and construction information will be presented at the Design Showcases.
- f. Susannah Raub suggested that providing information regarding the smaller scale of construction for Geary Rapid relative to Van Ness to the community would be helpful, as there may be concerns from public in regards to the delays occurring with the Van Ness Improvement Project.

- g. Kevin Stull asked if buildings where the Open Houses will be held are ADA accessible.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that the locations and layout of the open houses will be ADA accessible.
- h. Benjamin Horne asked what the dates and locations of the Open Houses will be.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that the dates have not yet been finalized but will be announced to the CAC as soon as they are.
- i. Louis Gross asked how much notice in advance public will get prior to the Open Houses.
 - i. Liz Brisson responded that mailers should arrive about two weeks before the meeting and email notices will be distributed about three weeks before.
- j. Richard Hashimoto asked about the upcoming Japantown/Cathedral Hill meeting that the Geary Rapid team will be presenting at
 - i. Liz Brisson responded that this is a meeting that Japantown Task Force and Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association organized and requested SFMTA to come present at and is different than the SFMTA organized open houses. The meeting with Japantown/Cathedral Hill will focus on proposed changes along that specific part of the corridor but will provide similar content to the open houses.
- k. Annie Lee asked if boards will be made accessible to those with visual impairments.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that the open house boards will be made available online, and they will have alt-text that can be read aloud. Project staff will also be at each section of the open house to describe what is on the project boards. Interpretation services can be made available for non-English speakers 72 hours in advance.
- l. Annie Lee asked if there were changes made to the format of the drawings that were presented to CAC members at the January 16, 2018 meeting and which the CAC provided feedback on.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that all the feedback was taken into consideration and modifications were made to the project drawings. The project team is working on rolling out the final draft versions soon.
- m. Andrei Svensson asked if the SFPUC work be included in the Open House.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that the Open House will be focused on SFMTA work and geared toward project-specific changes that need to be approved by the SFMTA Board of Directors. The final Design Showcase will include information regarding construction from project partners including SFPUC and SF Public Works.
- n. Andrei Svensson asked if the final Design Showcase will be the final version of the project designs. He also asked if the Board of Supervisors or other approvals are needed after the SFMTA Board,
 - i. Liz Brisson responded there is always the risk that changes may have to be made until after SFMTA Board makes an approval action to legislate the parking and traffic changes. This is the last bigger approval needed, but there are other smaller examples including the

- Board of Supervisors will need to approve a cut into the sidewalk in one specific location to provide a loading bay, and that various permits such as sidewalk permits for shelters will also be needed.
- o. Kevin Stull asked if CAC members have a role in Open Houses.
 - i. Kate McCarthy responded that the team hopes that Geary CAC members will attend and share the Open House announcements with their communities. She also stated that Geary CAC members should take notes of feedback for what went well/didn't for the Showcases.
 - p. Benjamin Horne asked what time the Open Houses will be held.
 - i. Kate McCarthy answered that there will be two Open Houses, one on a weekday evening and one on a Saturday in the daytime
 - q. Public Comment:
 - i. Anuradha Munshi suggested that project team post open house information on signs along the corridor and on businesses. She asked if there is a way to retrieve data or email lists from Clipper to figure out the audience to target along corridor.
 - ii. Tom Barton asked if the reason there are no physical locations for the Open Houses is because the dates aren't yet available?

8. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding update on Geary Boulevard Improvement Project.

- a. Fay Fua asked what the coordination with utilities (SFPUC and PG&E) will be regarding the five-year moratorium and if that entails they receive a notice with the timeframe of construction. If they miss the deadline to respond to the notice of intent and the street is subsequently paved, what are the next steps?
 - i. Kannu Balan responded that SFMTA will coordinate with PG&E and other utility companies regarding upcoming construction by sending a Notice of Intent. Currently, project staff are reaching out to utility companies to determine what projects they currently have along the corridor and this information will be included in the design drawings. As of now, PG&E and AT&T have not mentioned their work along the corridor.
 - ii. Liz Brisson added that there are two separate types of coordination with utilities: both to find out what each utility company has under the street so there are no conflicts and also to let them know about the upcoming work that will trigger the moratorium so utilities can plan to complete their work beforehand or join the project. After the corridor is re-paved, there is a five-year moratorium except for emergency work.
- b. Benjamin Horne asked if the intersection of Stockton/Geary will be torn up again after the Central Subway project.
 - i. Dan Mackowski responded that PUC has already put in their pipes underground through the intersection and the other perpendicular pipes are ready to be connected, so it will not be excavated again.
- c. Kevin Stull asked what the impact of the newly approved traffic signal timing policy to lengthen the time to cross the street will be on the project.

- i. Daniel Mackowski responded that the SFMTA has recently updated the amount of crossing time provided for pedestrians to provide more time to ensure people who walk more slowly can get safely across the street. The project is still completing its detailed signal timing. Once the project is completed, all crossings will comply with the new policy.
- d. Public comments: there was no public comment on this item.

9. Adjourn

- a. The committee voted to adjourn the meeting by a voice vote at 7:31pm.