



**Van Ness Business Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, June 21, 2018**  
**3:00-4:30 p.m.**  
**One South Van Ness Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Civic Center Conference Room**

**Minutes**

1. Call to order by voice vote at 3:17 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes - [May 17](#).
  - a. Approved by voice vote.
3. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding update from SFMTA staff.
  - a. Project schedule.
    - i. The project is 399 days delayed.
    - ii. Patrick Hosfield: Are there specific activities or locations that are problematic and causing the delays?
      1. The construction schedule is not really linear, meaning that one particular activity at a location being stalled or delayed is not necessarily what is adding days of delay. The latest increase in the days of delay is mainly attributed to the time the team is taking to consider and work on shifting the design of some of the sewer work (the new design is intended to cut down on both time and costs, and disruption to neighbors).
    - iii. The northbound left turn at Hayes Street from Van Ness is scheduled for removal on July 6.
    - iv. Arezou Akbarpour: Is the project coordinating with private developments on the corridor?
      1. There are about 25 projects all along the corridor that are in the planning or development stages, and we are in constant communication and coordination with them.
    - v. Patrick Hosfield: Is the team still trying to save some of the days of delay?
      1. Yes, the team is actively looking for ways to recover the schedule. As an example, one of the restrictions we currently have is that when we have to reduce one lane of traffic, we have to do the work at night. We have asked Caltrans if it would be possible to do this type of work on weekends during the daytime, and they seem open to that idea. That would give us more flexibility to schedule and complete work.
  - b. Construction update.
    - i. Michael George: What are utility conflicts?

1. A utility conflict refers to when we find something in the ground that we were not expecting, that is in conflict with the work we are trying to perform, like a utility line or pipe. We have to take great care to identify and address it before our work can continue. In regards to the utility conflicts, we are applying lessons learned to our next sub phase 1B. We are now doing more advance potholing and using ground penetrating radar technology to get a better idea of what is in the ground, so we can make plans ahead of time as to how to address any conflicts. That should help reduce the delays as we move forward.
      - ii. Durwin Cheung: There was a power outage on Van Ness on Monday, did that have to do with the Van Ness Improvement Project?
        1. No.
      - c. Update on neighboring projects.
4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Outreach update.
  - a. We are about to ramp up our outreach for the left-turn removal at Hayes, happening on July 6.
  - b. Patrick Hosfield: Will the removal come as a surprise to the general public?
    - i. It should not. We will have a travel and transit advisory alert and webpage update up on our website, we are working on a 4-part email series, sending out two press releases, and sending out messages on local and regional variable message and changeable message signs (VMS and CMS).
5. Public comment: Members of the public may address the Van Ness Business Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.
  - a. Patrick Hosfield: Is the project getting a lot of complaints about business impacts? Is project staff helping to address their concerns? How are those relationships going?
    - i. The project is getting complaints though not at a large volume. Project staff works with businesses to address their concerns as best they can, and the relationships are going well, but it is challenging because as a transportation agency SFMTA can't always facilitate addressing those concerns. For business support, staff usually points merchants to the Invest in Neighborhoods program through the Mayor's Office of Employment and Workforce Development (OEWD). There are things the SFMTA can help with and that staff has been working with businesses on, like loading and advertising, but even that is limited. However, the project staff is always open to sit down with businesses and point them towards resources, and try to find creative ways to help.

- b. Patricia Klock: The commercial manager at Opera Plaza is concerned about business loss due to the construction and the fencing around the businesses. When will that fencing go away?
    - i. If they would like to file a business claim they can do that through the City Attorney's office. Staff to provide more information on that. As far as the fencing, answering that requires a level of detail of the construction schedule that is not readily available to project staff. They will have to follow-up with the contractor and see what their estimate is.
  - c. Patricia Klock: We received door hangers that show night work scheduled for 3 weeks. Is that the case?
    - i. That is not the case. Staff will follow-up with the contractor and let Pat know the most up to date information regarding the work that is scheduled in that block in the coming weeks. Staff is to work with the contractor on providing more accurate information on the door-hangers that are distributed to notice night work in the neighborhood.
  - d. Michael George: The Holiday Inn would like to know the schedule of sub phase 1B and when to expect impacts, so they can plan ahead.
    - i. Staff to schedule a meeting with Michael and his staff to discuss the schedule and impacts to his block that will be happening as part of sub phase 1B of the project.
6. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m. by a voice vote.