



## Geary Community Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 15, 2018

6:00 p.m.

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

### Geary CAC Members

Sana Ahmed  
Lou Grosso  
Richard Hashimoto  
Benjamin Horne (Brie filled in)  
Joshua Kelly  
Annie Lee  
Susannah Raub  
Marian Roth-Cramer  
Kevin Stull  
Andrei Svensson (called in)

### SFMTA Staff

Liz Brisson  
Kannu Balan  
Lulu Feliciano  
Amy Fowler  
Daniel Mackowski  
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

### 3. Announcements

### 4. Ice breaker activity

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

### 5. Approval of minutes – [November 13, 2018](#)

- a. Lou Grosso motioned to approve. Kevin Stull seconded the motion. Joshua Kelly and Richard Hashimoto abstained. Minutes were approved by a voice vote.

### 6. 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. Public Comment: there was no public comment.

### 7. Geary Boulevard Improvement Project update

- a. Kannu Balan presented on Geary Boulevard Improvement Project updates.
- b. Lou Grosso: You mentioned that the project team has met with the SF Fire Department, have you met with other emergency services as well?
  - i. Balan: The project team has only met with the Fire Department because they have specific requirements that the design plans must comply to.



- c. Kevin Stull: Scott Wiener tweeted that he was working on bill to prioritize pedestrian, cyclist and transit safety on Caltrans owned facilities . Does this state bill affect this project in any way?
  - i. Liz Brisson: I wouldn't expect it to have a major impact on the project given that the vast majority of Geary is not on a Caltrans-owned facility.
- d. Public Comment:
  - i. Tom Barton: Is the project coordinating with PG&E and other utility departments to ensure that there is are no overlaps in utility work?
  - ii. Kannu Balan: The project team has been working with PUC and they haven't fully defined their scope yet , but once we do, this will be included in detail design plans for this project. The project is already coordinating with PG&E and other utility departments to make sure that we are on the same page.

## **8. Geary Rapid – Implementation update**

- a. Liz Brisson and Dan Mackowski presented on Geary Rapid Project implementation updates.
- b. Lou Grosso: How long are you allowed to be in a bus only lan before making a right turn?
  - i. Liz Brisson: Drivers can be in the bus-only lane if they are turning right at the upcoming intersection. If they proceed through an intersection in the bus-only lane, that would be considered a violation
- c. Rich Hashimoto: Are the bus-only lanes enforced by SFPD?
  - i. Liz Brisson: Yes, it is in the universe of things that the SFPD can enforce.
  - ii. Dan Mackowski: There is no specific law that says how many feet/how long they need to be in the bus-only lane for a violation, since they could be accessing parking, driveways or an upcoming right-turn.
- d. Susannah Raub: Is the Steiner street bridge demolition still happening and when will it take place?
  - i. Dan Mackowski: We are aiming for Memorial Day, but there have been delays in contracting, so it could end up being Labor Day weekend 2019.
- e. Annie Lee: Regarding the weekend water work at Presidio/Masonic - will the bus and car detour go down Post street?
  - i. Dan Mackowski: The detour for local traffic and buses would go down Post Street, but major traffic coming from Masonic may be detoured to Bush Street.
- f. Kevin Stull: Are you expecting issues with people trying to access parking in City Center from the Geary entrance?
  - i. Dan Mackowski: We aren't expecting problems as there is a separate entrance to the parking lot off O'Farrell, and local access will be maintained to the parking lot and garage.
- g. Public Comment:



- i. Anuradha Munshi: Can the SFMTA post more signage regarding driving in transit-only lanes so that drivers are made aware? There are many bus stop changes due to construction on Van Ness and not enough up-to-date/correct signage, hopefully this will not be the case for when construction begins on this project. Also, it would be great to have Uber/TNC loading zones for passenger pick-up/drop-off during construction, and red-lane education included in DMV tests.
- ii. Kevin Stull: To add to Anuradha's suggestion, if there is a way to post bus stop change signage prior to work taking place with the dates that the changes will take place as an advanced notice, that would be helpful for riders to plan their trips.
- iii. Annie Lee: In addition to bus stop changes signage, having ambassadors would be helpful as well. What transit-only lane signage is there currently along the corridor? I think the issue of mis-using the transit-only lanes will be solved when red lanes are implemented, as that is a big visual indicator.
  - i. Dan Mackowski: The current signage is standard signage that states "Right Lane: Buses, Taxis and Right Turns Only at All Times". The signage doesn't indicate anything regarding the need to make a turn or not since there are no forced turns. There is currently signage at Stayman that states: "Right lane must turn right" as well as an advanced "ahead" sign at Arguello (note that cars in the other two lanes can drive through).
- iv. Susannah Raub: Is driving in transit-only lanes part of DMV driving training?
  - 1. Amy Fowler: It currently is not, however, there are SFMTA staff that are working on a driving in transit-only lanes educational campaign.
- e. Annie Lee: Are Google maps and other navigation apps aware of the new transit-only lanes?
  - i. Liz Brisson: We have been in communication with Google and other navigation apps and provided the necessary information, but it appears some of them have not yet updated their navigation. We will continue to follow up until they do so.
- f. Public Comment:
  - i. Tom Barton: If you are riding a bus that crosses Van Ness it's often difficult to find the temporary bus stops. With construction happening as part of the Van Ness Improvement Project, it is difficult to know where/when the bus stops will change. Also, can the dashboard cameras on Muni buses take



pictures of cars in red zones? If so, what are the odds of violators getting citations?

1. Liz Brisson: Muni operators cannot issue tickets to vehicles violating the transit-only lanes, however, the video feed from Muni buses is reviewed by employees that can then issue citations.
- ii. Marian Roth Cramer: Work on phase 2 (Geary Boulevard Improvement Project) isn't going to begin for a while, but she feels as though the culture of Muni and police citation has changed and become more aggressive. Parents that double park in front of her dance studio (22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Ave) to drop-off/pick-up their children have had a Muni driver exit their bus and take a picture of parents double parked and waiting in car. In her part of the corridor, there are two lanes of traffic and she thinks the bus has sometimes the space to go around the double-parked cars.
  1. Liz Brisson: it is not legal to stop in the space between on-street parking and the travel lane. A bus is larger than a typical vehicle and may not feel comfortable or have adequate space for passing. When the bus needs to merge to get around a disruption like that, it can cause delays to passengers and bus times.

## 9. Geary Rapid – Groundbreaking Update

- a. Amy Fowler presented on Geary Rapid Project groundbreaking updates
  - i. Rich Hashimoto: Thank you to the Comms team for putting this together. This is an important recognition and re-connection of the community from a history of separation.
  - ii. Lou Grosso: This groundbreaking and the new crossing at Buchanan is so important, because it will be the first time I will be able to cross Geary on my own.
  - iii. Public Comment:
    1. Tom Barton: How long do you anticipate from the time of the groundbreaking until the completion of the Buchanan crosswalk?
      - a. Dan Mackowski: While work on the Geary Rapid Project in general is starting soon, the Buchanan crosswalk work won't begin for over a year. The groundbreaking celebration location itself is symbolic.
    2. Victor Floyd: Is happy about the Buchanan crosswalk, however, many pedestrian crossing signals across the City are not accessible, all they do is beep once after activating.
      - a. Dan Mackowski: The crossing signals that will be installed at the new Buchanan crossing will include APS (accessible pedestrian signal) equipment that will let people know



when to cross, as well as new curb ramps and railings so that the crosswalk is fully accessible.

#### **10. Geary Rapid – Spruce Working Group conclusion**

- a. Liz Brisson presented on the Spruce Working Group conclusion.
  - i. Andrei Svensson: Are you actively recruiting operators to help solve the operator shortage?
    - 1. Liz Brisson: I am not a subject matter expert in this topic, however it is my understanding that SFMTA is both working to recruit additional operators and be more efficient in the training process. This, and other initiatives to improve Muni were a part of a 90-day plan that was established to improve service over the summer and another [90-day plan](#) approval just now getting underway. We can forward information about this to the CAC
  - ii. Public Comment:
    - 1. Tom Barton: I appreciated being a part of the Spruce Working Group.
    - 2. Anuradha Munshi: A solution for the operator shortage could be giving more regard/respect for drivers and the difficulties of the job.

#### **11. Adjourn.**

- a. Lou Grosso motioned to adjourn. Kevin Stull seconded the motion. All approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.