



### Geary Community Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Geary CAC Members	Project Staff
Tom Barton	Liz Brisson (SFMTA)
Hillary Brown	Amy Fowler (SFMTA)
Nathan Chan	Daniel Mackowski (SFMTA)
Joon Choi	David Sindel (SFMTA)
Paul Epstein	William Walker (SFMTA)
Sean Kim	
Caroline (Spud) Law	
Caixuan (Annie) Li	
Susannah Raub	
Eva Schouten	
Kevin Stull	

### Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

a. Susannah Raub called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

**2. Remote meeting housekeeping**

**3. Roll call and Introductions**

a. Welcome to new member, Hillary Brown

**4. Approval of minutes – [April 12, 2023](#)**

a. Tom Barton motioned to approve; Kevin seconded. Minutes approved by voice vote at 6:16 p.m.

**5. Public comment**

- a. Cyrus Hall (Faster Safer Geary) commented that the project has been delayed too long and asked for the Geary CAC to draft a letter to the SFMTA Board in support of the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project.
- b. Lian Chang (Faster Safer Geary) indicated her support for the project and also asked the CAC to draft a letter. Merchant concerns have been substantially addressed by the SFMTA, the number of parking spots lost is just 31 spaces across the entire project. Hope the CAC can share with the Board what this tradeoff will get for the city.

**6. Geary Boulevard Improvement Project – Project update**

a. Liz Brisson presented on this item.

- i. Tom Barton asked whether SFMTA staff wanted to have CAC members join merchant outreach.
  1. Liz responded that the June 2023 outreach was just staff who have detailed technical knowledge about the project. She expressed no objection to him talking to merchants himself as a citizen and Richmond neighbor.
  2. Sean Kim offered to find a time to meet with Tom.
- ii. Sean Kim asked for a breakdown of parking changes by type of space (e.g., general/yellow/blue/green curb), as some businesses such as restaurants may no longer need them. He asked if Public Works staff could join a CAC meeting so the community could better understand the impacts of sewer/water work and suggested that sometimes they might need to dig into the sidewalk to address the connections. He expressed concerns about the overall construction duration, that relocation of bikeshare stations could make it more difficult to access the corridor by bike, and about safety at bus stops due to houseless individuals.
  1. Liz noted that the block-by-block drawings illustrate these changes and agreed to provide a more detailed break-down of parking and loading spaces and offered to follow-up with Sean after the meeting to confirm the details of the request. She clarified that SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will be managing the construction contract for water and sewer main work and will request they join the next CAC meeting. SFPUC construction needs to happen regardless of SFMTA work due to the age and condition of underground utilities. She reiterated that construction would move throughout the corridor and be limited to a few months at a time on any given block, similar to Geary Rapid. Regarding bicycle access, the 14th Avenue bikeshare will not be moved far - just onto the green strip - while the Geary/17th Avenue bikeshare station will remain in place and new sidewalk bicycle parking racks would also be installed for those riding Lyft e-bikes or their own bikes to the corridor. Bus stop safety is a systemic issue that the City is working on Citywide.
  2. Amy Fowler mentioned the new SFMTA campaign, Muni Safe, which is intended to address some of these safety concerns and is a part of SFMTA's Equity Safety Strategy. She put a link to the [SFMTA website](#) in the meeting chat.
    - a. William Walker noted that the Muni Safe campaign launched its first signs on Geary.
  3. Dan Mackowski noted that SFMTA ambassadors would be present for several days after bus stop location changes as part of the project.

- iii. Spud Law expressed appreciation for an informative presentation and commented that they were on an outbound 38 bus where the bus lane ends, and observed that an operator ran a red light to get ahead of cars. Spud also talked to a car owner who supports the Quick-Build, as they have seen other drivers speed to get ahead of buses before the bus lanes end.
  - [Post-meeting note: was the operator who appeared to run a red light using the 15<sup>th</sup> Ave [Muni head-start signal?](#)]*
- iv. Paul Epstein asked what actions by the board remain before full approval.
  - 1. Liz replied that the SFMTA Board must approve parking and traffic legislation, the last step before implementation could begin. This would occur at a single meeting that could be as soon as August. Mailers and other communications will be sent out before the meeting.
- v. Paul asked what would occur in 2024, since the schedule does not show construction that year.
  - 1. Liz: Detailed design cannot happen until the project is approved and thus finalized. Detailed design and SFPUC's construction contract advertisement/award will take place in 2024.
- vi. Susannah Raub asked how 11 parking spaces are occupied by parklets when there are only 2 parklets in the angled parking section, and whether the number of occupied spaces would change when converted to parallel parking.
  - 1. Liz and Dan replied that the 11 spaces were on the whole two-mile corridor and include several other parklets, including outside of the angled parking segment and some that occupy the first space on cross streets. These remaining parklets would occupy the same number of parking spaces after conversion (the previous ones that encroached on adjacent spaces have already been removed).
- vii. Susannah asked about the response from merchants during recent outreach and whether sentiment had changed.
  - 1. Liz replied that many merchants didn't know all the latest details about the project. Most were happy about the additional parking and the planned business support. The changes diminished the level of concern from some project opponents, but did not necessarily convert any to supporters. Utility construction may have been a bigger concern overall, but merchants were appreciative about mitigation plans for construction impacts.
    - a. Sean: it seems that merchants appreciate your outreach efforts and the increase in parking, but still have major concerns about SFPUC's construction impacts and timing. Understand this is not Van Ness, but three years of

construction scares people. Many stores on Geary are struggling or closed, even big businesses downtown are failing, so small businesses are worried.

- viii. Hillary Brown asked about the accessibility components of the project.
  - 1. Liz replied that the project includes longer bus zones so that buses can pull fully to the curb to allow easier boarding, larger pedestrian median refuges to make crossing Geary safer and easier, and new accessible pedestrian signals at several locations. She offered to share the project's [Accessibility Fact Sheet](#) with the committee. An [accessible text version](#) of the project's proposals is also available.
- ix. During public comment, Dave Alexander (Richmond Family SF) expressed support for the project and for local businesses. He said he had lived close to Geary and 20<sup>th</sup> for 20 years. He objected to "strawmen" speculation that construction may hurt businesses; this is a pedestrian and transit improvement project that will help attract families. He expressed a desire to see parking reform, especially on cross streets where he has observed long term car storage. He urged that the project not be delayed any further.
- x. Susannah Raub commented that according to the committee's charter the role of the CAC is to provide feedback to project staff to be shared with decision-makers. She suggested that the group formalize their perspective to SFMTA staff to share with policy makers (SFMTA Board). She made a motion for the CAC to support the project as currently proposed by staff, including implementing the Quick-Build this fall. Tom Barton seconded.
  - 1. Sean Kim expressed a desire to hear from SFPUC staff before voting on the motion.
    - a. Susannah replied that construction impacts are important to understand, but SFPUC utility work will occur no matter what happens with SFMTA's project, and the next CAC meeting will not be until after the board meeting. She commented that conversion to parallel parking will help with impacts during utility construction - one of several Quick-Build benefits.
  - 2. **Motion: The Geary CAC supports the Geary Boulevard Improvement Project as proposed by staff, including the Quick-Build implementation.**  
 The motion passed (Yes: Spud Law, Susannah Raub, Eva Schouten, Tom Barton, Hillary Brown, Joon Choi, Nathan Chan, Kevin Stull; No: Sean Kim).



*[Note that no vote was recorded for Annie Li or Paul Epstein who had either left the meeting or lost connection by the time of the vote.]*

**7. Geary Rapid update**

- a. Dan Mackowski presented on this item.
  - i. There were no comments or questions from the committee or public.

**8. Adjourn**

- a. Next meeting, October 11, 2023. Group will continue meeting remotely.
  - i. Dan Mackowski suggested a corridor walk during the Quick-Build phase.
- b. Tom Barton motioned to adjourn. Susannah Raub seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.