



Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 23, 2016

6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Public comment (see policy on reverse): Members of the public may address the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.
 - a. Beth Berenson uses a white cane and works for a nonprofit in the city. She was happy with bus stop consolidation, but had questions about accessibility related to the project. She wanted to know whether bulb-outs were planned for each stop and whether Accessible Pedestrian Signals will be installed at each stop. She said Market Street is a maze for people to navigate and wanted to know whether wayfinding on Van Ness would be similar.
 - i. Boarding platforms will be 8 feet wide to accommodate adequate space for passengers with wheelchairs. Each platform will also feature at least three shelters equipped with seating and NextMuni displays. No bulbouts will be installed at boarding platforms, but they will be installed at intersections next to a parking lane. Protected median refuges will be built at each intersection (similar to what exists at McAllister and Van Ness today). These and the BRT boarding platforms will each include APS and truncated domes.
 - b. Lynne Newhouse Segal has formed a coalition to preserve the lamps on Van Ness. The coalition, including SF Beautiful, has submitted an application to include the lamps in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2016 list of the Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places. The results are expected to arrive in October. This nomination is for the lamps only. Lynne understands that the poles are not suitable for reuse, but is hopeful the iron brackets and lamps can be reused in some fashion that works for everyone.
3. Member comment. Members of the Community Advisory Committee may address the Van Ness BRT project staff on matters not on today's calendar.
 - a. Bob Anderson motioned to approve a time limit on member comment to mirror the public comment policy. Alex Wilson seconded the motion, which was approved by a voice vote.
 - b. In response to Ms. Newhouse Segal's public comment, Bob Bardell suggested that project staff look into the trolley poles on Union Street.
 - c. Susie Criscimagna asked whether it was standard practice to stamp streetnames into the curb at intersections.
 - i. This is standard. Additionally, the project will include cross street names on the BRT boarding platforms in a bronze plaque.
 - d. Don Savoie asked when left turns would be restricted from Van Ness. He was especially concerned about left turns onto Hayes and Fell.
 - i. Left turns will be restricted at the start of construction except for northbound at Lombard and southbound at Broadway, which will remain during construction.
 - e. Alex Wilson wanted to know more about how the project team has been working with related projects including CPMC and the Polk Streetscape Project.
 - i. CPMC and the Van Ness Improvement Project staff have worked together in the past, but it may be time to revisit the progress of each project. There will not be a stop directly in front of the new hospital or medical office, but the northbound and

southbound boarding platforms for Geary/O'Farrell will stretch the length of the block. This is the largest and most accessible stop. The Van Ness and Polk teams also work closely together and meet monthly. A cohesive plan is being developed for construction and outreach for both projects.

4. Approval of minutes – May 19, 2016.
 - a. Bob Bardell moved to approve the minutes. Bob Anderson seconded.
 - b. Minutes were approved by a voice vote.
 - i. Don Savoie abstained due to absence at May 19 meeting.
5. SFMTA staff updates.
 - a. Tree permit appeal.
 - i. The Board of Appeals denied the appeal and upheld the project's tree removal and replacement permit with a 3-1 vote.
6. Project schedule.
 - a. Contract amendment.
 - i. A contract issue has delayed the project's contract from going before the SFMTA Board of Directors. Originally scheduled for the June 7 meeting, the contract amendment is now tentatively scheduled for the August 16 meeting.
 - b. Finalizing permits.
 - i. The encroachment permit is expected to be issued by Caltrans by mid-July.
 - c. Staff is currently evaluating the project schedule and construction start date in light of delays with approvals and appeals.
 - i. The earliest start date would be late September or early October, but a holiday moratorium would restrict construction activity between Thanksgiving and New Years.
 1. The holiday moratorium applies to any city block where at least 50 percent of the frontage is devoted to business. No construction activity can occur and access must be restored.
7. Outreach update.
 - a. Bus stop consolidation.
 - i. Ambassadors were deployed at each discontinued stop from May 23 to June 10.
 1. On peak days, ambassadors were at each location from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. (180 hours per day).
 - ii. Shelters and flag poles were removed at each old stop location.
 1. Some locations have been converted to commercial loading zones for construction.
 - a. After construction, locations will be converted to metered parking.
 - i. Converting to parking during construction would limit flexibility and add cost to construction for any changes due to work zones. These changes would also require additional legislation.
 - ii. Providing businesses additional loading zones during construction addresses concerns of double parking and delivery access.
 - iii. Remaining stops will need to be adjusted as construction activity moves throughout the corridor.
 1. Minor adjustments will move stop locations to better align with locations of future BRT boarding platforms.
 - iv. Bob Anderson gave kudos to the ambassadors and said they did a great job getting the word out. He also mentioned that the distance between Sutter and Sacramento feels too long. He also wanted to know about transit service for the 47 and 49 outside of the Van Ness corridor.
 - v. Catherine Tran wanted to see data on how bus stop consolidation improved transit service. She said this would be great for future outreach campaigns.
 - vi. Alex Wilson suggested asking the San Francisco Symphony to send reminders to their guests when their season opens.
 - vii. Don Savoie recommended having people update the "How to Get Here" sections of their website to remind people that certain stops have been discontinued.

- viii. Randy Uang shared his experience as a driver on Van Ness and said that his drive has been easier and faster since bus stop consolidation. He suggested that staff compare commute times for both transit and private vehicles with data reported in the Environmental Impact Report.
- ix. Beth Berenson wanted to know whether any outreach had been done to people with disabilities including Braille materials. She wanted to know if staff had been in contact with LightHouse for the Blind, the Mayor's Office on Disability, or the SFMTA Multimodal Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- x. Carol Bacher said the California Street bus stop should be restored. The distance from California to Sutter or Clay is too far, especially for seniors with groceries. She said it was a frequented stop and that Caly hasn't had as much traffic, despite the connection there for the 1.
- xi. Lynne Newhouse Segal suggested several additional locations to conduct outreach for the project including Off the Grid at Fort Mason, farmer's markets in the area, and neighborhood events. She specifically mentioned a fall social at Lafayette Park and a Pacific Heights Residents Association social. She will send project staff the dates of these events.
- b. Recent public engagement activities.
 - i. Meet the Experts – Experts and location ideas welcome.
 - 1. June 1: Bus Stop Consolidation
 - a. Introduced community to Michael Schwartz from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, who discussed bus stop consolidation and why it is done by transit agencies around the world.
 - ii. SFMTA Citizen's Advisory Council.
 - 1. June 2 meeting
 - a. Presented project updates and information, especially regarding bus stop consolidation.
 - b. Members were interested in hearing more about ticket vending machines on boarding platforms, coordinating service with entertainment venues, and the formation of the Business Advisory Committee.
- c. Outreach Calendar.
 - i. Meet the Expert: July 6, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Happy Donuts (2101 Van Ness)
 - 1. Bob Callwell will discuss transit history on Van Ness Avenue, including the H Line.
 - 2. Other suggested Meet the Expert topics include:
 - a. Metrics and evaluating the effectiveness of Bus Rapid Transit
 - b. Bus Rapid Transit systems elsewhere
 - c. Regional activity
 - d. Construction on a state-owned right-of-way
 - e. Public art
 - f. Tree species
 - g. How Bus Rapid Transit systems accommodate the needs of the elderly and disabled communities
 - 3. Beth Berenson wanted to know whether Meet the Expert venues are ADA-accessible
 - ii. Sunday Streets Tenderloin: July 10, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 - iii. Historic Preservation Commission Certificate of Appropriateness Hearing: ~~July 20~~ August 3, 12:30 p.m., City Hall Room 400.
 - 1. ~~July 20~~ August 3 date is currently tentative.
 - 2. Staff will present a unique shelter design as one of the conditions for the Certificate of Appropriateness issued to the project in November 2015.
 - a. Staff will present the design at the July 28 Van Ness BRT CAC meeting.

- b. June 16: Members generated ideas and topics for content included in the Construction Survival Guide for Businesses.
- 9. Next meetings.
 - a. July 28, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - b. August 25, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - c. September 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - d. Don Savoie motioned to reschedule the November CAC meeting to the third Thursday (Nov. 17) and cancel the December CAC meeting.
 - i. Randy Uang seconded the motion, which was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Every agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.

Public comment will be taken for each agenda item after discussion of the item by the Van Ness BRT CAC.

Privilege of Floor and Public Participation. The privilege of the floor shall be granted to any member of the public or officers of the City and County of San Francisco, or their duly authorized representatives for the purpose of commenting on any question before the Committee. Each person wishing to speak on an item at a regular or special meeting shall be permitted to be heard once per item for up to three minutes. The presiding officer shall be the judge of the pertinence of such comments, and have the power to limit this privilege if in the presiding officer's opinion the comments are not pertinent to the question before the Committee or the comments are merely reiterative of points made by previous speakers.

Presentations. After a presentation, the Van Ness BRT CAC Chair will ask committee members if they have any questions and then will open the meeting to public comment. When members of the public ask a question of the presenter, presenters should not respond, nor engage in any conversation. First, the commenter should finish their commentary. After which, if the Van Ness BRT CAC Chair or any committee member wants the presenter to respond to that question, the presenter will then respond to the Committee and not to the public.