



## Geary Community Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Geary CAC Members	Project Staff
Marian Roth-Cramer	Daniel Mackowski (SFMTA)
Eva Schouten	Liz Brisson (SFMTA)
Winston Parsons	Amy Fowler (SFMTA)
Devi Zinzuvadia	David Sindel (SFMTA)
Paul Epstein	
Rich Hashimoto	
Susannah Raub	
Tom Barton	
Joon Choi	
Lou Grosso	
Sana Ahmed	

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

- a. Paul Epstein called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

#### 2. Virtual meeting etiquette

#### 3. Roll call

#### 4. Member and staff introductions – Ice-breaker

#### 5. Chair election

- a. Liz Brisson explained chair roles and responsibilities and the election process
- b. Nominations
  - i. Susannah Raub nominated herself.
- c. Voting
  - i. Susannah Raub was approved by unanimous vote.

#### 6. Approval of minutes – May 12, 2021

- a. Tom Barton motioned to approve. Lou Grosso seconded. Minutes approved by voice vote at 6:37 p.m.

#### 7. Public comment

- a. Linda Walsh: Asked about activation of the Buchanan crosswalk
  - i. Dan Mackowski: Explained the process for signal activation, which includes testing the signal and then running it on flashing yellow for 48 hours before turn-on and opening the crosswalk.

1. Lou Grosso asked when the signal would be activated
  - a. Dan Mackowski: It is currently planned for Thursday, July 29

## 8. Meeting frequency

- a. Amy Fowler explained that with the Geary Rapid Project wrapping up, there will only be one major project along the Geary corridor for staff to provide updates on. Staff want CAC member input on whether it would make sense to change to quarterly meetings (4x per year).
  - i. Rich Hashimoto, Marian Roth-Cramer, Susannah Raub, and Paul Epstein all provided feedback in support of this change.
  - ii. Tom Barton moved to put the change to quarterly meetings to a vote. Winston Parsons seconded the motion.
    1. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
  - iii. Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021

## 9. Geary Temporary Emergency Transit Lanes update

- a. Liz Brisson presented on this item.
  - i. Winston Parsons: Likes the format of the one-page evaluation summary, asked if it is available translated.
    1. Amy Fowler: Unfortunately, it was not translated
    2. Liz Brisson: Most information is available on the website in Chinese and Russian. Translation of the one-page summary may be possible but would take several weeks
      - a. Winston: May be less useful after SFMTA Board meeting, but encourage staff to consider translating materials like this in the future
  - ii. Tom Barton: Operators have told him that the Geary lanes are working well while the Mission lanes have more of a double-parking problem, and that he has not noticed auto drivers improperly using the lanes.
  - iii. Winston Parsons: After the MTA Board meeting, when will we next see changes on Geary – are there any changes associated with making the Geary TETL permanent, or when will GBIP project changes begin?
    1. Liz Brisson: The July Board action would simply make the Geary TETL changes that are already installed permanent, and would not involve any further street changes. Next changes could be after taking GBIP to legislation (hopefully early 2022) at which time a quick-build could include infill of missing transit lane segments, bus stop changes, signal timing changes, etc. Full improvements like bulb-outs, traffic signal upgrades and any coordinated repaving would then take a few years further to get through design/contracting/construction.
  - iv. Paul Epstein asked what the state of the emergency order is
    1. Liz Brisson: Order has not yet been lifted; not clear when it will be.

2. Paul asked if staff could try to provide an update on a speculative potential end date.
- v. Tom Barton asked whether the temporary bus bulbs would be made permanent. He also commented that the edge strip is slippery in wet weather.
  1. Liz Brisson: GBIP will consider stop location changes (largely moving stops to the far side of intersections) which would obviate the need for the current nearside bus bulbs, and will replace remaining wooden bulbs with concrete where feasible. After similar reports, Public Works crews installed slip-resistant paint on the metal edge. Dan Mackowski provided additional details.
    - a. Paul Epstein commented that moving the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue stop across the intersection could interfere with operations at the Kaiser French campus.
      - i. Liz: SFMTA staff will connect with stakeholders, including Kaiser, as part of considering the proposed bus stop changes.
    - b. Winston Parsons asked how it will be determined when wooden bus bulbs need to be replaced
      - i. Dan Mackowski: No specific metric because these stop designs are new. Removal or repairs will occur if the stop is damaged or otherwise has a potential safety issue.

## 10. Geary Boulevard Improvement Project – Project update

- a. Liz Brisson presented on this item.
  - i. Paul Epstein: Moving stops could be inconvenient for transfers - specifically 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Park Presidio.
    1. Liz: Implications for transfers are being considered as part of the process. Moving them makes transfers in one direction better and the other worse. We can do observations to determine which transfer direction is more common as well as ask bus riders for their feedback.
  - ii. Marian Roth-Cramer: Supports moving bus stop far-side at 23<sup>rd</sup> inbound. Asked about how long Shared Spaces will be in place. Her block is filled with restaurant parklets which leaves no space for dance studio drop-offs/pickups.
    1. Liz: The Board of Supervisors approved permanent Shared Spaces yesterday. This doesn't mean that all will become permanent. If a stop is moved, the former stop space will return to other curb uses.

- iii. Tom Barton: Mentioned he may oppose moving 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Park Presidio stops due to transfer concerns.
- iv. Winston Parsons: Noted the transfer at Park Presidio would be worse in one direction but better in the other. Is there any potential to improve conditions at Park Presidio inbound stop, if moved, since Public Works just recently installed enhanced amenities there.
  - 1. Liz: Will be considered. Budget for public realm improvements will not be high, but improvements can be considered at some locations.

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

- a. Dan Mackowski presented on this item.
- b. Marian Roth-Cramer asked what trees will be added.
  - i. Dan Mackowski: Median – larger trees, canary island pines. Sidewalk – London Plane Columbia species. Cherry trees (Kwanzan) in Japantown.
- c. Rich Hashimoto: What will be done with any budget surplus?
  - i. Dan: Some design funds can be rolled over to construction. If there is surplus, disposition depends on the funding sources. Some could be potentially moved to GBIP. Given the added scope, we don't expect much if any surplus.
- d. Lou Grosso: Asked several questions about traffic safety communicated to him by St. Francis Square residents.
  - i. Eastbound drivers between Webster and Laguna accessing right-turns into Zampa Lane, Buchanan Street and Laguna Street.
    - 1. Dan: 8" solid white line along right side of street to discourage entry into the transit lane, but entry is allowed for parking and right turns. Agreed that it is an education issue. Several ideas discussed: localized education through St. Francis Square channels, broader Citywide campaign underway could include radio ads (Spotify), request Board of Supervisors to include in newsletter, Marian suggested the Richmond Review, and Tom suggested NextDoor.
  - ii. Some people now use Post Street since the westbound U-turn on Geary at Webster is now restricted. This may add vehicles making the southbound left-turn from Webster onto Geary to access St. Francis Square.
    - 1. Dan: Work order sent to install new signs to inform drivers to yield to pedestrians and bikes. Should be done soon though Shop is busy.
  - iii. There may be an issue with eastbound vehicles turning right at Webster and Laguna. Happens during green light.
    - 1. Dan: had not heard this before, will need to investigate.
  - iv. Does not feel comfortable crossing Geary at Webster without the APS buttons.

1. These should be installed soon. Each refuge will have a button so nobody gets stuck. Also, units were just installed at Laguna so please let us know any feedback.
- v. People report vehicles continue to speed eastbound up the hill to Laguna. Can you please consider a speed radar sign?
- e. Winston Parsons: If GBIP side-running is approved, what could that include? Specifically wondering about pedestrian safety and accessibility treatments and paving.
  - i. Dan: The scope is not determined yet, but we are considering traffic signal upgrades (including accessible pedestrian signals) and center median island refuges, and coordination with Public Works for paving – similar to the Geary Rapid Project.
    1. Winston: Asked if a contractor list is available and if Tudor Perini is on it.
      - a. Dan: We would plan to advertise the contract publicly and would take the (responsive and responsible) low bid. A list of contractors licensed in California is [available](#) as well as certified-local contractors in San Francisco ([14B Ordinance](#)).

## 12. Geary Rapid – Outreach update

- a. Amy Fowler presented on this item.
- b. CAC members voiced appreciation for the walkthrough in the western Geary Rapid segment, and expressed interest in a second walkthrough that could include East of Van Ness.
- c. Linda Walsh mentioned upcoming events in Japantown on 7/17 and 7/31 that could be a good opportunity for disseminating education materials or other project information.

## 13. Adjourn

- a. Next meeting, October 13, 2021
- b. Tom Barton motioned to adjourn. Rich Hashimoto seconded. Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:06 p.m.