



**Van Ness BRT Business Advisory Committee**

Thursday, January 21, 2016

3:00-4:30pm

One South Van Ness, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Tiger Conference Room

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order at 3:05 p.m.
2. Introductions:
  - a. SFMTA/Walsh Staff: Peter Gabancho, Lulu Feliciano, Kate McCarthy, Deanna Desedas, Cristina Padilla, Lisa Toso, Mark Petty
  - b. Business Advisory Committee: Cid Chiu, Tony Fernandez, Patrick Hosfield, Patricia Klock, Mike Koker, Mel Lee, Luis Mejias, Rebecca Rottman, Glenn Stepp
  - c. Others present: Steve Kech (PUC), Adam Tartakovsky (Crescent Heights)
3. Announcement of Public Comment Policy (see end of document)
4. 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. No comments from public
5. Van Ness Corridor Transit Improvement Project Overview – Peter Gabancho, Project Manager
  - a. This is the first BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) system in San Francisco.
    - i. This project was first conceived in 1995 and should go into construction this year.
    - ii. The project is all-encompassing. Work will be done from 14-feet underground replacing the sewer, to 30 feet above ground replacing the Overhead Contact System that powers the buses.
    - iii. Travel time will improve by 32%
    - iv. Transit reliability will improve by 30%
    - v. Boarding will increase by 35%
    - vi. We will save 30% of operating costs
    - vii. Budget is \$261 million
  - b. BRT Features
    - i. Red transit-only lanes
    - ii. Traffic Signals will be re-timed
    - iii. Traffic Signal Priority means it will use technology to reduce dwell time at traffic signals by either holding green lights or shortening red lights.
    - iv. There will be boarding islands, shelters, signage, lights, cameras, etc.
    - v. The project is also removing all left turns, except on Broadway going southbound and Lombard going northbound.
    - vi. Countdown signals will also be added to all intersections.
  - c. Other projects to note:
    - i. Lombard is in the planning stages now and will include repaving and safety treatments
    - ii. Polk St and 19<sup>th</sup> Ave will also be going into construction at the same time as Van Ness.
  - d. Sidewalk re-paving on Van Ness
    - i. The current contract says the contractor will re-pave from curb to about 7 feet in.

- ii. In order to re-pave the entire sidewalk, SFMTA is currently looking for additional funding sources – approximately \$.75 to \$1.4 million.
  - e. Landscaping
    - i. Part of the construction does involve replacing some trees at a ratio of 2:1.
    - ii. The tree species selected, Lemon-scented gum, will tolerate Van Ness weather conditions of wind tunnel, carbon, drought, etc.
    - iii. SFMTA will be responsible for maintenance of median landscaping. It is likely Public Works will do that work for the SFMTA.
  - f. Schedule
    - i. Tentative start of construction is Spring 2016.
    - ii. Substantial completion is end of 2018, and the system should be up and running by 2019.
  - g. Outreach completed
    - i. There were 37 community meetings in 2015 alone.
    - ii. There was a construction impact survey given to every property on the corridor. This survey had an 85% response rate and gave great insight.
    - iii. Reached out to the visually impaired groups to get input on wayfinding systems because this is the first BRT system in San Francisco.
- 6. Business Advisory Committee Overview – Kate McCarthy, Public Information Officer
  - a. Purpose of committee: to provide input to the Van Ness Corridor Transit Improvement Project team by providing varied perspectives from the surrounding community and city. BAC will provide the Van Ness team feedback and guide decisions related to the design, construction and implementation of the project.
  - b. Committee Logistics
    - i. Sign in for each meeting because these are public meetings and attendance must be recorded
    - ii. Attend monthly meetings and engage in discussions
      - 1. There is a majority quorum required. At least six people from the BAC need to be present for the meeting to take place.
    - iii. Committee website: <https://www.sfmta.com/about-sfmta/organization/committees/van-ness-business-advisory-committee>
    - iv. Add email to email address list to receive updates: [sfmta@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:sfmta@public.govdelivery.com)
    - v. Committee Chair and Vice chair nominations are in February. Let Kate McCarthy know if interested in running by February 16.
  - c. 2016 Preview
    - i. Outreach and marketing will include: newsletter, post cards, project awareness campaign, activities for corridor businesses, “Meet the Team” campaign, customer incentive programs, etc.
- 7. SFMTA staff updates:
  - a. Construction sequencing plan:
    - i. Construction will be separated in three phases: the outside of the corridor, the inside of the corridor, and the bulb-outs.
    - ii. Construction will also be divided by two “headings.” The first will be from Mission to Sutter, and the second will be from Sutter to Lombard.
    - iii. In Phase I, traffic will be pushed towards the middle
    - iv. The total duration of construction will be 30 months. Sections will be constructed in about 6-month increments.
    - v. White zones will be relocated to alleys. SFMTA and the contractor will have to work with businesses to accommodate those who have no alley for an alternative.
    - vi. Double parking has been a primary concern for the BAC. Enforcement will be key. Kate McCarthy and team suggested calling the Parking and Traffic number: 415-553-1200.

- vii. SFMTA has a holiday moratorium. There will be no construction from Thanksgiving through the New Year. The moratorium applies to blocks that have at least 50% businesses, but most blocks on the Van Ness corridor apply.
- 8. Business Program Survey
  - a. Kate McCarthy handed out a survey to the Business Advisory Committee
- 9. Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

## 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.