

**Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee****Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:00 p.m.****One South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, Union Square Conference Room**Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Public comment.
  - a. None heard.
3. Approval of minutes – [August 23](#).
  - a. Approved by a voice vote.
4. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding update from SFMTA staff.
  - a. Project schedule.
    - i. Alex Wilson: Is there a discrepancy in the measure of the overall schedule or a discrepancy in the days of delay?
      1. There is a discrepancy in the logic used to measure the overall schedule of the project. Part of the discrepancy has been resolved.
  - b. Construction update.
    - i. Bob Lockhart: Is there a plan to allow residents parking somewhere else while the construction is impacting access to their garages? These areas operate with residential parking permits which means you can't park on the street for more than two hours.
      1. Staff to follow up with the contractor about alternatives. Parking in the construction zone is not permitted.
    - ii. Martha Knutzen: Which blocks are they performing sidewalk work on and how long will they be impacted?
      1. The contractor is currently working on a number of blocks. They are replacing everything except the corners of the sidewalk. The work is projected to take 3-4 weeks per block.
    - iii. Susie Criscimagna: Are they planning to stamp the cement with the names of the streets?
      1. Yes, that is part of the design, but for the most part that is not expected to happen until they repave the corners of the sidewalk, as that is usually where the names of the streets are placed.
  - c. Outreach update.
    - i. Robert Bardell: I was sad to miss the latest walking tour event.
      1. Members of the committee are encouraged to reach out to project staff directly if they are particularly interested in an event, even if it is sold out.

- ii. Bob Lockhart: Will they refabricate some of the old poles in the historic district?
            - 1. They plan to refabricate 4 poles in front of City Hall.
            - 2. Martha Knutzen: If they are not illuminated poles, will there be sufficient illumination on the street?
              - a. Yes, the street will be properly illuminated regardless.
          - iii. Bob Lockhart: Will all the temporary wooden poles currently in place be replaced?
            - 1. Yes, all of the temporary lighting will be replaced by the new light poles.
          - iv. Martha Knutzen: In the meantime a lot of the blocks on the corridor can get very dark and creepy. Is there a way to provide more temporary lighting?
            - 1. The team is assessing the cost of installing more temporary lighting on affected blocks.
        - d. Update on neighboring projects.
5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding construction impacts to transit service, cyclists, pedestrians and traffic on Van Ness.
  - a. Bob Lockhart: What is stranger danger?
    - i. When people express fear of other people.
  - b. Alex Wilson: Has the project considered ways to make the experience for people walking on Van Ness better?
    - i. Yes, this has been an ongoing challenge and the team has looked into different alternatives to make navigating Van Ness easier. However, there are limitations to the amount and the quantity of signage the project can install. Staff welcomes the input of the committee on how to make walking on Van Ness better.
    - ii. Martha Knutzen: Even if the sidewalks are being repaved, there should be temporary fixes made to smooth pathways. There are many blocks where the sidewalks are rough and narrow and it is challenging to navigate especially for people with disabilities. They should consider laying down plywood to make a smoother path.
6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the public art component of the project.
  - a. Susan Pontious from the San Francisco Arts Commission presented on this item and answered questions.
    - i. Bill Crissman: Have you taken vandalism into consideration when making these plans? Who will be responsible for maintaining the art?
      - 1. The Arts Commission will be responsible for maintaining it and the team working on this project is fully aware of the challenges posed by vandalism.

2. Alex Wilson: Given the original pushback on the artwork in front of City Hall, was there ever a consideration of a different artist and design rather than a different location?
  - a. The team is very excited to be working with Jorge Pardo, a renowned artist and a McArthur Fellow, and the new location at Van Ness and Geary will serve a neighborhood that does not currently have any public art installations. It is also a major transit network hub and the team is confident it will be a good match for this project.
3. Alex Wilson: The other installation in the U.K. that the design is similar to seemed to be more people-centered. Is there a reason this design seems less so?
  - a. The other example project in the U.K. had a much wider space. This is a design more fit for a narrower platform.
4. Susie Criscimagna: Will the art installation be coated to make it resistant to vandalism? What is the budget for maintaining it and how often will it be cleaned?
  - a. The Commission takes into account all the different challenges of vandalism and durability when deciding on materials and whether or not to coat art pieces. It is too early to tell how often the installation will be cleaned but it is a piece that will be built to survive the urban environment and it is expected to be periodically cleaned by the City, in the same way bus stop or bus platform would be.
5. Bob Lockhart: Normally, who would end up owning the art?
  - a. Typically, on similar projects the city owns the art and the artist retains copyright over it. At the moment, Caltrans would like to own both the art installment and the copyright. Those issues are currently being resolved.
6. Robert Bardell: That location is a busy transit intersection. Will the art installation disrupt passenger flow?
  - a. No, the piece is designed to work on a busy platform and will not disrupt pedestrian traffic flow.
7. Randy Uang: I think the location is a good idea. Does it have a name?
  - a. Not sure that it does at this time but it will.
8. Alex Wilson: Will it have a plaque?
  - a. Yes, it will have a plaque with the name of the artist and some didactic information about the piece.
9. Kate McCarthy: Is there a reason the warmer colors are in the east and the cooler colors are on the west side?

- a. The cooler colors are meant to allude to the ocean.
- 7. Member comment: Members of the committee may address the Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.
  - a. Mark Moreno: The 77 Van Ness merchants will like to participate in the Open for Business directional signage.
  - b. Alex Wilson: The update on transportation modes was really helpful and is much appreciated. It will help focus the feedback brought to the committee moving forward.
  - c. Susie Criscimagna: What is the plan for the trees? Are there any updates?
    - i. The trees on the median are part of the project and a number of them have been preserved. The trees that were removed from the median will be replaced two to one, and a species of lemon-scented gum has been decided on. Sidewalk trees are part of a different project headed by Public Works.
  - d. Susie Criscimagna: Did the passing of Measure E affect the plan for trees for the project?
    - i. Measure E did not affect the designs of the project and the plan for trees on the median; it only affects the responsibility for maintenance which will remain the City's.
- 8. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. by a voice vote.