



Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 26, 2015

6:00-7:30pm

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

Minutes

1. Introductions of CAC members, City Agency staff and community members.
2. Approval of January minutes by voice vote
3. Presentation: *Van Ness Transit Corridor Improvement Project Request for Proposals (RFP) for Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC)* - Preston Tom, SFMTA's Contract Compliance Office
 - a. Preston Tom's presentation discussed the Small Business Enterprise, or SBE program
 - b. The Federal Transportation Agency (FTA) requires facilitation for disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs)
 - c. The SFMTA currently implements a race neutral Small Business Enterprise program to achieve FTA's DBE utilization mandate
 - d. To qualify as an SBE, a business's gross revenue must not exceed an established amount and must be certified by a certifying agency
 - e. To be awarded the CM/GC contract, the business must meet the SBE goal or demonstrate good faith efforts to do so
 - f. The RFP for the Van Ness Transit Corridor Improvement Project has SBE goals for the following trades:
 - i. Paving – 25%
 - ii. Overhead Contact System (OCS) – 20%
 - iii. Sewer/Water replacement – 25%
 - iv. Traffic Control – 10%
 - v. Percentage goals were based on availability by trade
4. SFMTA staff updates
 - a. Staff looked into early implementation of legislated project features discussed at the CAC in February, and the following outcomes have been determined:
 - i. Daylighting at seven intersection will be implemented early
 - ii. Left turn restrictions will be implemented as needed during construction
 - iii. Bus stop consolidation will be implemented when construction begins

- b. Arts Commission update—staff will present two railing option approved by Caltrans at informal meeting in March and seek formal approval in April
- c. Caltrans Coordination
 - i. Caltrans requested to see drawings and renderings of four railing treatments and have promised expedited approval of two
 - ii. Caltrans requested for further development on Traffic Management plan
 - iii. Caltrans had minor feedback on the 65% design that is being incorporated in the 95% design
- d. War Memorial Board of Trustees meeting—SFPUC will present their draft green infrastructure design for rain gardens at the War Memorial at their meeting in March
- e. CPMC Tunnel Construction
 - i. Project update
 - 1. 3 block reroute on Van Ness Avenue from Ellis to Post streets
 - a. Single lane closures
 - i. March 30, March 31, April 1 and April 2, 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
 - b. Full closures
 - i. Fri., April 3, 12 a.m. through Sun., April 5, 11:59 p.m.
 - ii. Fri., April 24, 12 a.m. through Sun., April 26, 11:59 p.m.
 - iii. Sat., September 5, 12 a.m. through Mon., September 7, 11:59 p.m.
 - 2. Transit, first responders and local traffic allowed in closure area
 - 3. BergDavis Affairs handling public affairs for closure
 - 4. SFMTA providing traffic and transit alerts, distributing project communications materials
 - 5. SFMTA looking at opportunities to collect data for Van Ness project
 - ii. CAC monthly call to action: CPMC Tunnel Construction neighbor meeting – March 4, 6 p.m., Location: 1200 Van Ness Avenue at Post Street
 - 1. Some CAC members plan on attending
 - 2. Mailer distributed to CAC members
 - a. CAC members provided feedback on mailer
 - i. Member expressed concern that there are several senior facilities and that the dates for the closure on the mailer may be difficult for seniors to read.
 - ii. Member expressed concern that the map was too difficult to read.
 - iii. Member asked how construction will impact business.
 - 3. CAC viewed traffic management and tunnel construction videos from <http://vng.cpmc2020.org/closures/1>

- f. Blind and visually impaired wayfinding report update
 - i. Staff presented draft recommendations from CDM Smith including the goals of the report, the methodology, draft recommendations and requested feedback on draft report from CAC.
 - ii. Goals of the report
 - 1. Present a range of wayfinding treatments that could be implemented in the Van Ness Corridor Transit Improvement Project
 - 2. Identify strengths and weaknesses of each
 - 3. Provide recommendations of successful treatments to implement
 - iii. Methodology
 - 1. Met with following stakeholder groups:
 - a. Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco
 - b. Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 - c. SF Mayor's Office of Disability
 - d. California Council for the Blind
 - e. San Francisco Unified School District
 - f. SFMTA Transportation Engineers and Operations
 - g. SF Public Works Building Design and Construction
 - h. Valley Transit
 - i. AC Transit
 - j. Golden Gate Transit
 - k. SFMTA's Multimodal Accessibility Advisory Committee
 - 2. Next steps
 - a. Follow-up with stakeholder groups
 - b. Confirm feasibility of treatments
 - c. Finalize recommendations for project
 - iv. Draft recommendations
 - 1. Consistency throughout corridor, city and region:
 - a. Station location
 - b. Intersection configuration
 - c. Platform layout
 - d. Wayfinding treatments
 - e. Bus operations
 - 2. Pedestrian refuges at end of station ramps protected with curbed median thumbnail
 - 3. Curb ramps oriented to face the travel of direction across intersection
 - 4. Polara Accessible Pedestrian Units (APS) units at all intersections
 - a. Current standard for SFMTA (include locator tone, vibrotactile button, arrow, and space to mount a sign with additional info)
 - b. Customize messages with intersection, possibly including station information (may not be in compliance with CA MUTCD—staff researching further)

- c. Install at sidewalks and at pedestrian refuges at the end of platforms to coordinate with signals
 - 5. Tactile crosswalk maps above the Accessible Pedestrian Signal units at locations with a BRT station:
 - a. Alert customers of presence of BRT station
 - b. Include indication of direction of travel served by BRT station
 - c. Indicate agencies providing service at BRT station
 - d. Provide demonstration versions of tactile maps for training
 - 6. NextMuni signs or platforms should utilize white or yellow text (amber)
 - 7. Real-time bus information announced at BRT stations and activated by pushbutton at stations
 - 8. ADA loading zone demarcated on the platform for customers with disabilities
 - 9. Uniform lighting over entire platform
 - 10. Continue coordination with local stakeholders through final design
- v. CAC comments and recommendations:
 - 1. Community member asked about how and where tactile maps would be installed
 - 2. CAC member mentioned that tactile maps are very popular in Europe
 - 3. CAC member requested that tactile maps could be made “vandalism proof” to extent possible
 - 4. CAC member asked about stamped street name at some intersections that she has not seen at intersections where new curb ramps have been installed. Asked if there has been policy change
 - 5. CAC discussed that customer education will be important part of introduction of service
 - a. CAC member said low-vision customers rely on stamped street name as they sometimes are not able to read street signs
 - b. SFMTA Staff will ask Public Works staff for more information about the stamped street names
- g. Project Outreach
 - i. Utility Location Excavation (Potholing) update: excavation work continuing through end of the month
 - ii. Utility box public noticing update
 - 1. Received one public comment about box replacement at Van Ness and Vallejo streets
 - a. Staff working to schedule “chalk walk” with community member and project engineer to discuss alternate location

- b. If alternate location cannot be agreed upon, a hearing will be held by SFMTA to determine to where the boxes will be relocated at that intersection
 - 2. CAC member who lives at that intersection requested to be included in chalk walk
 - iii. Other community outreach
 - 1. Scheduling meetings with stakeholder groups including Fisherman's Wharf, Ft. Mason
 - 2. Offering presentations to leaders including offices of Senators Pelosi, Feinstein and Boxer, Assembly members Chiu and Leno, Mayor's Office Government Affairs staff, as well as Board of Supervisors
 - 3. Planning interviews with neighbors on corridor who will be impacted by to help determine construction schedules
 - a. Will begin in March
 - b. Multichannel approach will including in-person interviews first, but will also include paper and electronic surveys
 - 4. CAC discussed possible District 2 community presentation. Staff will discuss with Supervisor Farrell
- 5. Next meeting - March 26, 2015