



# SFMTA

Municipal  
Transportation  
Agency

## Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 19, 2015

6:00-7:30pm

One South Van Ness, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Union Square Conference Room

### MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Announcement of Public Comment Policy (see reverse) Approval of September 24 minutes by voice vote
3. SFMTA staff updates
  - a. Caltrans Co-Op Agreement update
    - i. Will go to MTA Board on December 1 for approval
    - ii. FTA is eager to see completion of this milestone
  - b. Tree removal permit update
    - i. EIR memo-to-file has been drafted; once signed it will clear the path for permit approval by Public Works
    - ii. The Van Ness Avenue Streetscape Project, a separate Public Works project to replace trees in poor condition on Van Ness Avenue, will be implemented as part of the Van Ness Corridor Transit Improvement Project contract if its permit is approved
  - c. Historical Preservation Commission update
    - i. Informational hearing – October 21
    - ii. City Hall Preservation Advisory Commission – November 5
    - iii. Certificate of Appropriateness Hearing – November 18
      1. Certificate of Appropriateness from Historic Preservation Commission is required since project goes through Civic Center Historical District
      2. Certificate of Appropriateness was approved with conditions:
        - a. Granite will be installed at the McAllister boarding island platforms
        - b. Granite curbs are incorporated in the Civic Center Historic District both where they are currently and where they are missing
        - c. The station shelters and the removal of trolley poles do not comply with the Standards and were removed from the current proposal
        - d. Project team will return to Historical Preservation Commission within 6 months to for Certificate of Appropriateness for McAllister shelter designs and preservation/maintenance plan for trolley poles
        - e. Looking into additional costs related to conditions and how to address those, there is a concern that granite curbs and sidewalk work may be considered betterments, which wouldn't be permitted by funders
  - d. Van Ness Business Advisory Committee
    - i. Applications due November 20
    - ii. Meetings scheduled to begin January 2016
    - iii. We have gotten several applications representing both geographic diversity, as well as business type (senior facilities, hotels and automotive industry represented)

- e. Final Design task meetings are ongoing: Traffic management, Overhead Contact System (OCS), Scheduling, Utilities, Cost Estimation, Communications and Outreach
    - i. Draft construction sequencing plan
      - 1. Notice to Proceed is expected in February
      - 2. First phase of construction creates space on the outside of the streets for construction work. Work includes the removal of median trees (12 to be preserved), reduction to two lanes in each direction, elimination of left turns, removal of OCS wires and consolidation of Muni stops (tentatively scheduled for April)
        - a. Utility work and restoration will be the bulk of the project, and will progress in two headways on opposite sides of the street for about two years
        - b. Once utility work is done, roadway reconstruction follows.
        - c. There will be parking impacts, draft sequencing plans allows for parking to generally remain along Van Ness on the opposite side of utility work.
      - 3. Once utilities and roadway work is complete on the outside, traffic will be moved there so BRT construction can begin in the center of the street
      - 4. The final phase includes bulbouts and installing the Overhead Contact System (OCS)
      - 5. Advanced noticing for utility disruptions and work
        - a. Project team will provide an initial schedule with the understanding that changes will occur throughout construction. Team will also provide regular updates when these changes occur through:
          - i. Quarterly newsletters
          - ii. Weekly 14-Day Forecast email announcements
          - iii. Corridor ambassadors (door-to-door noticing)
        - b. Team will follow minimum guidelines for noticing through partner agencies
      - 6. Moving to diesel buses throughout construction
        - a. OSHA requires de-energizing OCS wires prior to construction for site safety
        - b. A cost-benefit analysis was done on running diesel coaches vs. relocating OCS out of construction zones
        - c. Will need to look at strategy for electric Muni lines that will cross Van Ness
      - 7. Traffic diversion plan
        - a. Currently developing traffic management plan, but will not include detouring information.
          - i. SFMTA is working with Caltrans to warn drivers of construction. Caltrans has urged a regional approach because of highway designation
        - b. Sustainable Streets is responsible for Traffic Management Plan, which Caltrans will review and approve
    - f. Outreach updates
      - i. Fontana West - September 28
      - ii. Lighthouse for the Blind – October 8
        - 1. Wayfinding report completed
      - iii. Fontana East – October 15
      - iv. Pacific Heights Residents Association – October 22
      - v. SF Towers – October 26
      - vi. The Alliance for a Better District 6 – November 10
4. Public comment: Members of the public may address the Van Ness BRT Citizens' Advisory Committee on matters that are within its jurisdiction and are not on today's calendar.
  - 1. Will an appeal to tree permit process impact project schedule?

2. Tree permit process started early enough to minimize appeal's impact on project schedule if Board of Appeals makes a decision in the project's favor
  3. Will the second Certificate of Appropriateness delay the project schedule?
  4. No impact on project schedule
5. Next meetings
    - a. January 28, 2016 (no meeting in December due to holidays)

## 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.