

## Notes from Buena Vista Avenue Community Working Group Meeting #1

Location: 715 Buena Vista Ave West

Date, Time: 2/11/09, 7:30pm

Present: Antonio Piccagli (SFMTA), Laura Stonehill (SFMTA), Liza Finkelstein, Peter Yedidia, Richard Magary, Bonnie Fisher, Boris Dramov

### 1. Introductions

- a. Names
- b. Meeting agenda
- c. Preliminary project timeline

### 2. Discussion

- a. Block by block comments
  - i. Buena Vista Ave East
    1. Haight St to Duboce Ave/Buena Vista Ter
      - a. Generally few problems
        - i. few pedestrians cross street by Waller St steps
        - ii. one notable exception
          1. fatal accident to J-walker
      2. Duboce Ave/Buena Vista Terrace to Park Hill Ter
        - a. Duboce intersection
          - i. heavily used by park users
          - ii. STOP signs have made the crossing safer
            1. most cars obey STOP
            2. vehicles now slow down
          - iii. fair respect for STOP leads to little use for pedestrian islands or further bulbouts into BVE
          - iv. Current paint on NE corner of Duboce and BVE
            1. if built out, could improve intersection further
              - a. it would shorten crossing Duboce
                - i. must check turning templates
            - v. lighting to far from curb after bulbout
          - b. right turn onto Buena Vista Ter from BVE very wide
            - i. unclear to BVT drivers/BVE pedestrians whether BE vehicles will turn or continue straight
              1. bulb on SE corner could help reduce this risk
                - a. might also slow traffic on BVT
                  - i. must check turning templates
            - c. Is current configuration best of three-way intersection optimal?
              - i. No, but it provides significant improvement over previous layout
            - d. few traffic issues midblock
              - i. few residences
          3. Park Hill Ter to Upper Terrace
            - a. Park Hill Ter crossing gets some use despite lack of access to park proper
              - i. no marked crosswalk here
            - b. marked crossing midblock also gets good use
              - i. large apartment building across the street
                1. many dog owners
              - ii. bus stop
            - c. future development (Park and Rec project) may increase demand at crossing near 399 BE, where no current striping exists

- d. long straightaway
  - i. highest potential for speeding
    - 1. 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds
      - a. 29mph in both directions
        - i. slightly lower than speeding threshold for most traffic calming projects
        - ii. no effect on funding
    - ii. slight chicane
      - 1. perpendicular parking (1 side) converts to parallel parking (both sides)
- ii. Buena Vista Ave West
  - 1. Upper Terrace to Frederick St
    - a. marked crosswalk has poor sightline
      - i. especially leaving park
      - ii. parked cars exacerbate problem
        - 1. remove parking?
      - iii. bulbouts across Buena Vista?
      - iv. move crosswalk to other side of Upper Ter?
        - 1. from BVE side to BVW side
    - b. Park and Rec project at service road
      - i. add ADA parking space and modify entrance to park
        - 1. AP to get more details
    - c. painted island debatably has minimal effect, but something else could be done to improve this complicated intersection
    - d. Java St gets little use
    - e. little crook in road caused at least one accident in this stretch
  - 2. Frederick St to Central Ave
    - a. Frederick approach to BVW steep
      - i. crests in unstriped crosswalk
        - 1. challenging crossing for pedestrians
      - ii. cars turning off of BVW cannot see approaching cars on Frederick
        - 1. Restripe guide lines for the left turn
    - b. no marked crosswalk anywhere across BVW
      - i. fairly high volumes of pedestrians
        - 1. but also fairly high volumes of cars turning here
      - ii. Frederick is good location?
        - 1. entrance is in the middle of extension of Frederick St
        - 2. bulbouts?
      - iii. no ramp
        - 1. can one be put in
        - 2. must contact DPW or Park and Rec
          - a. AP will follow up
    - c. fairly long, straight stretch
      - i. higher speeds?
        - 1. difficult leaving driveways
          - a. perpendicular parking severely restricts visibility
    - d. Speed survey requested as cars approach Frederick
  - 3. Central Ave to Haight St
    - a. intersection at Central Ave
      - i. similar to Frederick
      - ii. some changes may come soon with Walden House improvements
    - b. hairpin turn midstretch

- i. explains why there are no crosswalks
- ii. especially poor sightlines
- c. entrance to playground at Waller St
- d. 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds
  - i. c. 24 mph

3. Summary/Conclusion

- a. focus on pedestrian issues
  - i. INCREASE SIGHT LINES
  - ii. lower speeds will help, also
    - 1. but speeding is not too bad
  - iii. major crossings include Duboce, Upper Ter, Frederick St
    - 1. focus on these crossings

4. Next steps

- a. next meeting: Wednesday, March 11 @ 7pm @ 5 Buena Vista Terrace
  - i. have more data
  - ii. prioritize locations