



Van Ness Business Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 16, 2017

3:00-4:30pm

1 South Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor, Civic Center Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m.
2. 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 public comment was heard.
3. Minutes for the February 16, 2017, meeting were approved by a voice vote.
4. SFMTA staff updates.
 - a. Project schedule.
 - i. Construction crews continue preparing Van Ness for impactful construction through April. Curbside utility work is expected to begin in May.
 - b. Construction update.
 - i. Construction currently includes the removal of the median and Overhead Contact System that powers the electric buses on Van Ness.
 1. Removal of the median includes saw-cutting and off-hauling concrete and contaminated soil.
 - c. Lighting on Van Ness Avenue.
 - i. Staff is currently finalizing approvals of an alternate pole design per a resolution passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in September 2016.
 1. An alternative design would include design elements from existing poles such as teardrop lighting fixtures, decorative bases, finials, and curved mast arms.
 - a. Since February, the design team has made some adjustments to the alternative design.
 - i. The pendant lighting fixture would not fit with the curved mast arm initially selected for this alternative design. A different arm has been selected that can accommodate the pendant lighting fixture. This newer arm is slightly shorter and does not allow for a finial element above the pendant light.
 - d. Double parking update.
 - i. Staff has been working with the enforcement department to address double parking on Van Ness. More information would help allocate appropriate resources to problem areas.
 1. If there are "hot spots," or areas along Van Ness where regular double parking violations occur, please report to staff the blocks, side of the street, time of day and days of the week this is occurring.
 - a. Michael George reported three "hot spots" to staff including:
 - i. Northbound between Pine and California on weekday mornings, particularly near the Starbucks in the area.
 - ii. Northbound at Washington on weekday evenings, particularly near House of Prime Rib
 - iii. Southbound at Union during commuter shuttle operating hours.

1. Patrick Hosfield recommended staff contact commuter shuttles directly to address double parking issues and compliance.
 2. Michael George raised a concern that right turns were also creating a bottleneck for traffic on Van Ness. Cars are yielding to pedestrians and blocking a lane, which creates traffic and noise when people start honking their horns. He asked whether pedestrian signals on Van Ness would begin before cars were given the green light, which might relieve this pressure.
 - ii. Staff continues to develop a campaign to address double parking on Van Ness. In January, BAC members asked staff to create palm cards to distribute at hotels and cultural organizations asking people to hail rides and make deliveries on side streets instead of Van Ness.
 1. Staff presented three draft design options for the front as well as the content for the back of the card. Members were asked to provide feedback on the method, content and design.
 - a. Patrick Hosfield said there was too much content on the back of the card and suggested tightening it up a bit. He also said the Symphony would prefer a poster or table tent following the same design. They would not likely distribute palm cards to their patrons.
 - b. Kim Hartwig suggested using advertisement space within bus shelters for posters on the street. She also suggested making the banner with the project logo pop more so that it would not look like an ad for a taxi company.
 - c. Members agreed that one image would be sufficient. They preferred an image with taxis over a smartphone image.
 - e. Update on neighboring projects.
 - i. Polk Streetscape Project.
 1. Emergency sewer repair work began February 22 on Polk between Post and Hemlock and between Broadway and Pacific. This work has been completed.
 2. Project continues on its original schedule, including streetlight retrofitting and foundation work.
 - ii. Michael George asked when construction would begin on the Geary Rapid project. The early construction for that project is expected to begin later this year.
5. Outreach update.
- a. Recent public engagement activities.
 - i. Groundbreaking Ceremony.
 1. Staff hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday, March 1, at San Francisco War Memorial Court. Between 150 and 200 people were in attendance to celebrate the start of construction.
 - ii. Historic Preservation Commission's Architectural Review Committee hearing.
 1. The San Francisco Arts Commission presented an informational item of the conceptual drawings for the public art installation proposed for McAllister Street boarding platforms.
 - a. Because the boarding platforms are located within the Civic Center Historic Landmark District, the San Francisco Arts Commission must obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation from the Historic Preservation Commission.
 - b. Commissioners did not issue a decision at the hearing, but did ask for more information related to the artist's vision.
 - c. Commissioners also suggested boarding platforms on Van Ness at Market may be a more ideal location for the installation.
 - b. Outreach Calendar.
 - i. Office hours.

1. Anyone with questions for project staff is welcome to come to community drop-in office hours at the Van Ness Improvement Project Construction Field Office, 180 Redwood Street, Suite 300.
 - a. Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
 - b. Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - ii. Union Street Association.
 1. Staff will meet with Union Street Association, Supervisor Farrell's office, and staff from Invest in Neighborhoods to discuss longterm solutions to promote shopping along the corridor in light of the removal of most left turns from Van Ness.
 - iii. Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association.
 1. Staff will meet with Cathedral Hill Neighborhood Association to discuss construction impacts to Franklin and Gough corridors.
 - iv. Meet the Expert event.
 1. April speaker series will be held April 5, 6:00-7:30, at Ho's Bootleg Tavern (Van Ness at Green).
6. Next meeting – Thursday, April 20, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
 - a. May 18, 3:00-4:30 p.m.
 - b. June 15, 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 Business Advisory Committee.

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 Business Advisory Committee 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 Business Advisory Committee 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.