

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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May 17, 2013

Reply To: FTA100405A

Leslie Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105-1839

Re: Section 106 Revised Finding of Effect for the Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, City and County of San Francisco, CA

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for your letter of April 22, 2013 continuing consultation for the above referenced undertaking in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. You are requesting that I review the revised Finding of Effect (FOE) and concur with your determination of "No Adverse Effect."

As I presently understand it, the undertaking extends 2.2 miles along Van Ness Avenue from Mission Street to North Point Street. Activities associated with the project include reconfiguring the existing roadway to provide for dedicated bus lanes and transit platforms, and lighting and landscaping improvements within the streetscape. The majority of the improvements occur within the existing curb-to-curb pavement. The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) was selected; BRT vehicles would operate alongside the median for most of the corridor. At station locations, the BRT runningway would transition to the center of the roadway, providing the greatest travel time benefits for transit.

The Revised FOE has been modified to reflect my comments in the letter of December 19, 2012 and the subsequent conference call on January 29, 2013, specifically regarding the issue of assessing project effects on potentially sensitive archaeological resources within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). As stated in your letter and in the Revised FOE, the FTA has committed to a systematic approach for gathering information to further identify and evaluate potential prehistoric and historic-era archaeological sites that may be within the APE and impacted by the project. FTA has also committed to consultation with my office regarding the results of these investigations and as more specific construction parameters are developed in later design phases. Any potential subsurface testing and mitigation will take place just prior to construction. The Revised FOE also includes an inadvertent discovery plan.

My office provided comments on the Revised FOE on May 9, 2013, and those changes were subsequently incorporated into the document. The current FOE, dated May, 2013, was submitted to my office on May 15, 2013.

Additionally, the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) has been revised to include an additional southbound transit station located at Van Ness Avenue and Vallejo Street and the option of a northbound station at this intersection. No historic properties have been identified in this portion of the APE, per the Historic Property Survey conducted for the project in 2010.

FTA has determined that the undertaking as described will have no adverse effect to historic properties. With the incorporation of the revisions described above, I concur with this determination.

Thank you for considering historic properties in your planning process. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Forrest of my staff at (916) 445-7022 or e-mail at kathleen.forrest@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Roland Nawi, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carol Roland-Nawi, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer