



## Memorandum

### AGENDA ITEM 5

**DATE:** July 15, 2020  
**TO:** Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Eric Cordoba - Deputy Director for Capital Projects  
**SUBJECT:** 07/22/2020 Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting: Progress Report for Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information    <input type="checkbox"/> Action</p> <p>None. This is an information item.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY</b></p> <p>This is the monthly progress report on the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s (SFMTA’s) Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project requested by the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The project incorporates a package of transportation improvements along a 2-mile corridor of Van Ness Avenue, between Mission and Lombard streets, including dedicated bus lanes, consolidated transit stops, and pedestrian safety enhancements. The cost of the BRT project is \$185.5 million. The BRT project is part of an overall larger Van Ness Improvement Project, totaling \$309.3 million, which combines the BRT project with several parallel infrastructure upgrade projects. Water and sewer work are nearly complete and electric utility installation continues. Civil work including the demolition and reconstruction of street base is the current critical work activity. The project team has started work on the bus rapid transit elements in the center median. The project is approximately 52.8% complete compared to 47.8% reported in February.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fund Allocation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fund Programming</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Policy/Legislation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plan/Study</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital Project Oversight/Delivery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Budget/Finance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contract/Agreement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</li> </ul>
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## **BACKGROUND**

The Van Ness Avenue BRT aims to bring to San Francisco its first BRT system to improve transit service and address traffic congestion on Van Ness Avenue, a major north-south arterial. The Van Ness Avenue BRT is a signature project in the Prop K Expenditure Plan, a regional priority through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Resolution 3434, and a Federal Transit Administration Small Starts program project.

The construction of the core Van Ness Avenue BRT project, which includes pavement resurfacing, curb ramp upgrades, and sidewalk bulb outs, is combined with several parallel city-sponsored projects. These parallel projects, which have independent funding, include installing new overhead trolley contacts, street lighting, and poles replacement; SFgo traffic signal replacement; sewer and water line replacement; and storm water "green infrastructure" installation.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Status and Key Activities.** The construction team has made progress with the shelter in place order by shifting nighttime work to the daytime to lessen impact on corridor residents. The team was also able to accelerate work due to fewer vehicular traffic. Ranger Pipelines Inc. (Ranger) completed both sewer and water main installation in June. Ranger is now working on completing service connections, tie-in to existing utilities, and abandoning the old sewer under the center of Van Ness Avenue. Ranger is also working on midblock sewer abandonment between Grove and McAllister streets and between Sutter and Bush streets.

Phoenix Electric (Phoenix) completed electric duct-bank installation between Bush and California streets and between Greenwich and Filbert streets. Phoenix started electric duct-bank installation between Chestnut and Francisco streets. Phoenix also started overhead catenary system installation at these blocks and will start installation between Market and Mission streets. Phoenix continue to install streetlight poles between Chestnut and North Point streets.

Bauman Landscape and Construction (Bauman) continued mid-block roadway work and sidewalk replacement on the both side of Van Ness Avenue where sewer and water main installation have been completed. This work included the demolition of the existing sidewalk and pouring new concrete sidewalk, parking strip, and roadway between Vallejo and Greenwich streets. Bauman is also installing sidewalk pavers between Pacific Avenue and Broadway.

The construction team has started the BRT scope of work which includes grading the street, forming curbs for the boarding islands, installing landscape irrigation, and installing traffic signal foundations. The team performed a traffic lane switch from McAllister to Eddy streets in early June after completion of utility work. The northbound traffic was shifted from the center median back to the east side of Van Ness Avenue. This lane switch allowed the construction team to turn center median into a bus rapid transit construction zone with safety barriers on both sides.



Van Ness Avenue continues to accommodate two lanes of northbound and southbound traffic along the corridor project limits. The project team is using temporary traffic control measures such as channelizer traffic cone and variable message signs to direct traffic. Temporary bus stop platforms have also been installed on both sides of Van Ness Avenue as needed.

**Coronavirus Pandemic.** On March 17, 2020, the Mayor and the City's Health Office issued a Public Health Order to "Shelter-In Place" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this order, some infrastructure projects were considered essential including Van Ness BRT project, where construction has continued with some minor impacts to supply chains and construction efficiency. The contractors have implemented social distancing and personal protective equipment protocols. revised site safety and security plans to incorporate various requirements of the order. Only essential project staff are on site to ensure compliance with the health order and the other staff has transitioned to telecommuting.

**Public and Business Outreach.** SFMTA project staff has resumed hosting monthly Van Ness Business Advisory Committee meetings and Van Ness BRT Community Advisory Committee meetings to provide project updates and address issues businesses and residents are having on Van Ness Avenue. Due to public health orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings were cancelled in March but later resumed them in April via video conferencing. These two advisory committees usually have an average of 12 participants, combined, each month. Technical advisory services are also provided to impacted businesses by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development's Open for Business program, including legal assistance services, financial assistance, training and technical assistance, and grant and loan programs.

**Project Schedule, Budget and Funding Plan.** The project was approximately 52.8% complete at the end of May, compared to 47.8% complete, reported in February to the CAC. June data should be available shortly. The original late 2019 BRT service start date has been revised to December 2021 (Attachment 1) due to construction difficulties. Walsh Construction expenditures to date totaled \$131.2 million out of the \$215.4 million contract amount for the Van Ness Ave Improvement Project.

**Current Issues and Risks.** The project is currently more than a year and a half behind schedule, primarily due to challenges securing a utility subcontractor and the extent of utility conflicts encountered in the field. Unanticipated existing water and sewer pipe conditions required design changes, such as resequencing of construction, resizing of new pipes, or slip-lining existing sewer lines instead of installing new lines. With the sewer and water work nearly complete, the surface work such as the BRT scope of work should proceed with less delays. However, any additional unforeseen work such as the installation of new concrete base at various locations along Van Ness Avenue may increase the scope of the project and cause additional contract workdays.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None. This is an information item.



## **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

- Attachment 1 - Project Schedule



### Attachment 1: Van Ness Avenue BRT Project Schedule

Activities	2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022							
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
1. Conceptual Engineering + Environmental Studies*	■	■	■	■																																								
2. Preliminary Engineering (CER)		■	■	■	■	■																																						
3. Final Design						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																												
4. Construction Manager-General Contractor Process										■	■	■	■	■	■	■																												
5. Construction														■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								
6. Revenue Operations Begin																																												

\* Conceptual Engineering and Environmental Studies began in 2007 Key: ■ Currently Scheduled ■ Late Start since last report ■ Late Finish since last report

Date: June 20, 2019