



# Memorandum

## AGENDA ITEM 13

**DATE:** January 15, 2020  
**TO:** Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Eric Cordoba - Deputy Director for Capital Projects  
**SUBJECT:** 01/22/2020 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 Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project requested by the 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 \$169.6 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. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and their contractor Walsh Construction are leading the construction phase effort. Utility (water, sewer, electric) construction is the current critical work activity. The project is approximately 45.2% complete.</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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## DISCUSSION

### 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, that 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.

**Status and Key Activities.**

The construction team continues to work along multiple sections of Van Ness Avenue. Ranger Pipelines Inc. (Ranger) started midblock water pipe installation on the east side of Van Ness Avenue between Vallejo and Union streets and completed water pipe installation at the intersection of Grove Street. Ranger also completed midblock water pipe installation on the west side of Van Ness Avenue between Hayes and Grove streets. Ranger completed midblock sewer installation between Pacific Ave and Broadway and started midblock sewer installation between Broadway and Vallejo Street.

Additionally, Ranger Pipelines subcontractor, KJ Woods, completed sewer installation on the west side of Van Ness Avenue at California and Bush streets. KJ Woods also installed storm drain catch basins at Sacramento Street. Another Ranger Pipelines subcontractor, Michael O'Shaughnessy started midblock sewer installation between Market and Fell streets and between Sutter and Bush streets. Michael O'Shaughnessy worked on the sewer installation next to Market Street at night to limit construction impact on pedestrian, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic. Sewer installation is approximately 64% complete and water installation is approximately 70% complete. Both sewer and water construction may be completed by the Fall of 2020. However testing and chlorination of water pipes will take longer to complete.

Bauman Landscape and Construction started midblock roadway work and sidewalk replacement on the east side of Van Ness Avenue between McAllister and Ellis streets. Bauman also started sidewalk replacement on the east side of Van Ness Avenue between Pine and California streets.

Phoenix Electric continued their electric duct bank installation work between Washington and Jackson streets. Phoenix also continued to install duct bank facilities at Vallejo Street and at Green Street. Phoenix completed streetlight post installation at Lombard, Greenwich, Filbert and Union streets. Phoenix will also start streetlight installation at Green and Vallejo streets. Reliance Engineering relocated Overhead Catenary System (OCS) wires between Sacramento and Clay streets.

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.

**Public and Business Outreach.** SFMTA project staff continues to host 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. 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 (OEWD) Open for Business program including legal assistance services, financial assistance, training and technical assistance, grant and loan programs.

#### **Project Schedule, Budget and Funding Plan.**

The project is approximately 45.2% complete, compared to 43.6% complete reported in November to the CAC. 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 \$115.7 million out of the \$214.8 million contract amount for the Van Ness Ave Improvement Project.

The funding plan is unchanged from last month and still includes a \$9.8 million funding need, which currently falls within the approximately \$27.5 million contingency budgeted for the project. SFMTA intends to address this funding gap during its next Capital Improvement Program update planned for mid-2020. Meanwhile, the SFMTA is seeking additional sources of funds and considering deferring uninitiated projects to fill the anticipated Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget need, toward the end of construction and project closeout. Construction soft costs, which include SFMTA and SFPW staff, consultant, and bus substitution costs, total \$27.8 million as of the middle of December 2019 out of \$37.8 million budgeted.

#### **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. However, Ranger Pipelines currently has two utility subcontractors installing sewer and water works which we believe will help accelerate utility construction completion. As previously reported, additional unforeseen work, installation of new concrete base at various locations along Van Ness Avenue has increased the scope of the project and caused additional contract work days. There may be additional potential delays if we experience a heavy rain season this winter. Identifying \$9.8 million to fully fund the project contingency as mentioned above, remains an issue.

### **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