

JTF/JCHESS Organizing Committee Joint Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

JACL

Minutes

Following are the JTF / JOC Feb 19, 2014 meeting highlights:

Attendees:

Bob Hamaguchi, Robert Sakai, Sandy Mori, Kathie Cheatham, Glynis Nakahara, Greg Vilorio, Judy Hamaguchi, Chikara Ushiki, Tomo Hirai, Chester Fong, Beau Simon, Robert Rusky, Karen Kai, Paul Wermer, Hiroshi Fukuda, Kathy Nelsen, Caryl Ito, Michiko Yamada, Mari Matsumoto, Ben Kobashigawa

1. Geary BRT (Chester Fung, SFCTA)

- Handout: An updated Geary BRT Fact Sheet March 2014 and an update powerpoint dated Mar 19, 2014.
- Followup to the community meeting, there are a few changes to the staff recommendation.
 - Local stops have been revised to be at Laguna and Webster.
 - Bridge over crossing over Geary at Webster to be removed and ped crossing installed.
 - New signalized crosswalk at Buchanan, no stop.
 - Curbside lane east of Jtown Garage will have no parking spaces and east of Peace Plaza there will be a striped lane that can be no parking during high volume periods.
- A draft EIR with preferred alternatives is expected by Summer 2014.
- Action to endorse the preferred alternative is expected by Fall 2014.
- Final Environmental Document is expected by Jan/Feb 2015.

Comments:

- Delivery lanes are needed on Geary. Loading zones be designed for trucks.
- What potential revenues are expected to fund the costs of project? Vehicle license fees.
- Overcrossing is still preferred by kids at Webster.
- Van Ness BRT is scheduled before Geary BRT.
- Median refuges across Geary need to be safe and larger.
- Laguna should be a BRT stop, Japantown needs to have a BRT stop.
- All new buses will be the low loading design. Make sure the wheelchair access is good.
- Bike lanes only on Presidio and Masonic.

2. JTF Staff Reports

- Marketing (Greg Vilorio)

- Handout: Proposed marketing plan.
- JMA web design is underway and will be complete by May 1.
- New brochures being considered for 14-15. New brochures to have stories to attract new visitors.
 - Visitor Center at NJAHS. Total buildout could be \$50,000.
 - Foot Traffic Counter:
 - Beautification (Webster St signage/lighting).
 - Signage: Directional/bilingual
 - Newsletter
 - Japantown Access (tour bus stop in Jtown)
 - Comments:
 - Add the Tea Garden in the marketing.
- 1481 (Bob H)
 - Alternatives are being proposed by Sequoias that are within the zoning.
 - We have reached out to 1481 to ask for a presentation to this group. We will be scheduled in due course.
- Crime and Business Watch (Greg Marutani)
 - Northern Station has issued over 700 tickets this month. Be advised.
 - Parking meters have stickers telling parkers to take their valuables with them.
 - Crime citywide is down.
 - In Jtown, auto boosts have doubled year over year.

3. Design Guidelines and NCD (Karen Kai)

- Design Guidelines
 - Revisions need to be organized around over-arching goals.
 - Preserve look, feel, and taste to preserve the character of neighborhood.
 - Draft expected by next meeting.

4. JTF Restructuring

- Board Nominating Committee: (Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara, Sandy, Bob)
 - Met three times and more time is needed to confirm interest.
- IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD, PLEASE LET US KNOW.