



# JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

## NOTES FROM THE LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

1765 SUTTER STREET

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

### **BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:**

Rich Hashimoto, Glynis Nakahara, Sandy Mori,

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Lewis Kawahara

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeremy Chan, Elena Nielsen, Karen Kai, Bob Rusky, Linda Walsh

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### SUTTER STREET TRANSIT SAFETY PROJECT

SFMTA is proposing to change Sutter St to 2 lanes - 1 lane in each direction. Scheduled tentatively for late Spring, early Summer 2020.

Currently there are 3 lanes - one eastbound lane and two westbound lanes. They are all narrower than Muni lane width standards.

Karen suggested notifying the institutions on Sutter. JCYC Summer Camp, Nihonmachi Little Friends, and the Church create a lot of parking traffic. It's nice to not have the bus barreling down.

Glynis suggested inviting them to the next Land Use meeting on January 9, and notifying the community. Rich will invite them and Vision Zero.

Glynis will ask Steve Nakajo so that staff can help facilitate sending notice. Bob asked and Rich clarified that this is a done deal.

The handout says all of the current lanes are narrower than Muni. Jeremy asked "what is the minimum Muni width?" We will have to ask.

Rich commented that SFMTA often comes to the conclusion first, and does outreach afterwards. Karen expressed frustration that they did not consult community, and noted past efforts where JTF has convinced MTA that they should talk to community first.

Karen said that for buses to pass double parked cars, they will have to go into the oncoming traffic lane. Jeremy commented that currently, buses would be doing that anyway, since the lanes are not wide enough for Muni. Karen said there is a difference between Muni going partially into an oncoming lane vs. fully going into an oncoming lane.

Bob asked about Kimochi; Sandy commented that most of the seniors take public transportation. The parking spaces are generally taken by Kimochi transportation vans in the white zones (passenger loading), but are not usually double parked.

## STEINER BRIDGE

Rich reported on the Steiner bridge being torn down. The contractor said it could be done in 2 days. Sandy said the Geary BRT handouts are very good, and asked Rich to ask MTA staff to do outreach to the merchants.

Glynis said she gets the weekly emails, and asked whether the merchants receive the same notices. Karen said the notices may be from the Geary BRT meetings.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### BIKESHARE

Rich clarified that it is now called "Baywheels" instead of Bikeshare, to be more inclusive of other bike programs. The hearing has been scheduled for sometime in March. Glynis has not heard back from Adrian, and found out that Justin is no longer assigned to our case.

There will be 27 bikes, which is about 5-6 parking spots. Jeremy commented that this is more than they said it would be (~3-4 parking spots, ~21 bikes). Jeremy highlighted Karen's comment that we never got clarity on why the large stations are variably sized.

Karen suggested emailing them saying "hey we heard about this and it's not what we agreed to" and urging them to meet with us (or else face several comments at the hearing).

### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

There was a hit and run pedestrian auto collision on Post and Laguna . The victim was in critical condition at SF General Hospital. The cameras were able to see a license plate.

Glynis says that at Post and Octavia, seniors might not know that you have to push a button for the lights to go off. She often observes people walking without pushing the button.

There was a campaign to get a stop sign at Post and Octavia, but Glynis said it didn't meet the benchmark. Linda clarified that there hadn't been any accidents at that location. Glynis said you will see it if you know to look out for it, but otherwise you don't see it.

Rich reported that the traffic engineers are going to come to Post and Octavia to take a look at it.

Glynis said that in Hawaii, they have giant zig zag lines to indicate a pedestrian crossing.

### SPECIAL AREA DESIGN GUIDELINES

Today, the Planning Department staff submitted the packet to the commission. We did get some comments back today, that they tried to incorporate.

The hearing is on Thursday, December 19 at 1pm. The Planning Commission will decide whether

to incorporate it. We are second on the regular calendar, which may be around 1:30pm or later. It's somewhat "early" in the schedule.

Sandy said that it would be wise (and Maia encouraged) to have speakers lined up. Sandy and Glynis plan to speak. Rich will not be able to attend (board meeting), unless it's later in the agenda. Jeremy will not be able to attend for staff meetings.

Rich clarified his "No" vote. He did not want a situation like the Issei Memorial Garden, where it was sped through and then there was backlash afterwards. Sandy asked if he was more comfortable with the additional stipulations (focus groups, etc.) and he was. And Sandy emphasized that Planning is willing to staff it.

Glynis suggested we should write a letter to thank Planning. Bob and Karen volunteered to draft it. There was no letter in the Commission packet. Sandy will verbally speak at the meeting to say that JTF voted to support it.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Karen congratulated Jeremy for passing the bar exam and becoming an attorney.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on January 09, 2019.