



BETTER STREETS PLAN – Community Advisory Committee

MINUTES

August 6, 2007; 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

1155 Market Street, 4th Floor

CAC Members present: Rene Bihan, Rosi Bustamente, Emily Drennen, Timothy Dunn, Alexandra Hernandez, Jane Martin, Jason Patton, Pi Ra, Roger Rose, Nancy Strahan, Amy Tran

CAC Members absent: John Bela, John Hirten, Jesse Lorenz, Amy Tanner

City Staff present: Adam Varat (Planning), Andres Power (Planning), Kris Opbroek (DPW), Amy Ress (DPW), Cristina Olea (MTA), Rosey Jencks (PUC), Ana Validzic (DPH)

1. Announcements And Committee Matters

- Draft minutes from July meeting were not distributed. Minutes from July and August meetings will be distributed prior to the September meeting.
- September meeting moved to **Monday, September 10th** due to Labor Day. Subsequent meetings on holidays will be moved to the following Monday.
- Adam Varat of Planning Department presented a project update. Key points included:
 - Expect to need a Better Streets CAC for an additional 6 months, through early next year. All CAC members are welcome to stay on the CAC. However, if CAC members wish to resign their seat, they should let Adam know.
 - Summary of “what we heard” from Round 1 of Public Outreach will be sent to CAC members soon. Summary of issues from Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will also be sent soon.
- CAC members had the following comments:
 - Round 1 summary should include demographic information of who attended meetings.
 - Need to post public meetings on website. Postcards were sent out without meetings listed on the website, and this reflected poorly on the Better Streets Plan.

2. Education and Enforcement Policies

- Ana Validzic of DPH and Rosey Jencks of PUC presented education policies for the Better Streets Plan. Presentation on enforcement policies will be scheduled for a later date so that staff can get input from enforcement agencies.
- Presentation highlights included:

- There are several existing pedestrian safety programs, media campaigns, and mini-grants. Ana will send information about the mini-grants.
- Better Streets Plan will make recommendations regarding broadening existing programs from a safety focus to include health and other benefits of walking in general.
- There are also several existing programs relating to stormwater management and caretaking (e.g. anti-pollution signage, watershed mapping, and demonstration projects).
- Better Streets Plan will make recommendations regarding watershed education, such as watershed signage, and education relating to urban hydrology systems.
- CAC member comments included (Staff responses in *italics*):
 - Who is eligible to apply for mini-grants? *Ana will send around information.*
 - Is there a water surplus in the City by bringing in water from Hetch Hetchy? How does this factor in to watershed planning? *We don't get enough rainfall annually to meet all of the current demands, it is currently about 9 Billion gallons of stormwater and our demand is approx 33 billion gallons. Also, even if we reduced demand to such low numbers, Mediterranean climates landscapes are characterized by unpredictable droughts and flooding events and there will always be times when we need to import water. We can reduce the amount of water that we import through conservation, recycled water and rainwater re-use, but we'll need water imports to provide reliable water supplies. Through watershed planning we can look for opportunities for recycling, conservation and reuse by exploiting local synergies where water demand can be met through various sources based on their water quality needs.*
 - How will the PUC's proposed 30% reduction in water use be implemented? Will it be required? Will the Better Streets Plan be able to require any changes? *It will come from conservation and expanding the water supply portfolio to include alternative sources of water such as recycled water, rainwater harvesting, and groundwater. It will be a combination of requirements, incentives and design codes. I'm not sure how the Better Streets Plan will interact with these changes except that we will be guiding designers to use low water using planting pallets.*
 - Reclaimed water is a problem for irrigation because it has high salinity and boron content. How can this water be made more useful? *Prefer rainwater harvesting to re-use of gray water because it takes the water out of the system before it gets into the pipes.*
 - Better Streets Plan should include good examples of planters with curb breaks (e.g. from Portland).
 - Are there examples of mini-grants that partner education with enforcement? Could be a useful tool. *In the past, there have been police operations to both educate and enforce.*



- What would happen if San Francisco could no longer rely on Hetch Hetchy? *San Francisco could turn to desalinization, but this is very expensive, has high energy costs, and produces poor quality of water.*

3. Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP)

- Julie Kirschbaum of the MTA gave a presentation on the TEP.
- CAC member comments included (Staff responses in *italics*):
 - Is the TEP looking at where there is overdependence on other modes of travel?
 - Muni should see riders as customers from the moment they leave their house to they arrive at their destination, not just while on the bus. MTA should look at the system from a customer perspective.
 - Need to rethink plantings in bus zones. *City has been working to allow limited plantings in bus zones (previously not allowed at all). These standards may be refined further through the Better Streets Plan.*
 - Need to have data about over crowding. Also need data on who is boarding at certain bus stops. For example, a stop may have few boardings, but they may be all transit-dependent seniors.
 - Do the new hybrid buses have multi-lingual noticing? *All buses will have limited multi-lingual noticing.*
 - Is NextMuni being expanded? How is this prioritized by area? *Next Muni will be on all lines by October 2008.*
 - How were the bus shelter design proposals related to the Better Streets Plan? Why weren't they discussed at the CAC? Can CAC get an update on the status of that?
 - Bus shelter designs should be a pedestrian/streetscape urban design issues, not driven by financial concerns. *Better Streets staff will prepare an update on the bus shelter designs for the next CAC meeting.*