

## Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee

Action Minutes February 26, 2007

(for adoption)

Meeting started at 5:35 PM

**Present: Members:** Shirley Bierly; Dan Brook; John Lowell; Joy Oganeku; Pi Ra and Howard Strassner.

**Staff:** Frank Markowitz and Christina Calderon Olea, DPT

**1. Announcements:** A) Senior Action Network, SAN, is holding a Streets are for Pedestrians demonstration at Howard and Sixth Transit on March 1 at noon. SAN is planning similar demonstrations in each Supervisorial district. B) The PSAC website can be found at SFMTA.com after clicking on walk and PSAC.

**2. Minutes:** PSAC voted to approve the January minutes. September minutes are still pending.

**3. Public Comment: Anna Valdzic:** a) The Health Department is continuing their second year of Pedestrian Safety billboards and radio advertisements. b) Market and Octavia “no right on red” is being enforced and soft hit posts seem to be working.

**4. Better Streets Plan, BSP, Progress Report:** Best Practices memo coming soon. April 5 is official launch of BSP.

**5. Safe Routes to Transit Funding:** San Francisco is seeking a share of funds (up to \$1,000,000) from the Bay Area state bridge toll increase. The Municipal Transportation Agency, MTA, is the lead. Transportation and Land Use Coalition, TALC is the reviewing and recommending organization. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission makes the final selection. The City may provide some partially matching funds. **PSAC voted** separately on three proposed projects:

PSAC supports a planning proposal for pedestrian improvements in area of the BART and Muni Metro Balboa Stations.

PSAC supports a project to provide way finding signs: in all eight BART in San Francisco; several additional Metro Stations and the TransBay Terminal. PSAC also requests that the signs be in several languages.

PSAC supports providing pedestrian access improvements in the area surrounding the Mission and 24<sup>th</sup> BART Station including (as funds are available): audible signals; way finding signs; curb ramp improvements; corner bulb extensions; cross walk overlays; count down signals and sidewalk widening. These improvements have already been approved by the neighborhood. In addition we request including the nearby library for necessary improvements.

**5. Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP): Julie Kirchbaum,** the new head of the project discussed: the scope of the project; progress and early actions. PSAC made some new informal suggestions in addition to those discussed last month: a) City officials should ride Muni; b) Determine the correlation between efficiency, accidents and better driver training; c) When dispatcher know that a bus will not be available on a particular route, they should adjust the

initial and subsequent starting times for the next bus to provide 150% of normal headway rather than 200% of headway between buses; d) The high steps on electric buses are difficult for some seniors; takes more steps to increase ridership; e) Note the lesson that zero fares on spare the air days increased ridership.

**6. Geary Bus Rapid Transit, BRT:** In January 2006 had BRT presentation and **PSAC Voted:** PSAC supports Geary BRT in concept (pending final design selection) because: BRT improves transit while reducing costs; improves pedestrian safety, ambiance and convenience; and supports local businesses. It is expected that the SFTCA will vote on releasing Geary BRT for EIR study in April. PSAC does not expect to have quorum at our March meeting. **PSAC therefore voted:**

PSAC supports Geary BRT proposals because they include significant improvements to pedestrian safety on Geary Boulevard; including center lane loading platforms, which will also serve as safety medians for pedestrians and a reduction in the number of lanes that a pedestrian has to cross from curb to safety median.

**7. Adjournment:** At 7:15 PM