



28th Street/Little Portugal Community Working Group Meeting

Date of Meeting: February 15, 2023 (4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

Members in Attendance: Bill Rankin, Carlos Diaz, Chris Patterson-Simmons, Helen Masamori, Justin Triano, Marcos Manriquez, Ricardo Agredano, & Terry Christensen

Members not in Attendance: Connie Alvarez, Danny Garza, Davide Vieira, Dee Barragan, Ed Berger, Elma Arredondo, & Matthew Gustafson

Other Speaker Attendees: Doug Moody (VTA), Erica Roecks (VTA), Adriano Rothschild (VTA), Kristen Mei (VTA), Jessica Zenk (CSJ)

Project Team in Attendance: Joan Lee (VTA), Rachel Hennessy (VTA)

Project Team not in Attendance: Bernice Alaniz (VTA), Lucas Perez (VTA)

Meeting Agenda:


- Welcome and Introduction
- Phase II Update
- 2023 CWG Workplan Review & Discussion
- City of San Jose Transportation Projects Update
- 28th Street Little Portugal Station Design Update
- Downtown & Diridon Station Refinement Update
- Construction Activities
- CWG Member Report
- Next Steps

Follow-Up Items:

- Follow up regarding spread of misinformation, one instance occurring at 33rd and Alum Rock.
- Report back regarding opportunities for students to be involved in CWGs

Comment, Issues, and Questions	Response
Welcome and Introduction	No comments.
Phase II Update	No comments.
2023 CWG Workplan Review & Discussion	-
<p>What's the minimum age to be a CWG member?</p> <p>There's a lot of adults that don't ask the kids, who are a big portion of our population and our future. So, I think we have a gaping hole here because we have different experiences and outlooks than them. They don't have a seat at the table. It would be good to have a student council representative from Cristo Rey sit in on meetings or have the student representative funnel suggestions for us to somehow get ideas from student leaders.</p> <p>Let's add San José high School to that.</p>	<p>I don't believe we have one, although all members must meet the CWG member criteria at a minimum.</p> <p>We have looked into that, more so for our high school and college riders. We will continue to research potential student representatives. Thank you for your feedback.</p>
<p>I know that the Mexican Heritage Plaza School of Arts and Culture is really busy, but we should have some kind of check in with them. They are a big part of what's here with us, and they can benefit from what we're doing. They get a lot of participants, so they have to get there somehow. We can align what we do to help them meet their needs as well.</p>	<p>Actually, this past year, we have partnered with them in our tabling events and plan to continue doing so this year as well. We're working to get more partnership with them as an organization, and I think looking into them being a CWG member would be great.</p>
<p>I like the idea of having more student voices!</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Great idea!</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>This has not held the interest of some adults. I think when including</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

Comment, Issues, and Questions	Response
student voices find ways to engage them at their level of interest.	-
City of San Jose Transportation Projects Update	-
<p>I'm curious about the pedestrian overcrossing. Do you have any information on what the vision would be? Would it make more sense to take up more space on what is already built? Do you have any visions on what they would be?</p> <p>In the last slide that showed where the freeway entrance is on and off, is there an intended traffic light? Does it have any traffic control?</p>	<p>Those are exactly the questions we're looking at. Where could you feasibly have a separate facility given the freeway, the clearance requirements of the freeway, the available land North of the existing Julian McKee overcrossing and South of the existing overcrossing. They are looking at how long that would be given those slopes and how comfortable it would be for people of all ages. Could you get by with a wheelchair or walker? How winded would you be? Because if you do not have good access, the value diminishes greatly. We are looking at options North and South of McKee, and we are also comparing that to the existing bridge deck for better pedestrian and/or bike facilities on the bridge deck, which would probably have more conflict with traffic, but also be more direct. Those are some of the things we're trying to weigh and can bring back through, but more developed through the Urban Village process.</p> <p>That area is already signal controlled, and this new area is signalized and would stay signalized.</p>

Comment, Issues, and Questions	Response
<p>Could you show us how the Five Wounds Trail would come across on this slide?</p>	
<p>Maybe one of the sidewalks could be repurposed to be a bike trail so you don't have to have pedestrians on both sides. You could gain that sidewalk space and only encroach onto the street for a couple of feet.</p>	<p>I think that's very creative. We have been looking at the width of those sidewalks and do not feel like they suffice, so we would be looking to widen them either way. It is more like a trail 1 class facility that could be shared by people walking and biking at a reasonable pace. The reason we are looking at that is we do not want to force people to cross the street on foot because that can add a lot of travel time. But your idea of minimizing the space needs is exactly one of the ideas we are thinking about.</p>
<p>Is there space at lower Silver Creek or Coyote Creek at Watson Park to go under 101? And I also believe the Old Crane Bridge over 101 has been eliminated from thought, but has there been any reconsideration of that?</p>	<p>A few years ago, the City sought and secured a grant through the State's Active Transportation Program that will construct a connection under 101 along the Coyote Creek Trail from Watson Park to the east side of 101. That is slated to be completed and open for public use by 2025.</p>
<p>So, we have potential money earmarked for this. Can we get additional funds for education to let people know it's there and for enforcement? We have these signs and rules; does the City or the BART</p>	<p>The bulk of these grants are made for infrastructure improvements. But there are grants and other resources that we have secured for education and enforcement. The City does have a Walk and Roll program, which is our Safe Routes to School Program.</p>

Comment, Issues, and Questions	Response
<p>police have the capacity to keep people honest? Is something going to be put there and get lost and not enforced?</p>	<p>It is currently in roughly 55-60 schools and funded largely by VTA Measure B, which has a portion of the bike and pedestrian funding that is reserved for education. It has normally focused on elementary schools, but I know the team has been interested in middle schools. So, we could ask if there is interest from local schools to participate as one method.</p> <p>BART police do not have jurisdiction beyond the stations.</p> <p>Also, we are starting a Walk Safe San José program led by our Vision Zero team to do exactly the kind of education you are talking about but geared towards adults. That is also grant funded, which was intended to fund education and encouragement programs. So that is another opportunity to target folks in the area. San José police, not BART police, has been trying to grow its traffic enforcement unit. It has been a big focus for the Department of Transportation and police department. We do not want to over-enforce, but we do need more enforcement than we have had in recent years. The police department has been building that force back up, but it is not where it wants to be. We can keep you apprised of those overall enforcement resources and such.</p>
<p>28th Street Design Updates</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
<p>Downtown & Diridon Station Refinement Update</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>I like having 2 switchbacks instead of 3.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Can you send this slideshow to our emails please?</p>	<p>It will be posted on our website and has been sent out to everyone on the mailing list.</p>
<p>Construction Activities</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
<p>CWG Member Report Back</p>	<p>-</p>

Comment, Issues, and Questions	Response
<p>Yesterday, one of my neighbors said someone claiming to be from VTA went to her business and said that the tunnel was going to be under her business. 33rd and Alum Rock on the corner. Her name is Josefina and it's a hair place on the corner. Same building as Leslie Dollar Store or Leslie Market. My landlord said she doesn't know anything about it. The hairstylist, Josefina, doesn't know the name of the person who came to talk to her.</p>	<p>There will not be a tunnel under her business. Could you send us information about the individual? We will follow up and try to stop the spread of misinformation.</p>
<p>I had spoken to my daughter who attends Cristo Rey and asked her if she'd be willing to look into someone at the school who can do a report or take some notes on input from students. This will provide input to our group, and could be funneled through the school, so that we can get some groundwork or a starting base for where the students heads are at on this. A lot of students take the bus to school so there will be a number of students who would benefit from this project. She is going to work through the school on this.</p> <p>Yes definitely, I know there's a few other programs that have reached out as well with ways we can get more student voices. I've met with our principal and other executive leaders here to find ways to plug this information with our students, families, and communities. We have families that come on campus every month, and we share ways to plug them into student leadership. We have students that work with the transportation department, so seeing ways to expand on that as well.</p>	<p>I started a conversation with Marcos about working with Cristo Rey, and Marcos, maybe we can talk about that during some of our upcoming conversations.</p> <p>We have other planning updates happening in the area and have outreach planned to work with Cristo Rey students.</p> <p>VTA's real estate team is working on a Design Development Framework and as part of that, there is a focus group that is focusing on local high school students from Cristo Rey and will do a formal outreach to further discuss that.</p> <p>We are working on ways to engage students and have a lot of opportunities and will circle back on this.</p> <p>San Jose DOT has two interns from Cristo Rey and can ask them about what would engage them as well, to the earlier point made.</p>

Comment, Issues, and Questions	Response
<p>It would be good to find ways to plug information into the school (Cristo Rey High School). Every month we have families that come on campus and find ways to plug them into programs and have students who work in the transportation department at the City. We've been in contact with Woody.</p>	<p>-</p>

Next CWG Meeting: May 17th, 2023, 4:00 PM, Zoom

Prepared by: Joan Lee (VTA)
Concurred by: Kristen Mei (VTA) & Erica Roecks (VTA)
Distribution: CWG Members
Project Team
City & Public Agency Staff
Distribution List