

Community Advisory Committee of
Market and Octavia Area Plan
City and County of San Francisco
Meeting Minutes

Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, 5TH Floor
Monday, June 15, 2015
7:00 PM
Regular Meeting

Committee Members Present: Jason Henderson, Krute Singa, Paul Olsen, Robin Levitt, Gary McCoy, Joshua Marker, Lou Vasquez

Committee Members Absent: Kenneth Wingard, Ted Olsson

City Staff in Attendance: Menaka Mohan (SF Planning), Adam Varat (SF Planning), Wayne Wietgreffe (SF Planning), Viktoriya Wise (SFMTA), Marlo Sandler (SF Planning)

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Announcements, upcoming meetings, project updates, and general housekeeping [discussion item]
3. Approval of minutes for May 18, 2015 regular meeting [action item]
 - Members approved minutes for May 28, 2015 meeting
4. Planning for the Van-Ness Market Area (“The Hub”) [discussion item]
 - Planning Staff stated there was not enough time between the May meeting and the June meeting to run through the financial analysis for the Hub area to answer how much money would be available for affordable housing, transportation, and public realm
 - Project sponsors that are in the pipeline and want to move forward would still be able to
 - Map shows the projects that are being considered for the HUB
 - Planning Staff have reviewed the ‘SoMa West’ Plan created in 2002 to understand if streetscape best practices have changed
 - Additionally, planning staff wanted to layer the public realm plan with the sites currently seeking development in the Hub area.
 - Octavia Boulevard and Van Ness BRT are two projects that are moving forward from the plan
 - The Brady Block design in the plan could be revisited. How would we envision the streetscape network today? Could we reconsider a multi modal boulevard for South Van Ness?
 - Oak Street Plaza was not part of the original plan, how should it look?
 - The City owned properties-(Otis and Mission) could have new plazas

- If a planning effort were underway, how would we plan the streetscape network? Could we take the improvements further than what was originally proposed?
- CAC Comments:
 - In 2002, there was far less enthusiasm from SFMTA and the City for bicycling, now would be the time to put in 8-10ft wide cycle tracks on Market between Van Ness and Octavia-Better Market Street has ignored that part
 - Public realm ideas, they look great, but they will be ruined by the parking provided. The Plumbers union and Honda site will dump hundreds of cars onto 12th street. Goodwill site has a lot of parking as well on 11th Street, which is an important cycling route.
 - The proposed plumbers union is eliminating the parking lot-1601 market that will be disappearing so the net increase in parking might not be as great
 - The different projects are resulting in 900 cars-and travel lanes have been removed for BRT, how are you going to do public realm improvement with so much movement
 - What does 1000 parking spots mean? Is that additional? What is already on the ground?
 - Parking in city building is DBI and DPW. What is the potential increase?
 - If we do up-zone, limit to number of spaces not ratio to what is there now
 - 12th street could be a potential public realm improvement, instead of a driveway
 - Even now its 600 spaces probably, should we take a new look at the public realm plan
 - Parking lots now, are used by commuters, you would see that change
 - Otis street is way too wide, perhaps we could add a contraflow bike plan on Otis
 - Nothing at Mission and South Van Ness?-It is covered by Mission Public Life and Muni Forward,
 - 12th Street has great potential, even if we had no parking on Honda, we still would need to use 12th street as a driveway because no loading on Van Ness and Market
 - How do we balance this sea saw of development with new public realm ideas/improvements?
 - It is a timing issue-can we develop a revised public realm plan, before construction? How do we build in more affordable into this part of the plan and also think about long term with streetscape
 - What about removing the Central Freeway?
 - As a member from the CAC-the Van Ness BRT is a missed opportunity from design, it looks like is made out of spare parts
 - I would focus on existing alleys and row that are not stitched together-making those through alleys, having a design criteria for them-Making connections through them would make a huge difference
 - Breaking the blocks up and fixing the alleys
 - Yes to looking at public realm and come back in July to report back

5. Oak and Octavia Intersection Improvements

[action item]

- The CAC passed the following resolution:

The Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee recommends approval of pedestrian and safety improvements at Octavia Boulevard at Oak Street, Laguna Street at Oak and Fell Streets, and daylighting in Hayes Valley. The CAC is supportive of curb extensions at these key intersections to shorten crossing distances and provide refuge for pedestrians. Daylighting around Hayes Valley will also increase the visibility of pedestrians, especially children and the elderly who are the most vulnerable.

Approved by the Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee on June 15, 2015

AYES: Henderson, Levitt, Olsen, Singa, McCoy, Marker, Vasquez

NOES:
Absent: Olsson, Wingard

6. Central Freeway Removal
[discussion item]

- The CAC discussed a letter from HVNA calling for a study on the removal of the Central Freeway and passed the following resolution:

The Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee (CAC) encourages the SFMTA to study the replacement of the remainder of the Central Freeway south of Market Street with a surface boulevard consistent with Board of Supervisor resolution #304-04 adopted in May of 2004, the Market Octavia Plan, and as identified in the SFTP. The CAC requests a conceptual level operational analysis of transit and traffic for the study area-Central Freeway south of Market Street-and if applicable supports the use of Central Freeway Parcel sales or impact fees from the Plan Area. We anticipate this study will lead to parcels available for affordable housing, which could be further analyzed by the Planning Department in 2016.

Approved by the Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee on June 15, 2015

AYES: Henderson, Levitt, Olsen, Singa, McCoy, Marker, Vasquez
NOES:
Absent: Olsson, Wingard

7. Resolution Regarding Planning Department Review of Projects in Market in Octavia Plan Area
[action item]

- The CAC passed the following resolution:

Given the tremendous volume of new and proposed development occurring in the area, the Market/Octavia Citizen's Advisory Committee applauds the Planning Department's careful stewardship of the Market/Octavia (MO) Plan and its rigorous review of projects to ensure conformance with the Plan's goals and guidelines. When reviewing smaller projects, for example the garage insertion at 367-371 Oak, the CAC asks that the Planning Department continue to be consistent with the principles and guidelines in the MO plan, especially given the creation of a future network of Living Alleys. Therefore, the CAC urges the same level of commitment and rigor that has been applied to the review of major new projects, also be applied to the review of smaller projects in the Plan area.

Approved by the Market Octavia Community Advisory Committee on June 15, 2015

AYES: Henderson, Levitt, Olsen, Singa, McCoy, Marker, Vasquez
NOES:
Absent: Olsson, Wingard

8. Public Comment

9. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: July 20, 2015