

West Portal Merchant Association

General Meeting

16 February 2017 / 9:15 AM / Chase Bank

The meeting was brought to order by Mary Spellman.

OLD BUSINESS:

SFMTA presented further information regarding the West Portal Tunnel Improvement Project. Lulu Feliciano, outreach coordinator, introduced the new Project Manager, Lisa Chow.

The project will encompass work on drainage, seismic and fire suppression upgrades, new tracks and underlayment.

Currently, the shutdowns scheduled will be as follows:

1. April 17th to May 1st (15 day closure)
2. July 7th to July 21st or 17th to 31st (15 day closure)
3. October 13th to 28th (14 days)
4. January 2018 beginning 3rd to 13th or 10th to 24th (11 days)
5. February "toward the end of the month" (11 days)

We were assured that the contractor doing the work has had good success!

Matt Brill, shuttle coordinator, SFTA, was also present. He presented a tentative map of shuttle bus and train routes. He also shared the bus stops that will be arranged on the Castro Street side of the construction site. He assured all that the NextBus app will be updated with the changes.

Question raised: Will parking be returned on Sloat Blvd.? No answer was readily available.

Member Suggestions: nearby schools must be notified; possible Uber and Lyft services have a promotion with possibly coupons be given to merchants to share with clients.

Curiosities owners, Tina and Karrie, remarked on the need to police the double parked cars at the after school tutoring stores on the second block especially with the anticipated traffic congestion.

Vacant Storefronts:

Verizon has begun reaching out to both the neighborhood and merchant associations for support to occupy the Radio Shack site.

Pilates Story (Citipets) is under construction.

Other vacant locations are still vacant.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary, State Farm Insurance, reported on the progress in planning the Centennial Celebration of the opening of the West Portal Tunnel. There is a \$45,000 grant awarded to WPMA as well as marketing support from two local companies provided by OEWD. The tentative plan is as follows:

September 2017 Kickoff with celebration events and contests

October 2017 Halloween Walk

November 2017 Small Business Saturday

February 2018 The Grand Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the West Portal Tunnel

Bella, Tina and Karrie asked that adult events be planned alongside the many child-oriented events.

Neal Sofman suggested a shuttle system from a satellite parking area to the Avenue.

ACTION ITEMS

Sonia reported on the results of the survey for a time change to the monthly merchant meeting in order for more members to be inclined to attend. The result was a 1:00-2:00 meeting time. This did not seem feasible to most members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 Submitted, Karen Tarantola, Recording Secretary

