RAILYARD ALTERNATIVES & I-280 BOULEVARD (RAB) FEASIBILITY STUDY

RAB CITIZEN GROUP MEETING #5, MARCH 2ND, 2017
HELD AT: MERCY HOUSING COMMUNITY ROOM | 1180 4TH ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA | 6:00-8:00PM
I. Key Study Updates
II. Goals for CWG Meeting #5
III. Meeting #4 Recap
IV. Review Questionnaire Results
V. Public Workshop Planning
VI. Next Steps
   • Meeting #6
   • Public Workshop (Spring/Summer 2017)
I. KEY STUDY UPDATES
KEY STUDY UPDATES AND TIMELINE IMPLICATIONS

- Update on RAB Study
- Federal funding for Caltrain electrification
- CHSRA DEIS/R update
- TJPA DTX funding through SFCTA
- Connect SF
II. GOALS FOR MEETING #5
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- Provide a study update and discuss timeline implications
- Better understand CWG members’ interests and priorities for the study area
- Discuss proposed format, structure, and outreach of public workshop
III. MEETING #4 RECAP
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- **A Look At Grade Separation**
  - Viability of trolley buses crossing tracks at different voltages
  - Possibility of utilizing space above trench (cap and provide park and open space?)
  - Relative need compared to other high-traffic intersections in San Francisco

- **Review Technical Feasibility and Opportunities of Components**
  - Need to include ADA considerations in the matrix
  - Review seismic safety and improvements of tunneling in Mission Bay
  - Efficiency of operations should be highlighted

- **Discussion of Tradeoffs**
  - The importance of neighborhood connectivity
  - Value capture at 4th & King is a rare opportunity to fund public benefits
  - Boulevard I-280 largely not a priority for the group
IV. INPUT QUESTIONNAIRE

- WHY THE INPUT QUESTIONNAIRE?
- REVIEWING RESPONSES
- DISCUSSION
Why the Input Questionnaire?

- CWG members reflect the diverse communities around the study area.
- Input from all representatives regarding all study components is critical.
- CWG input allows study to accurately consider, understand, and articulate the questions and concerns of local stakeholders.
RESPONSE CATEGORIES

- Most Important Issues
- Preferred Rail Alignments
- Stations & Service Areas
- Railyard Reconfiguration/Relocation
- Boulevard I-280
- Opportunities for the Urban Environment
The neighborhoods of SOMA, Mission Bay, Potrero Hill, and Dogpatch will inherit a host of new challenges and opportunities. What issues are the most important to prioritize?

**AVERAGE PRIORITY**

- **Improved Local Transit Connections**: 8.5
- **Improved Regional Transit Connections**: 8.2
- **Neighborhood Connectivity**: 8.1
- **Improved Pedestrian Safety**: 7.1
- **Improved Traffic Flow**: 6.8
- **Improved Bicyclist Safety**: 6.8
- **Improved Air Quality**: 6.6
- **New Space for Housing Development**: 5.2
- **New Park Space**: 4.9
- **New Space for Industrial Development**: 3.2
- **New Space for Office Development**: 2.8
What CWG members had to say…

“Improve and maintain emergency access for emergency vehicles, patients, healthcare providers to UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay.”

“[Pursue] self-funding strategies, so as not to depend on politicized federal funding.”

“We must also consider how any route will enhance SF for future developments.”

“Minimize neighborhood construction disruption.”

“Protection of new Mission Bay neighborhood.”
LOOKING AT ALIGNMENTS

How acceptable are each of these options for crossing the rail right-of-way?

- **Tunneled Tracks**
  - Not acceptable, 20%
  - Acceptable, 15%
  - Preferable option, 65%

- **Trenched Street**
  - Not acceptable, 85%
  - Acceptable, 10%
  - Preferable option, 5%

- **At-Grade Crossing**
  - Not acceptable, 90%
  - Acceptable, 10%
  - Preferable option, 0%
LOOKING AT ALIGNMENTS

A look at what CWG members had to say...

At-grade:

“Ultimately the train frequency will make the at grade traffic crossing unacceptable.”

“The increase in trains will block Mission Bay from the rest the City.”

“It will isolate Mission Bay from the rest of the city.”

Trenched:

“This is not the time to divide the city yet again - particularly in a growing area.”

“Need to study a covered option that has been ignored.”

“It's the most logical, and affordable way forward.”

Tunnel:

“This project will go beyond the next 50 years this option gives us more flexibility”

“This frees up the surface for human scale transportation and use, reclaims space, and allows for free multi-modal access.”

“Too expensive to be viable.”
What amenities would you want to improve if the 22nd Street Station was replaced?

- Improved access for persons with disabilities: 95%
- Improved access to local transit: 90%
- Better access to the bicycle network: 80%
- Better integration with the street grid: 70%
- Closer proximity to trip origin or destination: 25%
- Other: safety & lighting: 30%

Other Responses:
- Increase parking
- Improve off-street loading for shuttles, taxies, etc.
- Improve landscaping

How important is relocating the 22nd Street Caltrain Station?

- Not important, 25%
- Somewhat important, 50%
- Very important, 25%
What CWG members had to say…

“22nd Street Station could also be eliminated, which would likely result in significant cost savings.”

“There is some reasonable argument for a station on third street, whether at 16th or at Mission Rock.”

“We have the opportunity to improve and modernize we should take full advantage.”

“The station needs ADA access and better connections to the community.”

“[Should be] closer to 4th and King.”

“If we go through the effort of replacement we should do it right.”
How important is removing some or all of the maintenance and operations at the railyard to free the land for other development and public uses?

What CWG members had to say…

“Rail maintenance operations don't belong in this part of town.”

“Valuable land - wasted on train storage.”

“Valuable, but needs to be balanced with operational costs to rail service.”

“Not every square inch a SF needs developing now.”

Survey Results:

- Very important, 55%
- Somewhat important, 30%
- Not important, 15%
How important is it to you that the City converts I-280 into a Boulevard?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important</td>
<td>45%</td>
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</tbody>
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What CWG members had to say…

- “The highway works fine today and is in good shape.”
- “Converting it into a boulevard like the Market-Octavia disaster would be crazy.”
- “This would be nice to have but it is not absolutely, essential.”
- “This would truly unite the city.”
- “Urban freeways were a mistake of 20th century civilization and should be removed over time.”
- “I-280 represents a significant visual and physical barrier.”

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If the railyard is repurposed, what type of development would be most important to prioritize?

**Average Priority**

- **Housing**: 8.4
- **Parks**: 7.7
- **Retail**: 6.3
- **Production, Design, Repair**: 5.5
- **Office**: 4.5

The chart shows the average priority for different types of development, with Housing ranked highest and Office ranked lowest.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

A snapshot of the most frequently occurring words in CWG responses…
What CWG members had to say…

“First priority should be for 100% affordable housing and sale to community land-trusts and affordable housing developers, blue-collar job creating PDR, and local community serving non-profits.”

“The area should be master planned to maximize connectivity and public access in this area that historically lacks both.”

“Housing, retail and office in that order.”

“Could be an exciting new urban center for Mission Bay that helps link surrounding neighborhoods – a great opportunity!”

“Preference is to have the minimum cost alternative for the 16th St. crossing, and spend transportation funding to build another Transbay tube across the bay.”
V. PUBLIC WORKSHOP PLANNING

- PUBLIC WORKSHOP GOALS
- PUBLIC WORKSHOP LAYOUT & STATION OVERVIEW
OVERVIEW OF GOALS FOR PUBLIC WORKSHOP

- Inform the public of the project’s different priorities and the progress that has been made to date
- Clarify the existing and future problems that need to be solved for
- Provide an opportunity to hear from the public about their priorities for the study area
- Provide public with the timeline for decision making around the study
REFINING THE GOALS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

- What do you want the public to know?
- What do you want to learn from the public?
- What would a successful meeting look like?
- What conversations would you want to spark among attendees?


- **Welcome Station**: Offer an orientation to the meeting with map and presentation times

- **Station 1 - About RAB**: Where we are in the update process and how public feedback is valuable

- **Station 2 - Introduction to the Study**: Video providing an overview of the Study and components; presentation and Q&A; **Component 1**: Rail Alignment

- **Stations 3-6 - Components**: Stations detailing each of the remaining components

- **Partner Tables**: 3 to 5 additional stations will be made available for partner agencies interested in tabling (e.g. TJPA, MTC, Caltrain, HSR, etc.)
VI. NEXT STEPS
Next CWG Meeting (CWG #6)
- Full alternative analysis
- Schedule implications
- Preliminary estimates of probable costs, etc.

CWG Meeting #6 Timing:
- One week prior to public workshop (date TBD)

Public Workshop
- Public workshop planned for spring/summer 2017
QUESTIONS?
**RAB STUDY TIMELINE**

**PHASE I**
- Preliminary Options Analysis
- June 2014 – Feb 2016

**PHASE II**
- Alternatives Development
- Feb 2016 – Summer 2017

- Public Meeting
- Preliminary Options Analysis
- Public Input
- February 2016

- Ongoing Community Engagement

- Community Working Group Participation

- SF Board of Supervisors Make Recommendations on Alignment Options
- TBD

- SF Board of Supervisors Update Draft Alternatives
- TBD

- Public Meeting Draft Alternatives
- Public Input
- TBD

- SF Board of Supervisors Update Revised Alternatives
- TBD

Note: Dates and timeframes indicated are subject to change