

Agenda Item No. 1c
For: June 8, 2006

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, May 3, 2006



Convene at 12:00 p.m. - Adjourn by 1:15 p.m.
Embarcadero Room
Pier One, Port of San Francisco

Approval of April 5, 2006, Minutes

1. Service Issues
 - Bus Route 66 to Muir Woods Status
 - NextFerry Signage Status

2. Operational Issues
 - Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
 - Ballpark Service Update

3. Other Items/Future Agenda Items
 - Ferry Passenger Survey
 - East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Widening Project
 - Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Signal Timing Project
 - Kaboom Service Update (May 13)
 - Bay-to-Breakers Service Update (Sunday, May 21)

4. Member/Visitor Comments

Attachments: Minutes of April 5, 2006

Bus Patronage since July 1999: LFT Weekday
LFT Weekend
SFT Weekday
SFT Weekend

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Minutes of Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Embarcadero Room, Port of San Francisco, Pier One

FPAC Members Present: Ken Eichstaedt, George Griswold, Frank Johnston, Robert Karfiol, Lee Kleinecke, Jorge Schulz, Erik Selvig, Cindy Swift
Staff Present: Helen Haas, Customer Relations Supervisor; Harvey Katz, Senior Planner; Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant; Jim Swindler, Ferry Division Manager
Visitors Present: Dwight Steeves, Denise Turner

Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2006. The minutes were approved.

Harvey Katz requested that as attendees sign in, they provide their e-mail addresses so the District may communicate with them electronically. Unless instructed otherwise, any future mailings from the District to members will be sent via e-mail.

1. Service Issues

Bus Route 66 to Muir Woods Status

This bus will begin on Memorial Day weekend, continue throughout summer weekends, and end on Labor Day, with additional service on July 3 and 4. It will not be connecting with the Sausalito Ferry because the cost of one additional bus and driver would be prohibitive. A \$2 round-trip fare will be collected at either the Manzanita Park & Ride or Marin City stops, but not at Muir Woods.

NextFerry Signage Status

These LED signs will announce arrival/departure of ferries in Larkspur, San Francisco and Sausalito, but progress is slow on receiving permits. The WTA has submitted an application to the City of Sausalito, since the landing is owned by the city. Signs at LFT would be on District property. These signs will be able to say "Parking Lot Full" or "MS Mendocino due in 8 minutes," using GPS signals on the actual vessels. At LFT, Customer Service can control the message. Member suggested that since the sign at LFT faces East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for incoming passengers, another sign could be posted on the back for those leaving the lot, saying something like "Ball game tomorrow, lot may fill early." Jim Swindler said he thought the WTA 5-year funding program might be able to accommodate the back-side signs. Cindy Swift mentioned that the rolling sign above the ticket office is also a good place for warning/ball game messages.

2. Operational Issues

BART Project Update

Mr. Swindler explained that Moffat & Nichols consultants have designed a temporary ferry facility at Gate C, north of our current location. It would be a floating terminal, similar to but larger than the Vallejo or Alameda terminals. The District has asked for, and design includes, a heated, enclosed waiting area with covered seating and nearby restrooms. The

boarding ramp would be 26 ft. wide. Ticket collection has yet to be worked out. This facility is considered temporary until we return to a reconstructed terminal at our original location after the BART retrofit is completed (estimated date: January 2008). Next month, Mr. Swindler may have actual drawings to show FPAC; at this meeting he pointed out Gate C's location on a map he brought to the meeting, saying the existing gate would be leveled and the plaza behind the Ferry Building cut up. Loading would be on the main deck in SF while it takes place on the second deck at LFT, and a lift for ADA compliance is being worked out for SFFT. Perhaps in the future, there would be a main kiosk at the Ferry Building to sell all types of ferry tickets.

Ferry Passenger Survey

Surveys were handed to SB morning LFT passengers one week ago, and an estimated 1,000 completed surveys were received. District could not incorporate all the changes suggested by FPAC members, but RADM Johnston praised District for a good job. Mr. Katz explained that data is now being input into a computer, and by the May FPAC meeting, we should be able to communicate some observations.

Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity

Mr. Swindler said some days the vessels are overcrowded and some days they are not. He acknowledged that the shuttle bus experiment didn't work. Ferry Division is looking into a long-range plan to deal with overcrowding. Member Ken Eichstaedt requested figures from Mr. Swindler detailing the specific overflow numbers and times. Discussion included noting that NB ferries only occasionally fill up and the observation that when passengers are unable to board an overcrowded ferry, many wait for the next vessel rather than drive into the City.

LFT Parking Lot at Capacity

Tomorrow marks the first special event ferry from LFT to the Giants ballpark, when mid-day parking is expected to be a big problem. Mr. Swindler explained that District is graveling the railroad right of way behind the Marin Airporter to add about 150 temporary parking spaces, but because construction is delayed due to rain, ballgame attendees will be directed to park at the Marin Airporter facility. Helen Haas said 400 return tickets have already been sold for April 6th, 325 SB. The Ferry Division is working with District engineers to devise a long-term parking solution. Member Lee Kleinecke suggested instituting valet parking.

3. Five-Year Fare Program

Mr. Katz informed the committee that the program was approved by the Board as proposed. Fare increases will begin July 1, 2006, at 5% and rise an additional 5% every anniversary for the next four years. FPAC's recommendation for 25-cent increment rounded fares was not instituted. Helen Haas said that perhaps District would look into that for July 1, 2007.

4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

Changes to the FPAC web site presence

There will no longer be a special web site for FPAC. Minutes and agendas are still a part of each monthly Transportation Committee meeting and are included under Transportation Committee in our Board Meetings web page. Past month's agendas and minutes are on the District web page.

Helen Haas responded to members' questions about FPAC on the web site, saying District receives no questions about the committee. The general Golden Gate Bridge

District web site receives about 200,000 hits per month, many of them from tourists visiting the Bridge and transit riders checking bus/ferry schedules, which we are careful to keep up to date. The 511.org web site has not proven to be as helpful as desired, and an RFP will be issued by MTC for redesign of their information.

Ms. Haas and Mr. Swindler will review some public comments regarding ferry service and distribute several (with no customer identification) to FPAC for issues to discuss. Most recent comments have dealt with parking. Mr. Swindler noted that parked autos have not recently suffered break-ins.

East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Widening

This county-funded, Larkspur-led project has been delayed three weeks due to weather. Once begun, it will take only four weeks to complete – perhaps by May. This project will add one more left-turn lane (for about 10-12 vehicles) on WB East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and restore the third WB lane below the US 101 structure for traffic heading SB on US 101.

Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Signal Timing Project

This MTC-funded, county-led project will retime all 12 traffic signals on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. between Larkspur Landing Circle East (next to Sanitary District property) and Maple Ave. in Kentfield. Signals will be timed to favor the predominant traffic flow. This project can only be done after East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. is widened, and timing must be set while schools are in session (College of Marin traffic greatly contributes to congestion on the road). Project will be completed either just before Memorial Day or as late as Thanksgiving. Mr. Swindler said he and planner Maurice Palumbo would like to meet with the county engineers to express what is needed at LFT.

MCTD SRTP

Ms. Haas informed members of MCTD hearings on its service plan April 19, 24, 26 and May 4. Bus Route 29, which runs along Sir Francis Drake Blvd., will go to 60-minute headway (instead of 30-minute) and not into Larkspur Landing Circle or LFT. It will come directly from the Canal area, omitting Andersen Drive. Because of the numerous transit changes planned by MCTD, she directed members to marintraffic.org to view the upcoming Marin County bus setup.

5. Member/Visitor Comments

- Mr. Katz said that on the Bay to Breakers Sunday, May 21, four early morning ferry trips will be added from LFT to SFFT. On Bike to Work Day, May 18, and Saturday, May 20, a bicycle energizer station will be set up for bikes at LFT.
- RADM Johnston noted that May 22 is National Maritime Day, a time to dress up ships.
- RADM Johnston wants vessel captains to announce when weather, e.g., high winds and seas, affects travel that passengers should remain seated for their own safety.
- Visitor Dwight Steeves praised rearrangement of two of the Spaulding vessels by removing some tables and chairs on the back of the lower deck, creating a much-desired less-crowded and comfortable area for passengers.
- He also complimented District on ferry to Kaboom on May 13. Mr. Swindler explained that we are trying to figure a way to add another ferry that departs San Francisco at 10:00 or 10:30 p.m. Because there is also a ballgame that day, crews, security and cost are issues.

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Agenda for Wednesday, April 5, 2006

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 - Bus Route 66 to Muir Woods Status
 - NextFerry Signage Status

2. Operational Issues
 - BART Project Update
 - Ferry Passenger Survey
 - Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
 - LFT Parking at Capacity

3. Five-Year Fare Program Public Workshops/Hearings

4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items
 - FPAC web site presence
 - East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Widening Project
 - Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Signal Timing Project

5. Member/Visitor Comments

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Minutes of Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Embarcadero Room, Port of San Francisco, Pier One

FPAC Members Present: Frances Barbour Hayden, Ken Eichstaedt, George Griswold, Frank Johnston, Lee Kleinecke, Erik Selvig, David Tollen

Staff Present: Harvey Katz, Senior Planner; Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant; Pete Guthlein, Marketing & Communications Specialist; Rebecca Wessling, Terminal Operations Superintendent, Ferry Division

Others: Denise Turner, Port of San Francisco; Dwight Steeves, Guest

Harvey Katz opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2005. The minutes were approved.

1. SERVICE ISSUES.

MCTD Short-Range Transit Plan. The plan, which rearranges many existing local bus routes, was released and several outreach meetings have already taken place, but public attendance is slim. Consultant to the County described local bus service changes at recent hearings. FPAC member asked if there was any discussion of bringing ferry feeder buses back, and Mr. Katz answered "Not specifically," but indicated that individuals may encourage the County to provide such buses.

Route 66 to Muir Woods. It has not yet been decided by the County of Marin whether this County-sponsored demonstration bus route will connect directly with the Sausalito ferry. FPAC member recommended that Route 66 start at Sausalito Ferry Terminal, then stop at both Manzanita and Marin City before proceeding to Muir Woods to pick up as many people as possible. The Committee passed this recommendation, which will be forwarded to County DPW staff. Pete Guthlein explained that the marketing strategy included distributing flyers to all San Francisco hotel concierges to encourage direct travel.

WTA NextFerry Sign. Mr. Katz described this changeable LED sign to members. There will be one at each of our three ferry terminals lit up with messages like "Next Ferry in 11 minutes". He is in the process of obtaining permits from the towns of Larkspur and Sausalito. WTA is obtaining permits in San Francisco, and Ms. Wessling is working with them on this.

2. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

BART Project Update: No new developments on this subject. Our San Francisco Ferry Terminal will be demolished and moved, and negotiations are under way. Construction, which is due to begin at the end of 2007, will cause a two-year disruption. There is no design to show FPAC members yet.

Ferry Passenger Survey. Mr. Guthlein explained that two surveys have been developed, and Jim Swindler is deciding which one to distribute. Survey responses should help the District with analysis to address overflow morning ferries and maxed-out parking space at LFT. Timing is not confirmed, but distribution may happen next week or after the Del Norte returns from the shipyard. Members expressed their desire to review the questionnaires before distribution.

Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity/Shuttle Bus for Overflow Passengers. Ms. Wessling reported that the problem of 2 to 5 passengers left at the dock when a ferry is too full to carry them remains. Shuttle buses to Lucky Drive haven't worked because the District can't predict which particular ferry will be full and buses are not always available. Member suggested that certain Route 24 buses go via LFT to pick up overflow passengers. Ms. Wessling's response was that the buses do not work to the Ferry schedule, so this would not be the best solution. Another member suggested using a Spaulding vessel, which would have greater capacity.

LFT Parking at Capacity. District plans to temporarily use the railroad right of way above the Marin Airpporter for overflow parking once the Giants mid-day game ferries begin on April 6. We tried to use 50 spaces in the movie parking lot area last year, but no one ever parked there. Member suggested adding a second deck to the LFT lot, but District believes this would be a very expensive engineering project which the City of Larkspur would not accept. Also, adjusting signal lights was suggested, to cut down on the 20 minutes it takes to get out of the lot. Member mentioned coordinating traffic flow with the Greenbrae EIR in the works. Offering an incentive to bikers to the Ferry was suggested. Member wanted Ferry to budget as much per capita money for bike parking as each auto. Charging to park might be another solution to overcrowding and encourage carpooling. Providing feeder buses again was suggested. Member suggested that when San Rafael HOV gap closure is constructed, a Park & Ride lot be provided, with a connector bus to feed the ferries – or feeder buses should use the HOV lane to LFT. Mr. Katz said staff will look at the issue from all angles and consider solutions.

MV Del Norte Drydock Schedule: Shipyard work will last from Wednesday, March 15 through Tuesday, March 21. The backup schedule will be the same as that last December.

3. FIVE-YEAR FARE PROGRAM PUBLIC WORKSHOPS/HEARINGS.

Mr. Katz passed out a poster of the Five-Year Fare proposal. FPAC passed a formal recommendation that fares be rounded to the nearest quarter because coins are costly and awkward to handle for cash fares at the ticket booths.

4. OTHER ITEMS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

□ Mr. Guthlein explained how he had set up the new web site for FPAC at goldengate.org. There is no direct link from Golden Gate Ferry to FPAC. Since this committee approved last month's minutes today, they will be posted to the FPAC web site under February/Minutes.

5. MEMBER/VISITOR COMMENTS

□ Member mentioned that coat rack hangers on the Del Norte are too small. Heavy, wet coats tend to fall down during bad weather.

- Member suggested that, during the week before Bike to Work Day in May, District invite BikeRx to come to the LFT to service and tune up bikes so riders can use them Thursday, May 18. Passengers would pay Bike Rx to service their bicycles while they ferried to and from work.
- May 22 is National Maritime Day and ferry use should be encouraged that Monday.
- Visitor Dwight Steeves said he takes the Route 29 bus to and from LFT but is disappointed that the evening bus doesn't wait for ferry passengers to get to the bus before continuing with its route. Mr. Katz responded that the bus driver was more intent on keeping to the bus schedule than offering ferry passenger service.
- This year a ferry is slated to travel to KFOG's "Kaboom" fireworks display at Piers 30-32. Ferry would remain at SFFT and passengers would walk to and from the piers.
- Committee was informed that studies were authorized for the Bridge suicide deterrent. Members were unanimous in believing money would be better spent on other projects, primarily safety oriented, such as the movable median barrier.
- Denise Turner explained that the Port of San Francisco is planning to put in a secondary gate. This may affect ferry traffic by shifting vessels around between docks.