



Agenda Item No. 2

To: Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of September 7, 2006

From: Alan R. Zahradnik, Director of Planning
Susan C. Chiaroni, Deputy General Manager, Bus Division
Celia G. Kupersmith, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE THE OPERATION OF GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT BUS SERVICE TO ACCOMMODATE THE PRESIDIO BUS STOP WITHIN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO AND AMEND MASTER ORDINANCE 2006 ACCORDINGLY**

Recommendation

The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve allowing Golden Gate Transit buses to carry passengers locally within the City and County of San Francisco to and from the bus stops located on Richardson Avenue serving the Presidio and amend the Master Ordinance 2006, Section III,A.,1., as follows:

III. GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT - BUS AND FERRY SYSTEMS

A. GENERAL RULES

1. SAN FRANCISCO BUS PASSENGERS. No local passengers will be carried within the City and County of San Francisco, except those originating at or those whose destination is the bus stop nearest to the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza or the bus stop nearest to the Lombard Gate of The Presidio.

This recommendation will be presented to the Board of Directors at its September 8, 2006, meeting for appropriate action.

Summary

Currently, Master Ordinance, Section III, Part A, "General Rules", restricts the transport of passengers locally within the City and County of San Francisco on Golden Gate Transit (GGT) to travel to and from the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza. Staff believes that this restriction was imposed by the Board of Directors at the initiation of GGT transbay bus service in 1973, when the Presidio was a military base, to avoid duplication of SF Muni service. Now that the Presidio is a national park, managed jointly by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Presidio Trust, there is increasing public use of the Presidio and demand for public transit service to and from the Presidio.

GGT presently operates 16 transbay commute bus routes, two daily transbay basic bus routes and two supplemental bus routes that serve a pair of bus stops located on Richardson Avenue near the Lombard Gate to the Presidio. While passengers traveling between the Presidio and the north bay can use GGT, passengers traveling within San Francisco are prohibited from using GGT by our bus drivers' enforcement of the Master Ordinance.

Several years ago, during the transition of the Presidio from military base to public park, District staff was requested by park staff to allow park visitors and employees use of GGT buses within San Francisco to complement the planned operation of PresidiGo shuttle buses by the park within the Presidio. District staff declined the park's request, citing the Master Ordinance restriction. Since then, however, in an effort to improve productivity and reverse declining ridership of GGT transbay bus services, staff has been discussing with Muni and park staffs the possibility of easing this restriction. With the knowledge of Muni staff, District staff received confirmation from Presidio Trust staff their desire for GGT to serve the Presidio bus stop. Continuing to work closely with the parties involved, the District has received approval from Muni to operate this service.

Staff has considered the pros and cons of allowing GGT to carry passengers locally within SF to and from the bus stops on Richardson Avenue serving the Presidio and recommends that the Master Ordinance be amended to remove the current restriction by adding the Presidio bus stops to the exception along with the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza bus stops.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact associated with this recommendation would likely be a small increase in ridership and fare revenue resulting from removing the current restriction on carrying passengers locally in San Francisco to and from the bus stops on Richardson Avenue. No increase in bus operating expenses is anticipated since seats are generally available on affected existing bus services to accommodate a small increase in passengers.

Background

Golden Gate Transit (GGT) buses serving the bus stops on Richardson Avenue are destined to either the Financial District or the Civic Center areas of San Francisco before serving the Transbay Transit Terminal and ending service at the bus lot on Harrison Street at Eighth Street. Approximate travel time between Transbay Terminal and the Presidio is 20 to 25 minutes. The GGT bus fare for this travel is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities. The load factor for GGT buses along this segment of the bus routes is about 60% to 70% on average, meaning that seats are generally available for additional passengers except during peak periods.

SF Muni also provides service to the Presidio, but primarily from areas of the City where GGT does not operate. Exceptions are: Lines 41 and 45 operating daily between downtown and the vicinity of Lombard Gate via Union Street; Line 30 operating daily between downtown and the vicinity of Lombard Gate via Chestnut Street; and the 82X operating during peak periods

between downtown and the Presidio Main Post via Lombard Street. Muni does not operate direct bus service between the Presidio and Civic Center. Travel time on Muni between Transbay Terminal and the Presidio is generally 10 to 20 minutes greater than on GGT due to the local nature of Muni bus service compared to the more express nature of GGT service. Muni fares are \$1.50 for adults and \$0.50 for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities.

The Presidio Trust also operates free PresidiGo downtown service for Presidio residents and employees between the Presidio and Civic Center area and Transbay Terminal, but only during weekday morning and late afternoon/early evening periods. Travel time is comparable to GGT.