



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Agenda for Thursday, April 17, 2008

Meeting: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Conference Room (Room 109), Administration Building
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District
1011 Andersen Dr., San Rafael, CA 94901

Information/Recommended Action

1. Introductions

2. Agenda

Approve

3. Minutes of February 21 and March 20, 2008, meetings

Approve

(Copy of draft meeting minutes attached)

4. ACA-related Items – April 29, 2008, SamTrans' Bay Area Regional Transit Agency Advisory Committee meeting, San Carlos, CA

Information

5. GGBHTD-Related Items

a. Intercounty Paratransit Services

Information

- 1) Statistical Report and Operations Summary
- 2) Paratransit Emergency Planning Efforts
- 3) Other Paratransit Items

b. District Matters – Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase *(continued from March ACA meeting)*

Information/Action

c. Golden Gate Ferry – Larkspur Ferry Terminal Parking and Access Improvement Project

Information/Action

d. Golden Gate Transit (GGT) Regional Bus Service

Information

e. Staff Report and Information

6. Marin Transit-Related Items

Information

a. Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council report

b. Marin County Local Bus and Paratransit service

- 1) Proposed Local Bus Service Improvements
- 2) Other items

c. Senior Transportation and Travel Training Project

d. Other Items

- 7. New Business** Information
- 8. ACA Member Announcements/Comments; Public Open Time** Information
(Speakers are limited to three minutes. Members or visitors with specific comments or incidents to report are requested to call Cynthia Petersen, ACA Staff Liaison, at (415) 257-4415 at least two days prior to the meeting.)

Agenda and meeting materials are available in alternative formats, and a phonic-ear amplification system is available upon request. Sign-language interpreters may be requested by the deaf or hearing impaired by calling (415) 257-4415 or TDD **711** at least one week prior to the meeting. District Administration Building is served by GGT-accessible Bus Routes 29 and 36. Consult District's web site (goldengate.org) or call **511** for further GGT bus and ferry schedule information. Information on accessible services is also available on the web site. To schedule paratransit transportation to the meeting, call Whistlestop Wheels at (415) 454-0964 or (800) 454-0964. For further information regarding ACA, call Cynthia Petersen, ACA staff liaison, at (415) 257-4415.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY (ACA)

Draft Minutes of Thursday, March 20, 2008



Members Present: Herschel Ferguson, Sandra Gordon, Jean Hunter, Herb Meyer, Kevin Siemens, Craig Yates

Members Excused: Russ Bohlke, Kent Hill,

Leave of Absence: Bill Bodine, Jan Hummingbird

Staff: General Matters: Helen Haas, Customer Relations Supervisor; Cynthia Petersen, Paratransit Coordinator; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative
Specific Items: Cassidy Bennett, Bus Division Safety and Training Supervisor; Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division

Ex-officio Members: Jackie Mulroy, Director of Transportation, Whistlestop Wheels (WSW); Jon Gaffney, Assistant Director of Transportation, WSW

Visitors: Lillian Jeffries (Hired Hands); Brian Pease

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) was called to order by Chairperson Craig Yates at 1:47 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves. A representative from Marin Transit was not present due to illness.
2. **Agenda.** It was **Moved/Seconded/Passed** (MSP) to approve the agenda for the meeting as written.
3. **Minutes:** Copies of the draft minutes for the February 21, 2008, meeting were distributed to ACA members and visitors present.
4. **ACA- related Items** – None to report.
5. **GGBHTD-Related Items**
 - a. **Intercounty Paratransit Services**
 - 1) Recap of New Vehicle Inspection. Prior to convening the meeting, members inspected a new WSW paratransit vehicle purchased through the Section 5307 Federal Grant program by Marin Transit from the California vehicle procurement pool. A total of eight (8) similar vehicles have been purchased, two through the 5307 grant program and six by WSW through the Section 5310 grant program. In general, ACA members liked the vehicle. Herschel Ferguson and Sandy Gordon commented that the seats were comfortable.

Jean Hunter noted the vehicle had fewer handrails than Marin Airporter buses, and she missed having a kneeling feature on WSW vehicles. Ms. Mulroy said the vehicle would be monitored during the first two weeks of passenger service for feedback from both WSW drivers and customers. If positively received, eight additional vehicles with the same configuration will be ordered through the 5307 program for delivery in late Summer or early Fall 2008. Ms. Mulroy also noted that the six 5310 vehicles have not yet been delivered because a pre-delivery inspection identified an interior securement track problem that will be corrected prior to delivery.

- 2) Statistical Report and Operations Summary. Jon Gaffney distributed copies of the statistical reports summarizing Marin local and GGBHTD intercounty Americans with Disabilities (ADA) paratransit services provided by Whistlestop Wheels during the month of February 2008. Intercounty ridership was up 2% in February (999 passengers) compared to the previous month (980 passengers in January). Ridership was also up 7% compared to February 2007 (932 passengers). Efficiency was up slightly to .98 passengers transported per revenue hour compared to .97 passengers per revenue hour in January. Of the 10 intercounty Marin extended trip requests in February, nine were provided. The intercounty service was within its 30-minute scheduling window (on-time) 89.4% of the time. There continued to be no denials of ADA-mandated paratransit service during the month. A summary of Marin local overflow taxi service for the month was also included in the statistical report.
 - 3) Paratransit Emergency Planning Efforts: Ms. Mulroy reported on a Regional Paratransit Emergency Preparedness workshop that had been held on March 10, 2008, in Oakland. It was the consensus of most agencies participating in the workshop that better preparation was needed in terms of paratransit services for any future disaster in the Bay Area. As a result of this workshop, WSW, Marin Transit, and District staff will be meeting with Marin Office of Emergency Services in early April to discuss paratransit emergency preparedness. Comparable meetings will also be held with Sonoma County paratransit agencies. All WSW vehicle operators are trained in first aid and CPR. Marin Transit's planned GPS/Mobile Data Terminal paratransit project will reduce radio voice traffic and provide another option for communicating with vehicles in times of emergency. Arrangements are made for vehicles to be coordinated with adjoining paratransit providers should a disaster occur while they are in service outside of Marin.
 - 4) Review of Current Late Cancellation/No Show Suspension and Appeals Process Policy: WSW will be seeking ways to improve enforcement of the current No Show-Late Cancellation policy. This matter will be brought back for further discussion, if needed, at some point in the future.
 - 5) Other Paratransit Items: None.
- b. **District Matters**
- 1) **Board Authorization to File Applications for Federal Grants – Fiscal Year 2009 Capital Project Assistance**: Ms. Petersen reviewed the program of projects for grant funding included in the March 13, 2008, Finance-Auditing Committee/Committee of the Whole staff report.

- 2) **Detailed Staff Presentation to ACA on Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase:** Helen Haas distributed materials from the public outreach meetings being held in San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma Counties and provided a summary of the proposed toll increase along with responses to questions regarding Doyle Drive. The earliest that any toll increase would be implemented is September 2008, with the toll rate for persons with disabilities proposed to increase from \$1.50 to 50% (\$3.00) of the cash toll for a two-axle vehicle. Further discussion of this item was carried over to ACA's April 17, 2008, meeting.
- 3) **Other Items:** None.
- c. **TransLink:** Nothing new to report.
- d. **Golden Gate Ferry – Status report on Past ACA comments on Golden Gate Ferry Vessels and Facilities:** Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division reported on the following items:
 - The *M.V. Del Norte* is back from drydock and has been running well since its return. The *MV Mendocino* will be going into drydock next and will be out of service for 8 to 10 weeks. While in drydock, it will receive a new, improved engine and interior flooring. Access issues identified by the Committee will be looked into upon its return and while the vessel is still out of service.
 - The Request for Proposals (RFP) for design of the proposed ramp, float and gangway project remains in the Engineering Department under review. It is hoped that review will be completed and the RFP can be advertised by the end of March.
 - Plans for the new fast ferry have gone through the environmental process, and the proposed design will incorporate comments from ACA and the Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee (FPAC).
 - Larkspur Ferry Terminal (LFT) parking and access improvement project design plans are well under way and will address increased parking and access issues at the facility. Plans include new crosswalks, speed bumps, curb ramps, and restructuring of the disabled parking area. Overflow parking will no longer block the perimeter sidewalk. This project requires Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) approval, and the District has appealed (on access and materials conservation grounds) an initial BCDC determination that the existing perimeter concrete sidewalk should be torn out and replaced by a decomposed granite pathway.
 - Route 91 (midday ferry feeder service between the San Rafael Transit Center and LFT) has been cancelled due to low ridership.
- e. **Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service:** Herb Meyer reported on problems with connections between the Route 70 and Route 22 service. Northbound Route 70 schedules cannot get to Marin City in time to make connections with Route 22. Service should be scheduled to leave San Francisco earlier to make this connection. Mr. Meyer reminded the Committee of his suggestion last Fall for Route 80 "Golden Nugget" limited-stop express service between Santa Rosa and San Francisco. He also suggested that, rather than "deadheading" buses, District use them for non-stop service between San Rafael and San Francisco.
- f. **Staff Report and Information:**

- Ms. Petersen reported that Bus Division Deputy General Manager Sue Chiaroni's retirement celebration is scheduled for April 19, 2008.
 - Community input is being sought on the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA) Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) and its Draft Proposals to Transform Muni. ACA members are invited to consult the SFMTA website (www.sfmta.com) for further information on these proposals.
6. **Marin Transit-Related Items:** A representative from Marin Transit was not present at the meeting, but members had the following comments relating to Marin Transit service.
- a. **Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council (MPCC):** No report.
 - b. **Marin Transit Local Bus and Paratransit Service:**
 - 1) **Release of Marin Transit Strategic Marketing Plan:** No report.
 - 2) **Future purchase of seven 35-ft. hybrid vehicles:** This project is included in the list of projects covered by the staff report reviewed under Agenda Item 5.b.1).
 - 3) **Other items:**
 - Herb Meyer commented that the Route 22 loop around Strawberry Shopping Center contributes to the problem of missed connections between the Route 22 and the Route 70. Both the Routes 22 and 70 need to hold for connections at Marin City.
 - Customer Relations will follow up on a driver error problem reported by Brian Pease and Kevin Siemens involving a Route 17 bus operator and a blocked bus stop near Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley.
 - Herb Meyer noted that most bus operators stop at the adjoining driveway because wheelchair users cannot get up to the platform at the Route 19 bus stop on Tiburon Blvd. opposite North Knoll Rd.
 - c. **Senior Transportation and Travel Training Program:** No report.
 - d. **Marin County Taxi Study – Accessible Taxi Vehicle Procurement Process:** No report.
 - e. **Other Items:** None.
7. **New Business:** None.
8. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments, Public Open Time.** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.