



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Agenda for Thursday, May 15, 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 April 17, 2008, meeting** Approve
(Copy of draft meeting minutes attached)
- 4. ACA-related Items**
 - a. Report on SamTrans' April 29, 2008 Bay Area Regional Transit Agency Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting, San Carlos, CA Information
 - b. Other
- 5. GGBHTD-Related Items**
 - a. Intercounty Paratransit Services Information
 - 1) Statistical Report and Operations Summary
 - 2) FY 2009 Intercounty Paratransit Budget and Agreement
 - 3) Update on Delivery and Future Purchase of Paratransit Vehicles
 - 4) Other Paratransit Items
 - b. District Matters – Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase: Approve Variable Toll Rate for Inclusion in Toll-related Public Hearing Information/Action
 - c. Golden Gate Ferry Service Information
 - d. Golden Gate Transit 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 Service and Capital Improvements to Marin Local Transit System *(copy of staff report and public hearing notice attached)*

- 2) Inspect Low-floor Articulated Bus Information/Action
- 3) Other items
- c. Senior Transportation and Travel Training Project
- d. Other Items

7. New Business Information

8. ACA Member Announcements/Comments; Public Information
Open Time *(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, April 17, 2008



Members Present: Russ Bohlke, Herschel Ferguson, Sandra Gordon, Kent Hill, Jean Hunter, Kevin Siemens, Craig Yates

Members Excused: Herb Meyer

Leave of Absence: Bill Bodine, Jan Hummingbird

Staff: General Matters: Cynthia Petersen, Paratransit Coordinator; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative
Specific Items: David Lynch, Senior Civil Engineer; 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: Pat Lindstadt (Hired Hands); Brian Pease

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) was called to order by Chairperson Craig Yates at 1:40 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda.** It was **Moved/Seconded/Passed** (MSP) to approve the agenda with one item added: 4.b. Service Awards.
3. **Minutes:** It was M/S/P to approve the draft minutes for the February 21 and the March 20, 2008, meetings as written.
4. **ACA- related Items**
 - a. **April 29, 2008, SamTrans' Regional Workshop for Transit Agency Advisory Committees on Accessibility:** Ms. Petersen reported that Chairperson Yates, Vice Chairperson Bohlke, and Herschel Ferguson would attend this workshop as representatives of ACA. Russ Bohlke would be making a presentation on ACA's service award to District employees for exemplary services to persons with disabilities and seniors.
 - b. **Service Awards:** Ms. Petersen reported that the poster requesting nominations of District employees for ACA's annual award for exemplary service to persons with disabilities and seniors is scheduled to be placed on Golden Gate Transit and Golden Gate Ferries within the next several weeks. Commendations received since the close of nominations 2007 will also be reviewed and forwarded to the award subcommittee.
5. **GGBHTD-Related Items**
 - a. **Intercounty Paratransit Services**
 - 1) Statistical Report and Operations Summary. Jon Gaffney distributed copies

of WSW's statistical report summarizing Marin local and GGBHTD intercounty Americans with Disabilities (ADA) paratransit services provided by WSW during March 2008. Intercounty ridership was up 15% in March (1,146 passengers) compared to the previous month (999 passengers in February), while remaining comparable (1,147 passengers) to ridership in March 2007. Efficiency was up slightly to .99 passengers transported per revenue hour compared to .97 passengers per revenue hour in February. Of the eight intercounty Marin extended trip requests in March, seven were provided. The intercounty service was within its 30-minute scheduling window (on-time) 88.74% 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.

- 2) Paratransit Emergency Planning Efforts: Ms. Mulroy reported on a meeting held in early March with Marin Office of Emergency Services staff. This meeting began the process of clarifying roles and responsibilities for paratransit services within the county in times of disaster. WSW will consider adding a release to its ADA paratransit eligibility application form authorizing police and fire to be notified of an individual's location and potential assistance requirements in times of emergency. WSW will also work to develop procedures for drivers and staff to follow that vary depending on the time of day, location, and nature of the emergency.
 - 3) Other Paratransit Items: ACA members were requested to notify WSW if they observe a WSW driver using the cell phone while operating the vehicle.
- b. **District Matters – Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase**: ACA discussed the Golden Gate Bridge proposed toll increase presented to ACA at its March 2008 meeting. Members noted that the proposed cash toll increase (from \$5 to \$6) involves a 20% increase over the current cash toll, the proposed FasTrak toll increase (from \$4 to \$5) involves a 25% increase, and the proposed TRPD toll (50% of the proposed cash toll, or \$3) is a 100% increase over the current \$1.50 TRPD toll. The public hearing on this proposal will be held June 11, 2008. Based on this and further discussion, ACA approved the following recommendation regarding the proposed 2008 Toll Increase as presented:

Recommendation

The District's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) recommends to the District Board of Directors that the Current Toll Rate for Persons with Disabilities (TRPD) on the Golden Gate Bridge remain \$1.50 and not be increased.

Should the Board determine that some increase in the TRPD be warranted, ACA recommends that this increase be limited to no more than 50% (\$0.75) of the current TRPD toll. If such an increase is implemented, the resulting TRPD toll should be no more than \$2.25.

In conclusion, Russ Bohlke noted that in the 1970s, when he was working in San Francisco, he wrote the original letter that initiated the TRPD program.

- c. **Golden Gate Ferry – Larkspur Ferry Terminal Parking and Access Improvement Project:** Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division, and engineer David Lynch were present to report on this project. A Notice to Proceed is expected to be issued in late July, with the project breaking ground in August or September 2008. The contractor will be responsible for maintaining a traffic control program at all times during the six months of construction. Mr. Swindler distributed copies of the proposed project plans, which were 95% complete and included the following:

- Restoration of the existing public access path
- Added parking
- Bringing the entire parking area up to federal and state access requirements
- Maximizing safety with the addition of signage, lighting and traffic-slowing improvements.

Mr. Swindler explained that the District would continue to provide input to the City of Larkspur and other agencies regarding potential future projects (pedestrian, bicycle and/or rail improvements) that these agencies might be sponsoring in the area.

Other District-sponsored Larkspur and San Francisco terminal access improvements (restrooms, ramps and gangways) are planned in conjunction with separate capital projects. Automatic doors will be added to the terminal waiting area. ACA members recommended that these doors be installed with two activation plates, one at standard height and the other at a baseboard location where it can be activated by a wheelchair user.

The *M.V. Mendocino* will be in drydock another 4 to 5 weeks.

- d. **Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service:** Route 66 resumes service to Muir Woods on May 3, 2008. This route is anticipated to become a Marin Transit route (with funding from the National Parks) in 2009.
- e. **Staff Report and Information:**
- Ms. Petersen announced that District Deputy General Manager, Administration and Development, Teri Mantony, has been selected to replace Susan Chiaroni as Deputy General Manager, Bus Division.
 - Ms. Petersen reviewed the schedule for Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) "Transportation 2035" workshops to be held at various locations throughout the Bay Area during May.
6. **Marin Transit-Related Items:** Lauren Gradia, Marin Transit Senior Planner, reported on the following:
- a. **Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council (MPCC):** MPCC did not meet in April.
- b. **Marin Transit Local Bus and Paratransit Service:** Ms. Gradia distributed copies of two reports: Marin Transit's Monthly Monitoring Report for February 2008, and Service Monitoring Report, Marin County Transit District, February 2008. All of Marin Transit's service improved compared to 2007 in terms of performance and hours operated.

- 1) **Proposed Local Bus Service Improvements:** A public hearing has been scheduled on May 19, 2008, before the MCTD Board to consider implementing \$1.3 million in service improvements, made possible by cost savings resulting from the 10-year service agreement recently signed with GGBHTD. The service improvements under consideration include:
 - Adding weekend and weekday U.S. 101 corridor service (Route 71) and half-hourly service on Routes 17 and 29 during weekday peak periods. Additional vehicles will be needed, so this service expansion cannot be considered for implementation before December 2008.
 - Adding three hours of weekday midday service to the Route 233 shuttle.
 - Restructuring EZ Rider service in Novato. A community workshop for input into these local Novato transit changes has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 7.
 - Assuming administrative responsibility for the Muir Woods shuttle (Route 66), effective calendar year 2009.
 - Implementing capital improvements for vehicles, bus stop maintenance and upgrades. Proposition 1B money would be used to purchase up to seven 35-foot hybrid low-floor buses to meet the equipment needs of the above service expansions. ACA members recommended that these low-floor buses not be operated on Route 17 because of the lack of sidewalks at some bus stops along the route. A ramp deployed at street level can be too steep for some wheelchair users to board. Since the front half of the 60-foot low-floor articulated buses currently handling Marin local service is configured similarly to the 35-foot hybrid buses being considered for purchase, ACA members requested that a low-floor articulated bus be made available for its next meeting so members could demonstrate street-level ramp boarding to Marin Transit staff and others who might be interested. In addition, Marin Transit is considering joining a consortium investigating options to buy hybrid shuttle vehicles, which will not be available for purchase until 2010.
 - c. **Senior Transportation and Travel Training Program:** No report.
 - d. **Other Items:** New vehicles for the West Marin Stage should arrive in the next month or two. Lauren Gradia will be on maternity leave as of May 16 and plans to return to work October 2008.
7. **New Business:** None.
8. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments, Public Open Time:**
- Craig Yates distributed an announcement for a private industry-sponsored "Northbay Transportation Summit" that will be held April 25.
 - It was noted there are recurring problems on the Route 40/42, with buses often late (perhaps due to US 580/101 construction) and full bike racks. A bicycle advocacy group is lobbying strongly to have Caltrans add a bike lane to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Marin County Transit District (Marin Transit) Board of Directors on Monday, May 19, 2008, 10:00 a.m., in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 330, Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, California, regarding proposed service and capital improvements to the Marin local system.

The Marin Transit Board of Directors will consider the following proposed upgrades to Marin Local Bus Service and fleet and infrastructure improvements. If approved, implementation of service improvements would start in September 2008 (for Route 233). Most improvements will occur in December 2008, with the potential addition of the Muir Woods Shuttle in May 2009.

The proposed service improvements include: 1) Additional Weekend and Weekday Hwy 101 Corridor Service; 2) Half hourly service on Route 17 (Mill Valley, Strawberry, San Rafael) in weekday peak periods; 3) Half hourly service on Route 29 (San Anselmo, Ross, Larkspur, San Rafael) in weekday peak periods; 4) Add three midday weekday hours on Route 233 (San Rafael, Terra Linda); 5) EZ Rider Restructuring in Novato; 6) Adding Muir Woods Shuttle.

The proposed capital improvements for vehicles and bus stop maintenance and upgrades include: 1) Purchase Seven 35-foot Hybrid Electric Buses for Deployment in 2009 or 2010; 2) Purchase Two 27-foot Hybrid Electric Shuttles Through Consortium of Transit Operators for Deployment in 2010 (Earliest estimated availability); 3) Purchase Two 27-foot Shuttle Vehicles for Deployment in Late 2008 or Early 2009; 4) Purchase 22 Paratransit Vehicles in FY 2008/09 and FY 2009/10; 5) Mobile Data Terminals for Paratransit Vehicles; 6) Bus Stop Maintenance and Shelter Upgrades.

The renegotiation of Marin Transit's local service agreement with Golden Gate Transit and extension to a ten-year term reduced Marin Transit's hourly rate for local transit operations. The lower rate results in approximately \$1.3 million of additional funds available for service improvements on an annual basis. The proposed capital projects will be paid for through a combination of Proposition 1B, Federal Transit Administration vehicle grant programs, and Measure A matching funds.

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to hold public discussion on the proposed service and capital improvements to the Marin local system prior to potential adoption by the Board of Directors, subject to any modifications the Board may direct as a result of the public hearing.

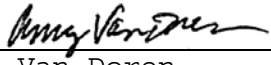
To view or download the April 21, 2008 staff letter to the Board of Directors regarding the proposed service changes, please log on to our website at <http://www.MarinTransit.org> and follow the links to *Directors & Key Staff, Board Meetings*.

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing and by mail to: Transit Planning Manager, Marin Transit, 750 Lindero Street, Suite 200, San Rafael, California 94901 or by email to info@marintransit.org. Written comments should be received no later than May 15, 2008. Call 415/226-0855 or TDD 711 for further information.

Sign language interpreters may be requested by deaf or hearing impaired persons by calling 711 (TDD) or 415/226-0855 (voice), preferably two weeks in advance, but no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting. Copies of documents are available in accessible formats upon request.

The meeting location is served by a number of Golden Gate Transit accessible bus routes. For bus transit information, please call 511 (toll free) or 711 (TDD) and say "Golden Gate Transit" then "Operator" to bypass recorded messages. For paratransit service to the meeting, call 415/454-0964.

Any interested person may appear and be heard by submitting either an oral or written presentation at that time.

By: 
Amy Van Doren
Transit Planning Manager
April 22, 2008