



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Agenda for Thursday, June 19, 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 May 15, 2008, meeting** Approve
(Copy of draft meeting minutes attached)
- 4. ACA-related Items** Information
- 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 – Follow-up to Public Hearing on Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase Options Information/Action
(Copy of public hearing staff report attached)
 - c. Golden Gate Ferry Service Information
 - d. Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service
 - 1) Status report on bus stop signage programs
 - 2) Other Items
 - 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
 - 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, May 15, 2008



Members Present: Bill Bodine, Russ Bohlke, Herschel Ferguson, Sandra Gordon, Jean Hunter, Kevin Siemens

Members Excused: Kent Hill, Herb Meyer, Craig Yates

Leave of Absence: Jan Hummingbird

Staff: General Matters: Cynthia Petersen, Paratransit Coordinator; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative
Specific Items: Angelo Leone, Shop/Facilities Superintendent – Bus Division; Tom Hawkins, Body Shop and Facilities Chief Mechanic – Bus Division

Ex-officio Members: Suzanne Chen-Harding, Senior Planner, Marin Transit; Jon Gaffney, Assistant Director of Transportation, Whistlestop Wheels (WSW)

Visitors: Cynthia Simms (Hired Hands); Brian Pease

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) was called to order by Vice Chairperson Russ Bohlke at 1:45 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda.** It was Moved/Seconded/Passed (MSP) to approve the agenda as written. Committee agreed to conduct the inspection of the low-floor articulated bus (Item 6.b.2) at 2:30 p.m.
3. **Minutes:** It was M/S/P to approve the draft minutes of the April 17, 2008, meeting as written.
4. **ACA-related Items**
 - a. **Report on SamTrans' April 29, 2008, Bay Area Regional Transit Agency Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting:** Ms. Petersen reported that Vice Chairperson Bohlke and Herschel Ferguson attended the meeting to represent ACA. Mr. Bohlke made a presentation to the group about ACA's service award to District employees for exemplary services to persons with disabilities and seniors. It was requested that the SamTrans staff and Chair of the SamTrans advisory committee be sent a thank-you from ACA for organizing this event.
 - b. **Other:**
 - Ms. Petersen distributed copies of the poster that was placed on Golden Gate Transit and Golden Gate Ferries requesting nominations of District employees for ACA's annual award for exemplary service to persons with disabilities and seniors. The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2008.
 - Ms. Petersen announced she has set a tentative retirement date of December 2008, and this is probably her last year serving as staff to ACA.

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 April 2008. Intercounty ridership was up 5% (1,201 passengers) compared to the previous month (1,146 passengers in March), and up 23% compared to ridership (979 passengers) in April 2007. Efficiency was up to 1.01 passengers transported per revenue hour compared to .99 passengers per revenue hour in March. Of the six intercounty Marin extended trip requests in March, five were provided. The intercounty service was within its 30-minute scheduling window (on-time) 88.58% 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.

Mr. Gaffney reported that WSW's recent software upgrade (from a triangulation method to a street-routing method for scheduling paratransit trips) has resulted in some temporary scheduling problems. These problems got better as staff became familiar with the new system, and parameters were adjusted to match local conditions. WSW apologized to anyone who may have been impacted by implementation of the new system. Bill Bodine commented on some problems he had during April, which were already reported to Ms. Chen-Harding and WSW's Director of Transportation, Jackie Mulroy.

- 2) Fiscal Year 2009 Intercounty Paratransit Agreement: Marin Transit, WSW, and the District are working to finalize both the FY 2009 Marin Local and the FY 2009 District Intercounty Paratransit Agreements.
- 3) Other Paratransit Items: Ms. Petersen reported on the limited floor plan options for paratransit vehicles now available through the State paratransit vehicle procurement contract. In the past, WSW ordered the smaller Type I vehicle with a flat floor to enhance securement options within the vehicle. The flat floor is no longer available on Type I vehicles, and the standard Type II is larger than WSW wants for this vehicle order. WSW staff is now working with the contractor to come up with a floor plan that will enable one securement position forward of the second securement position. Standard securement arrangement has both securement locations side-by-side in the rear of the Type I, resulting in too small a space for drivers to reach the securements in the back corner.

- b. **District Matters – Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase: Approve Variable Toll Rate for Inclusion in Toll-related Public Hearing:** Ms. Petersen distributed copies of an updated notice adding variable tolls to the list of options to receive public comment at the June 11 Golden Gate Bridge toll increase public hearing. The notice lists two options for a variable toll and cites the regular cash and FasTrak base tolls, but it does not mention the variable Toll Rate for Persons with Disabilities. ACA noted it was difficult to comment based on the limited information included in the public hearing notice. Since ACA would not be meeting again before the June 11th public hearing, Ms. Petersen offered to

forward additional information as it became available to ACA members so, as individuals, they may submit comments regarding the variable toll. ACA's comments from its April 17, 2008, meeting regarding the base toll increase have already been submitted to the District Secretary's office.

- c. **Golden Gate Ferry Service:** No report.
- d. **Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service:**
 - 1) Ms. Petersen reported on recent problems Kevin Siemens experienced identifying the correct bus stop location to board the northbound Route 80 in Petaluma. The City of Petaluma is working on an improved signage program for its bus stops, including those shared with GGT. The District's Marketing and Graphics Department is also working on a separate bus stop signage improvement program. Ms. Petersen will invite a representative from the District's Marketing Department to ACA's next meeting to provide a status report on implementation of this signage improvement program.
 - 2) GGT operations staff will be monitoring passenger overloads (including wheelchair securement and bike rack overloads) over the course of the next couple of months. Ms. Petersen will provide a status report on this effort at ACA's September 2008 meeting.
- e. **Staff Report and Information:** No report.
- 6. **Marin Transit-Related Items:** Suzanne Chen-Harding reported on the following:
 - a. **Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council (MPCC):** The next MPCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19. Items on the agenda include emergency preparedness and discussion of a potential disposition policy for paratransit vehicles.
 - b. **Marin Transit Local Bus and Paratransit Service:**
 - 1) **Proposed Service and Capital Improvements to Marin Local Transit System:** Ms. Chen-Harding distributed copies of the Marin Transit monthly service monitoring report and reviewed the Marin Transit public hearing notice included in the agenda packet. Mr. Bodine expressed disappointment that Marin Transit's proposed service improvements did not include adding weekend service on Routes 17 and 22; however, Ms. Chen-Harding informed the committee that ridership demands were insufficient to warrant additional frequency for those routes on the weekend. If approved, changes to Marin local routes operated by GGT would be implemented in December. Changes to other Marin local routes would begin in September. Capital projects covered by the public hearing include: fixed route and paratransit vehicles, mobile data terminals, and bus stop improvements.
 - 2) **Inspect Low-floor Articulated Bus:** Angelo Leone and Tom Hawkins assisted ACA members with inspecting one of GGT's 60-foot articulated buses. The inspection was to enable Marin Transit staff to observe passengers boarding the bus via the ramp deployed at a street- (rather than curb-) level bus stop location. Because of the slope of the ramp, several committee members in wheelchairs had difficulty boarding the bus. Mr. Bodine noted that the lack of handrails makes boarding via a ramp difficult. Marin Transit will be purchasing up to seven hybrid low-floor buses equipped with ramps, and the slope of these ramps will be kept in mind as specifications are developed for these vehicles. No problems have been

reported using ramps on the 60-foot articulated buses; these vehicles are assigned to routes that have curbs at all bus stop locations. Kevin Siemens reminded the Committee that he prefers buses equipped with front door lifts.

3) **Other items:**

- Marin Transit will be joining GGT in conducting on-board passenger surveys of its buses in September and October, 2008. These surveys will help with long-range planning of Marin Transit bus service, and results will be reflected in Marin Transit's next Short-Range Transit Plan, which is schedule to be updated in FY 2009.
- Route 22 comments: Passengers are missing northbound connections to Route 22 at Marin City; there is limited opportunity to connect between Routes 22 and 221; and Route 17 should connect with Route 22 at night.
- More arterial service is needed at night, not just on US 101.
- Marin Transit is in the process of developing a bus stop policy that will be coordinated with the affected cities, the county and GGT.

c. **Senior Transportation and Travel Training Program:** An outreach and travel training workshop is in being planned for Novato, and a request has been received to hold a workshop in Bolinas.

d. **Other Items:** ACA member questions or comments regarding Marin Transit service covered:

- There has been no progress or change in the bus stop serving Kaiser Hospital on Montecillo Drive. The incorrect sign adjoining the stop, which Jean Hunter reported some time ago, remains in place.
- No extra service is planned this year to serve the Marin County Fair.
- Brackets to the securements on West Marin Stage vehicle No. 614 may be in backwards.

7. **New Business:** None.

8. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments, Public Open Time:** None.

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