



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Agenda for Thursday, July 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 June 17, 2008, meeting** Information
(Copy of draft meeting minutes will be available at the meeting)
- 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 Information/Action
 - 1) Finance-Auditing Committee/Committee of the Whole, July 10, 2008: Authorize Filing an Application for Clean Air Grant Funds to Support Larkspur Ferry Shuttle Operations
(copy of staff report attached)
 - 2) Board of Directors, July 11, 2008: Action on Proposed Base Toll Increase for the Golden Gate Bridge *(copy of July 10, 2008, Finance-Auditing Committee/Committee of the Whole staff report attached)*
 - 3) Golden Gate Bridge Physical Suicide Deterrent Project
Notice of Availability of Draft EIR/EA and Public Meeting *(attached)*
 - c. Golden Gate Ferry Service Information
 - d. Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service
 - 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, June 19, 2008



Members Present: Bill Bodine, Russ Bohlke, Herschel Ferguson, Sandra Gordon, Kent Hill, Brian Pease, Kevin Siemens, Craig Yates

Members Excused: Jean Hunter, Herb Meyer

Leave of Absence: Jan Hummingbird

Staff: General Matters: Cynthia Petersen, Paratransit Coordinator; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative
Specific Matters: Pete Guthlein, Marketing and Communications Specialist

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

Visitors: Lillian Jeffries (Hired Hands)

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) was called to order by Chairperson Craig Yates at 1:42 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves. Brian Pease has attended three consecutive ACA meetings and is now considered a voting member of ACA.
2. **Agenda.** It was Moved/Seconded/Passed (MSP) to approve the agenda as written.
3. **Minutes:** It was M/S/P to approve the draft minutes of the May 15, 2008, meeting as written. Craig Yates and Kent Hill abstained from the vote because they were not present for the May 15th meeting.
4. **ACA-related Items:** None to report.
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 May 2008. Intercounty ridership was down 9% (1,095 passengers) compared to the previous month (1,201 passengers in April), and up 5% compared to ridership (1,043 passengers) in May 2007. Efficiency was down slightly to .99 passengers transported per revenue hour compared to 1.01 passengers per revenue hour in April. Of the 10 intercounty Marin extended trip requests in May, 9 were provided. The intercounty service was within its 30-minute scheduling window (on-time) 89.9% 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. There was general discussion regarding several items: WSW extended service in San Francisco (on behalf of San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority); percent (7-8%) of intercounty paratransit operating costs covered by fares; potential for improved scheduling of shared rides to reduce on-board ride time of individual passengers. It was noted that the 2008 Bay Area "Spare the Air" promotion does not apply to paratransit. In 2008, it provided free travel on one day (June 19) on GGT buses.

- 2) Fiscal Year 2009 Intercounty Paratransit Agreement: Marin Transit, WSW, and the District continue to work to finalize both the FY 2009 Marin Local and the FY 2009 District Intercounty Paratransit Agreements.
 - 3) Update on Delivery and Future Purchase of Paratransit Vehicles: Ms. Mulroy reported that, with the arrival of eight new paratransit vans, WSW will be retiring six. Four of these six will be given to other non-profits in exchange for a limited number of service hours during the coming year. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, 16 new vehicles will be ordered. WSW is working to update the vehicle replacement program for the District's FY 2008-2018 Short-Range Transit Plan. WSW was unable to get a waiver from the Caltrans Procurement Contract so that Type I flat-floor vehicles, similar to past WSW vehicles, could be ordered. WSW has, however, worked with Bus West, the vehicle manufacturer, to identify an interior layout and securement plan that WSW finds acceptable.
 - 4) Other Paratransit Items: District intercounty paratransit fares will increase by 5%, effective July 1, 2008. A chart of the updated fares can be found on the District website: www.goldengate.org.
- b. **District Matters – Follow-up to Public Hearing on Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase Options**: Ms. Petersen referred members to the June 11, 2008, public hearing summary staff report included in the meeting agenda packet and distributed copies of the list "Next Steps" following the hearing posted on the District's website. The District's Finance Auditing-Committee/Committee of the Whole plans to make a recommendation to the full Board on the proposed options at its July 10, 2008, meeting. A copy of the staff report on this item should be available at the District's website on Monday, July 7, 2008.
- c. **Golden Gate Ferry Service**: The proposed Larkspur Ferry Terminal (LFT) Parking Lot and Access Improvement Project has gone out to bid, and the District is waiting to get approval from the Bay Conservation Development Commission for an amendment to its current use permit in order to proceed with the proposed project. A multi-story parking garage is not part of this project, but is under consideration as a potential long-term solution for the parking problems at LFT. Russ Bohlke noted that a number of curb cuts and transitions areas (from sidewalk to parking lot) will have truncated domes added. Some truncated dome materials can be difficult for wheelchair users to cross. Craig Yates noted that "in-cast" truncated domes are made of concrete and have a lower profile. The City of San Rafael is using this type of truncated dome in all its sidewalk projects. ACA requested to be advised of the type of truncated dome to be used for the LFT project at its next meeting (July 17).

d. **Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service:**

- 1) Status report on bus stop signage programs: Pete Guthlein provided a report on GGT's bus stop signage, including the "Coming Soon" schedule holders that can be found on many GGT bus stop poles. It was noted that Sonoma County Transit is in charge of signage at the shared bus stops in Petaluma, and new signs are scheduled to be installed on East Washington Street. Pictures of the new signs will be shared with ACA when they become available. Mr. Guthlein explained that a laminated sign could be added to the bus stop at the Petaluma Fairgrounds park-and-ride to identify which routes stop there and direct Route 80 passengers to the East Washington St. stops. Kevin Siemens requested that big print and large numbers be used on the sign. Craig Yates noted that other transit agencies use turnstile-type signs that can include multiple agency information and maps. As part of the signage program, over 1,200 signs (some shared and some GGT only) have been inventoried, with 400 to 500 of them designated as important or "high-traffic" bus stop locations. "Coming soon" signs have been installed at most of these locations. These signs are updated as necessary with the quarterly schedule changes. Rider alerts are also posted. In San Francisco, a number of bus stops have larger kiosk signs, and Mr. Guthlein said the District's Planning Department is working to get a master permit for all future additional GGT bus stop signage in San Francisco. Brian Pease noted that the bus stop numbers at the 1st and Mission St. stop have slipped, and ACA agreed that these should be checked regularly and maintained. Exhaust from passing street cleaners can blow customer alert notices off the bus stop poles. At Marin City, buses have assigned stopping locations, but, as Bill Bodine noted, behind Strawberry Shopping Center, passengers can't tell where the stopping locations are for particular routes. Ms. Petersen will report back at ACA's next meeting on the instructions to bus operators for pulling in and serving the Strawberry Shopping Center stop.
- 2) Other items: Ron Downing, Principal Planner, will be invited to ACA's July meeting to provide a status report on GGT regional bus service.

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 MPCC met on June 16, but there was no quorum for conducting business.
- b. **Marin Transit Local Bus and Paratransit Service:** Ms. Chen-Harding reported on the following:
 - Marin Transit's new General Manager, David Rzepinski, is now on board.
 - Later this summer, Marin Transit will be launching a West Marin transit needs assessment project.
 - Marin Transit will be applying for New Freedom (federal) funds to support an Office of Mobility Management.
 - The May 2008 Marin Transit monitoring statistical report was handed out.
 - Bill Bodine reported that a Marin County Public Works Department project crew painted a crosswalk near the Strawberry Recreation Center, but the

curb cuts were not improved. Mr. Bodine called the County ADA coordinator but has not received a satisfactory response. This crosswalk does not adjoin any GGT/ Marin Transit bus stop, so this is a matter Mr. Bodine should address to Marin County Department of Public Works.

- There was discussion regarding missed connections between Marin Local Route 22 and GGT Regional Transit Route 70, and the potential need for more GGT staff resources to monitor operations and address missed connections. Kevin Siemens suggested that sufficient time be built into the Route 22 schedule to enable it to wait for all connections at night, similar to the Route 17. ACA requested follow-up to this matter at its next meeting (July 17).
 - Kent Hill expressed frustration with the lack of resolution of some problems reported through ACA. He noted that access remains a problem at the Manzanita Park and Ride Lot (MPRL). MPRL is a Caltrans facility, one of several sites for which Caltrans is being sued because of access problems. As a result, it is unlikely that Caltrans can address any access issues at this location until the suit has been resolved.
 - Mr. Bodine noted that AC Transit gives certain disabled passengers who have experienced recurrent problems a direct phone number to Central Dispatch so the passenger can call if they encounter those problems again when riding AC Transit accessible services. Mr. Pease warned that privilege could easily be overused. Mr. Yates commented that a last-ride-home taxi service, if implemented, could be a resource if a passenger is ever left behind.
 - Ms. Chen-Harding noted it would be helpful if a “resolution” or “recommended solution” column could be added to the monthly contact report summary that GGT provides to Marin Transit.
- c. **Senior Transportation and Travel Training Program:** Marin Transit will participate in a general travel training session in Sausalito July 31, 2008, as part of the County’s non-motorized travel planning outreach efforts.
- d. **Other Items:** None.
7. **New Business:** None.
8. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments, Public Open Time:** Kevin Siemens announced a new transit-related online store.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.