

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, September 3, 2008



**Convene at 12:00 p.m. – Adjourn by 1:15 p.m.
Bayside Rooms 3 and 4
Pier One, Port of San Francisco**

Approval of Summary of Meeting of August 6, 2008

1. Operational Issues

- Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
- Sausalito Service Improvements
- Parking and Access Update
- Report on Vessel Maintenance/Drydocking, Status of Back-up Bus Service

2. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- New Golden Gate Ferry Vessel Update
- Ferry Passenger “Code of Conduct”

3. Member/Visitor Comments

4. Committee Business

5. Next Meeting: October 1, 2008

- Survey of members to determine if a quorum will be present

Attachments: 1. Summary from meeting of August 6, 2008
2. Ferry Route Performance Report for July 2008
All Routes
Special Events
Larkspur Ferry Terminal-San Francisco Ferry Terminal
Larkspur-AT&T Ballpark
Sausalito Ferry Terminal-San Francisco Ferry Terminal

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Notes of Meeting of Wednesday, August 6, 2008

Bayside Rooms 3 and 4 Pier One, Port of San Francisco

FPAC Members Present: Ken Eichstaedt, Robert Karfiol, Melissa Mooney, Colman Mullin, Erik Selvig, Dwight Steeves, Cindy Swift

Staff Present: Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division; Harvey Katz, Senior Planner

Guests: None

Approval of Summary of Meeting of June 4, 2008. The summary was approved without change.

1. Operational Issues

Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity. Harvey Katz provided the customary staff report on Larkspur AM peak ferries at capacity. The regular ferry schedule was resumed on July 16, 2008, with the return of the *M.V. Mendocino*. Jim Swindler explained that the first southbound departure of bus commute Route 24 was now serving the Larkspur Ferry Terminal at 4:51 a.m. This complements the Route 97 service that departs LFT at 5:30 a.m. This change was made because of overcrowding on the Rt. 97 and available capacity on this Rt. 24 trip.

Other Ferry Overcrowding. Colman Mullin requested that staff provide information on afternoon overcrowding on the Sausalito ferry, especially with regard to bicycles. This overcrowding is manifested not so much as passengers unable to board but as late departures and arrivals caused by large numbers of bicycles boarding and slow payment of cash fares. He suggested adding another deckhand to speed the process. He further suggested that the exact cash one-way fare, currently \$7.45, be rounded to \$7.50 to make it easier to collect, especially for foreign tourists not familiar with our currency.

Sausalito Service Improvements. Mr. Swindler announced two new efforts to improve Sausalito Ferry service reliability, especially with regard to delays caused by bicycle boarding and alighting. First, a new southbound departure will leave Sausalito at about 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. This trip will carry many people already waiting for the 4:45 p.m. trip, thereby improving the latter's on-time performance and that of the 5:30 p.m. San Francisco departure for Sausalito. This trip will be provided by the Spaulding vessel that usually deadheads from Larkspur to San Francisco for the 5:20 p.m. northbound departure, which will instead depart Larkspur earlier and deadhead to Sausalito to provide the additional southbound service.

Mr. Swindler reported an effort by one of the major bike rental companies to provide a bicycle drop-off location in Sausalito near the Ferry Landing. Although the District would not be involved in this project, it could be very beneficial to Sausalito Ferry service by speeding the boarding and alighting of all trips favored by cyclists.

Parking and Access Update. Mr. Swindler reported that the latest plans would be sent to FPAC members via email.

The construction of a parking garage for LFT is still subject to reaching an agreement with the federal government regarding a congestion-pricing demonstration in the Bay Area.

Update on Vessel Maintenance – Drydocking – Back-up Bus Service. The *M.V. Mendocino's* resumption of service beginning July 16 has been going well, although there have been a couple of minor problems, such as with the exhaust system, but they have been handled. The *M.V. Del Norte* will be in drydock for a repowering project starting in November or December. Management hopes to rent a similar vessel to take its place to minimize service disruption. It is believed that a rental vessel may be available from Alaska, where they are not used during the winter.

2. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

New Golden Gate Ferry Vessel Procurement. Only one bid was received and it was higher than expected. Management is attempting to negotiate a lower price with the bidder and anticipates a possible contract in October or November. The new 499-passenger/seat-capacity vessel should enter service in early 2010 and be similar to the *M.V. Mendocino*.

Ferry Passenger Code of Conduct. Mr. Swindler reported that the smoking issue on the 5:20 p.m. northbound departure for Larkspur has been handled by hiring contract security to issue tickets to violators. Additional action, including possibly banning repeat offenders, may be necessary. Management is still addressing other major issues: cell phone use and seat-saving or occupying more than one seat. Mr. Swindler reported that the ferry crews will become more active in enforcement. Ken Eichstaedt again suggested that staff install signs in the table-seating area like those on the East Bay ferries specifying how many people are to sit at a table.

Golden Gate Bridge Toll Increase. Staff announced that the proposed Bridge toll increase was adopted by the District and would become effective September 2.

3. Member/Visitor Comments

- Dwight Steeves noted that it is now the 10th anniversary of the *M.V. Del Norte*.
- Melissa Mooney sent thanks to Rebecca Wessling for arranging Sausalito ferry service to avoid a national sailboat race in July near the Sausalito Ferry Landing. The race involved high school-age girls and was sponsored by the U.S. Sailing Association.
- Mr. Swindler mentioned that a new breakwater may be built near the Sausalito Ferry Landing.
- Mr. Eichstaedt asked about Mr. Swindler's monthly "open house" sessions. The latter replied that the two most frequently-heard issues were pedestrian concerns within the LFT parking lot and smoking on the 5:20 northbound departure.
- One member mentioned that some passengers were locking their bikes on the Sausalito Ferry, which might add to delays.
- Mr. Steeves noted that the back stairs on the *M.V. Mendocino* had been closed. Mr. Swindler explained that they were open again because the exhaust problem was solved.
- Ms. Mooney commented on the practice of keeping the ferry engines idling when docked at the terminals. She suggested that staff investigate when it would be better to turn off the engines in terms of saving fuel and reducing pollution.

4. Committee Business

Mr. Katz announced that two members had resigned from FPAC due to their inability to regularly attend the meetings: Niels Legallet and Frances Barbour. Staff and fellow members agreed they were very sorry to see them go. Recruitment of new members is ongoing.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 3, 2008**, at noon in the usual location (Pier One in San Francisco). All members present expect to attend.