



19-09

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2009**

The Honorable Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

Honorable Members:

PRESENTATIONS BY DISTRICT STAFF FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2009

For the month of November, District staff made speeches and/or presentations to community groups/interviewers interested in the District. The following presentations were made in the month of November:

PRESENTATION TO:	PRESENTED BY:
California Transit Association Conference	Teri Mantony
IBTTA Conference on Toll Road Summit of the Americas	Kary Witt
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association	Rich Hibbs

SPECIAL EVENT/EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY REQUESTS

Below are the dates, times and sponsoring agencies of special events and expressive activities for which permits have been sought. The following applications were received since last reported to the Board in the November 20, 2009, Report of the General Manager:

Event Date	Event Title	Location	Type*	Expected No. Participants
December 13, 2009	Bay Area Code Pink	East Sidewalk	EX	150
December 31, 2009	Gaza Freedom March	East Sidewalk	EX	75-100

The types of permits: EX – Expressive Activity; SE – Special Event

BRIDGE TRAFFIC FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2009

Bridge traffic for the month of October decreased -0.7% to 3,277,247 vehicles as compared to the previous year's total of 3,302,752 vehicles during the month of October. Average daily traffic reflects an increase from 106,540 in October 2008, to 105,718 in October 2009. The highest traffic day recorded was Thursday, October 29, 2009 when 146,104 vehicles crossed the Bridge (Attachment 1).

VEHICLE TRAFFIC INCIDENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2009

Of the 3,277,247 vehicles that crossed the Golden Gate Bridge in October, there were 6 traffic incidents detailed as follows:

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE AND TOLL PLAZA				
Vehicle Traffic Incident	Occurrences	Vehicles	Injuries	Fatalities
RE– Rear Ender	2	6	1	0
TOTAL	2	6	1	0
APPROACHES – (Waldo Grade, Alexander Ave., Doyle Drive & Park Presidio Blvd.)				
Vehicle Traffic Incident	Occurrences	Vehicles	Injuries	Fatalities
C - Collision	1	2	1	0
RE – Rear Ender	2	4	1	0
SS – Side Swipe	1	2	0	0
TOTAL	4	8	2	0

BUS AND FERRY OPERATING STATISTICS

Attached is the Transit Service Performance Statistics Report for the month of October 2009.

The report shows how Golden Gate Transit bus and Golden Gate ferry services operated in October 2009 relative to performance targets set forth in the District's Short Range Transit Plan.

During the month of October 2009, bus and ferry ridership remained lower compared to the previous year as a result of the continuing recession and lower gas prices. Ferry on time performance was affected by substitution of slower Spaulding vessels for high speed vessels that were out of service for repairs. (Attachment 2)

RETIREMENT OF ALAN R. ZAHRADNIK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DISTRICT DIVISION

It is my privilege to announce the retirement of Director of Planning Al Zahradnik on December 30, 2009, after thirty-one years and nine months of dedicated service with the District.

Mr. Zahradnik joined the District March 13, 1978, as a Senior Planner. He was selected Employee of the Month for January 1990. In December 1995, his position was reclassified to Deputy Planning Director. On June 5, 2000, Mr. Zahradnik became Acting Director of Planning and was promoted to the position January 1, 2001.

Prior to District service, Mr. Zahradnik was a Civil Engineer for the City of Chicago and a Metropolitan Transportation Commission Planner. Mr. Zahradnik received his BSCE from University of Illinois and his MSCE from University of California at Berkeley.

Retirement plans include taking care of his 11 year old son Anton, and his lovely wife, Nina Rannells, as well as continuing to coach youth sports and participate in other programs in the San Rafael community where they reside. Hiking, biking and golf are also on the "to do" list. If time permits, Mr. Zahradnik will be available to provide "consultation" services to those seeking his knowledge of Bay Area transportation issues.

RETIREMENT OF GUY "GENE" WALKER, DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE, BUS DIVISION

It is my privilege to announce the retirement of Director of Bus Maintenance Gene Walker on December 12, 2009, after twenty-eight years and eight months of dedicated service with the District.

Mr. Walker joined the District as a Bus Mechanic on May 4, 1981. He was promoted to Chief Mechanic on March 24, 1994, and to his current position on December 26, 1999. Mr. Walker is a member (and past Chair) of the California Transit Association Maintenance Committee; is a member of American Public Transit Association (APTA) Clean Propulsion and Purchasing Committee's and Chairman of the Bus Technical and Maintenance Committee. Mr. Walker also serves on the APTA Brake and Suspension Working Group, developing best practices for Transit fleet repairs and is Chairman of the Transit Facilities Design Working Group, developing a guidebook for the designing of new or upgrading facilities, and also Green or LEEDS Building criteria. Mr. Walker has participated on panels with Transit Cooperative Research Program at the National Academics in Washington DC and co-authored two published synthesis for the Transit Cooperative Research Program.

Mr. Walker continues to work with the Air Resources Board and is actively involved in the development of the Regional Zero Emission Bay Area (ZEBA) Fuel Cell Demonstration Project, with the District's partner AC Transit and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which will be a pilot for other future ZEB projects.

Prior to District service, Mr. Walker was employed as a Mechanic for several firms in Petaluma. Mr. Walker was a Shop Foreman of a repair facility specializing in truck and heavy equipment repair and was also employed as a butcher.

Retirement plans include, taking some extended cruises and traveling with his wife, RVing, fishing, enjoying his grand children, some continued work in the transit industry and the pursuit of his passion of everything automotive including the completion of his son's project vehicle in time for car shows in the summer of 2010.

PRESENTATION OF TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO ALVIN W. WONG, STOREKEEPER, DISTRICT DIVISION

We are pleased to announce that Storekeeper Alvin Wong celebrated twenty-five years of service with the District on December 7, 2009.

Mr. Wong joined the District on May 16, 1984, as a temporary Part-Time Laneworker in the Bridge Division. He became a Part-Time Laneworker on December 7, 1984, and was promoted to District Service Aide on December 31, 1986. Mr. Wong was promoted to his current position on July 14, 2008. Along with fellow co-workers, Mr. Wong has participated in the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge held at Crissy Field in San Francisco.

PRESENTATION OF TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO JOYCE E. MANNING, BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION

We are pleased to announce that Bus Operator Joyce Manning, Bus Division, celebrated twenty-five years of service with the District on December 13, 2009.

Ms. Manning first joined the District on December 4, 1979, as a Student Bus Operator. Ms. Manning was selected Employee of the Month for May 1999, in recognition of her positive attitude, kindness, and support she extends to everyone she meets. During her career with the District, Ms. Manning has received numerous letters from patrons praising her for pleasant and helpful demeanor.

Prior to District employment, she was employed as a Bank Teller for Crocker National Bank and as a Sales Associate for the Air Force/Army Exchange in St. Louis, MO. During the 1970's, Ms. Manning was the owner of an Auto Paint and Body Shop and co-owner of a Cosmetic Distributorship. Ms. Manning was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and received her degree in Cosmetology from Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA.

In her free time, Ms. Manning enjoys cooking, dining out and spending time with her daughters and grandson.

PRESENTATION OF TWENTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO ROBERT L. DORSEY, JR., BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION

We are please to announce that Bus Operator Robert Dorsey celebrated twenty years of service with the District on December 4, 2009.

Mr. Dorsey joined the District on December 4, 1989, as a Part-Time Bus Operator. After eight months he became a Full-Time Bus Operator. During his career with the District, Mr. Dorsey's co-workers have praised him for his empathetic and caring nature. His management team also gives him praise for going beyond the call of duty and for his many letters and calls of accommodations for excellent customer relations and service to the public.

Prior to his employment with the District, Mr. Dorsey had his own limousine service with clientele ranging from government officials to star entertainers like Kenny G., The Temptations, and many others. He has driven professionally for 40 plus years and has always had a clean driving record. He has also worked extensively with various unions and studied Labor Relations at U.C. Berkeley, Laney and Merritt Colleges. At one point, he was voted as a union official for the Teamsters Union representing Northern and Southern California.

In his free time, Mr. Dorsey enjoys sports, dancing, shopping, traveling and being a loyal and loving father of five children, grandfather of nine, and great grandfather of one. His other life achievements include much wide diversity of friends, and many relatives. Mr. Dorsey states that his family reunion events consist of over 300 family members and he actively participates in coordinating these reunions in various cities and states all over the country just about every two years.

**PRESENTATION OF TWENTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO DERRICK L. HUNT,
BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION**

We are pleased to announce that Bus Operator Derrick Hunt celebrated twenty years of service with the District on December 4, 2009.

Mr. Hunt joined the District on December 4, 1989, as a Bus Operator. Prior to his employment with the District, Mr. Hunt was employed as a Bus Driver for Schooler Bus Lines of Marin City and as a Delivery Person for Bread n'Butter in Mill Valley. Mr. Hunt is a certified aircraft mechanic.

In his free time, Mr. Hunt continues his studies in Theology.

**PRESENTATION OF TWENTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO MICHAEL R.
LOWERY, BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION**

We are pleased to announce that Bus Operator Michael Lowery celebrated twenty years of service with the District on December 4, 2009.

Mr. Lowery joined the District on December 4, 1989, as a Bus Operator. During his career with the District, Mr. Lowery has served on the Driver Scheduling Committee since its inception and has also served as the Chief Steward for the Bus Operator Union.

Prior to District service, Mr. Lowery was employed by Adesco Insurance Company as a Dealer Development Specialist and a Sales Manager for Varner Supply in San Rafael. He was the North West Regional Manager for Firestone Tire & Rubber Company and as a Tire Serviceman for General Tire & Rubber Company and Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Mr. Lowery was raised in San Francisco and graduated from Galileo High School and attended both Heald College and Santa Rosa Junior College.

In his free time, Mr. Lowery enjoys traveling, hunting and fishing when he can. He has had old cars and hotrods and will be looking for a new project when he retires.

**PRESENTATION OF TWENTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO TONI D. MCNATT,
BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION**

We are pleased to announce that Bus Operator Toni McNatt celebrated twenty years of service with the District on December 4, 2009.

Ms. McNatt joined the District on December 4, 1989, as a Bus Operator. During her career with the District, Ms. McNatt has been very involved in Bus Operator recruitments and training newly hired Bus Operators. During 2003, the District had major route changes and Ms. McNatt was recognized for her teamwork in developing new training materials and courses for Bus Operator training.

Ms. McNatt was raised in Santa Rosa and graduated from Piner High School. Before coming to the District, Ms. McNatt worked for AT &T as an Operator and was promoted to Security Representative, in Atlanta, GA. In her free time, Ms. McNatt enjoys scuba diving, abalone diving, bike riding including triathlons and traveling.

PRESENTATION OF TWENTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO JAMES P. OPOCENSKY, BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION

We are pleased to announce that Bus Operator James Opocensky celebrated twenty years of service with the District on December 4, 2009.

Mr. Opocensky joined the District on December 4, 1989, as a Bus Operator. Prior to his employment with the District, Mr. Opocensky was employed as a Driver for numerous Charter Companies in San Francisco including, Charterhouse San Francisco, and T.T.C. Tours, and Franciscan Lines, Inc. He was also a driver for Peninsula Charter Lines in Palo Alto.

In his free time, Mr. Opocensky enjoys horseback and motorcycle riding, restoring antique emergency vehicles and railroading.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER 2009

The Employee of the Month was previously reported in General Manager's Report No. 18-09 of November 20, 2009. Recipient Kristy DeCoursey, Chief Storekeeper will be presented her award for this achievement at the December 18, Board of Directors Meeting.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER 2009

After reviewing nominations submitted by District employees, the Employee of the Month Committee selected Rick Smith, Associate Steel Inspector in the Engineering Department for the Bridge Division, as the Employee of the Month for December 2009.

Mr. Smith receives this prestigious award in recognition of his dedicated and courteous attitude. Mr. Smith co-workers nominated him for his excellence of manners and going out of his way to help those in need. Mr. Smith has worked on each phase of the retrofit projects since starting with the District. His ability to stay focused while multi-tasking various projects such as the; two dredging projects, the new six inch fuel line and the Larkspur Ferry Terminal parking and access improvements are admired by others. Mr. Smith is currently working on the Toll Plaza access improvement project.

Mr. Smith joined the District in September 1999 as an Associate Steel Inspector in the Engineering Department. Prior to District employment, he worked as a Laborer in Local Union No. 383 in Phoenix, AZ, in the late 1960's. Mr. Smith then joined the Carpenters Local No. 1216 and worked the union hall for many years in the 1970's. Mr. Smith came to Daly City, CA in spring 1994 as a welding foreman installing temporary steel supports for Peter Kiewit on the interstate 280/Silver Ave. seismic retrofit project. Later in 1995 Mr. Smith began to work again as a Welding Foreman for Guy F. Atkinson on the China Basin seismic retrofit project in San Francisco and was in charge of splicing pile & welding column casings. In 1997 Mr. Smith achieved his American Welding Society, CWI (Certified Welding Inspector) exam and went to work as an Inspector for Signet Testing Laboratories in Hayward, where he worked for almost two years prior to joining the Golden Gate Bridge District in 1999.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER 2009 (continued)

Born in Moses Lake, Washington, Mr. Smith attended St. John High in St Johns, AZ and went on to college at Mesa Community College in Mesa, AZ on a wrestling scholarship. Mr. Smith and his wife, Susie have been residents of Pacifica, CA since 1994. In his spare time, Mr. Smith's hobbies include photography, watching collegiate wrestling, taking walks with his wife, Susie and spending lots of quality time with his 10 grandchildren.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia G. Kupersmith
General Manager

Attachments

CGK:sp:jv