

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

### Agenda for Thursday, January 15, 2009

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** Review
- 3. Minutes of November 20, 2008, meeting** Approve  
*(Copy of draft November minutes is attached.)*
- 4. ACA-related Items** Information
  - a. ACA 2009 Calendar
  - b. Nomination of 2009 Officers
- 5. GGBHTD-Related Items** Information
  - a. Intercounty Paratransit Services
    - 1) Statistical Report and Operations Summary
    - 2) Update on Delivery of Paratransit Vehicles
  - b. Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service
    - 1) MCI Lift Boarding Procedures
    - 2) Number of Wheelchair Positions on Buses
    - 3) March Service Change Update
  - c. Golden Gate Ferry Service
  - d. Facilities Update
    - 1) East Parking Lot at Toll Plaza
  - e. General District Matters
- 6. Marin Transit-Related Items** Information
  - a. Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council Report
  - b. Marin County Local Bus and Paratransit Service
  - c. Update on Mobile Data Terminal Project
- 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 Harvey Katz, ACA Staff Liaison, at (415) 257-4416 at least two days prior to the meeting.*)

Summary of Continued Items (*Follow-up on these items remains pending. Committee members may ask for a specific item to be brought up for discussion at any time.*):

- Transition Plan Update
- *Welcome Aboard* Brochure Update
- Discontinuation of Mail-in Fare Program
- Senior Transportation and Travel Training Project

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) 257-4416 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](http://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 Harvey Katz, ACA staff liaison, at (415) 257-4416, or e-mail to [hkatz@goldengate.org](mailto:hkatz@goldengate.org).

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY (ACA)

*Draft Minutes of Thursday, November 20, 2008*



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

Members Excused: Herb Meyer

Staff: General: Harvey Katz, Senior Planner; Cynthia Petersen, Paratransit Coordinator/Planner; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative  
Specific Items: Rich Hibbs, Superintendent of Safety and Training, GGT; Winston Lau, Senior Mechanical Engineer; David Lynch, Senior Civil Engineer; Dr. Jerry Kao, Supervising Engineer; Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager-Ferry Division; Robert Valdez, Bus Operator; Alan Zahradnik, Planning Director

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

Visitors: Renée Morgan (Hired Hands); Rebecca Valdez, wife of Bus Operator Robert Valdez

*The monthly meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) was called to order by Chairperson Craig Yates at 1:10 p.m.*

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda.** It was Moved/Seconded/Passed (MSP) that the agenda be approved as written.
3. **Minutes:** It was M/S/P that the draft minutes of the October 16, 2008, ACA meeting be approved with the following corrections:
  - On Page 3, Section 5,d, toward the bottom of the third paragraph after “Strawberry Shopping Center”, add the following sentence: “A new peak period Route 92 would be created from Marin City and Sausalito serving points along Geary Blvd. to compensate for commute period loss of service along the Geary corridor.
  - On Page 4, Section 8, after “it was M/S/P,” add “with one nay vote”.
4. **ACA-related Items:**
  - a. **Staffing Transition for ACA:** Alan Zahradnik introduced Harvey Katz, who will serve as interim staff liaison to ACA while the District recruits a replacement for Cynthia Petersen after her 21 years with the District. Mr. Katz explained his history with the District, including his recent primary responsibilities of preparing the Short-

Range Transit Plans, the Title VI Report and the National Transit Database Reports, as well as coordinating bicycle and pedestrian access. Mr. Zahradnik noted that over the past decade, each District Department has become more knowledgeable regarding its own area of responsibility for access and will become more pro-active in their areas with the Planning Department coordinating and monitoring what they do. Planning will also continue to serve as staff to ACA and the Bus Passenger and Ferry Passenger Advisory Committees. ACA members were invited to continue to provide input into the provision of District accessible services through ACA or by contacting Harvey or other members of District staff. Mr. Bohlke requested that a list of "Items Pending" be added to the end of each month's ACA agenda.

- b. **Recommendations of Awards Subcommittee:** Robert Valdez was introduced as one of two GGT employee recipients of ACA's FY 2007 and FY 2008 Exemplary Service Awards. The other award winner, David Childress, was unable to be present due to the death of his mother, and condolences were expressed. Ms. Petersen explained why these two men were nominated, and the awards were presented to Mr. Valdez and to Rich Hibbs on behalf of Mr. Childress.
- c. **Other Items:** Members were reminded there will be no ACA meeting in December. Nominations for 2009 officers will be on the agenda for the January 2009 meeting. Mr. Bohlke regretfully declined to serve as an ACA officer (Chair or Vice-Chair) in 2009.

5. **Marin Transit-Related Items:**

- a. **Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council** met on Monday, November 17, 2008.
- b. **Marin Transit Local Bus and Paratransit Service:** Lauren Gradia reported that ridership on the shuttle services has increased, and Marin Transit would be adding three hours in the middle of the day to Route 233, effective with the GGT service changes in December. Service would also be added to Routes 17, 29 and 71.
- c. **Senior Transportation and Travel Training Program:** Ms. Gradia reported that Marin Transit is recruiting for a replacement for Suzanne Chen-Harding, as well as a new Mobility Manager. Further activities associated with the senior transportation and travel training program will be on hold until Marin Transit staffing levels are up to speed.
- d. **Taxi Program and Vehicle Procurement Update:** Three new vehicles have been purchased to replace the current vehicles being operated on the West Marin Stagecoach. This new equipment may help address the problems Kevin Siemens reported regarding the time it took to get secured. Two rear-door-ramp accessible taxis have been leased to "On the Move" and will begin general public taxi service in December. Mr. Yates noted that FTA requires safety training of drivers of accessible taxi services, and he would like to see a complaint process implemented. Ms. Petersen noted that the State of California has drug testing requirements that would be the responsibility of the Marin County taxi ordinance to enforce.
- e. **Other Items:** Mr. Siemens will discuss ideas for Marin Transit services (involving fixed corridor/deviated feeder service) with Ms. Gradia outside of the meeting. Four workshops will be held in December on the West Marin Transportation Needs Assessment. Marin Transit has completed its passenger

survey of local Marin transit services, and the results will be available in early 2009. Marin Transit has successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding on bus stop policy for local bus stops with the City of San Rafael and hopes to enter into similar MOUs with other Marin cities.

## 6. 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 October 2008. Intercounty ridership was up 16% (1,294 passengers) compared to the previous month (1,111 in September) and up 5% compared to ridership in October 2007(1,231). Efficiency was up from .93 passengers to .99 passengers transported per revenue hour compared to September. Of the 12 intercounty Marin extended trip requests in October, 4 (33.3%) were provided. The intercounty service was on-time (within its 45-minute scheduling window) 91.9% of the time. There continued to be no denials of ADA-mandated paratransit service in October. When Bill Bodine asked about the difference between morning and afternoon ridership, Mr. Gaffney explained that statistics are not recorded that way, so he would investigate and report back at the January meeting.
- 2) Update on Delivery and Future Purchase of Paratransit Vehicles: Jackie Mulroy reported that the replacement lifts are now being installed in 8 of the 16 new paratransit vehicles. There should be no mechanical differences between the replacement and factory-installed lifts. The remaining 8 vehicles remain in production at the factory in Indiana. All 16 new vehicles should be received by WSW and placed into service by the end of January 2009.
- 3) Update on Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Project: WSW, Marin Transit and District staff had previously viewed a presentation by INIT of their paratransit mobile data terminals. INIT's equipment and capabilities are very comparable to other units that WSW has investigated and may provide the opportunity to integrate the paratransit MDT project with the District's Advanced Communications and Information Services (ACIS) project.
- 4) Other Items: In response to concerns raised by Mr. Siemens at the October meeting regarding the Transporter vans, Ms. Mulroy explained that the second wheelchair tie-down position is smaller because these vehicles are required to have only one securement position that meets ADA guidelines. Van operators transporting passengers are instructed to use the second securement position for passengers in smaller chairs or those who can transfer from their wheelchairs to a passenger seat. The problems Mr. Siemens and Mr. Pease encountered arose because the driver was new and failed to remember these instructions.

### b. District Matters

- 1) November 21, 2008, Public Hearing on Proposed GGT Regional Bus Service Changes: ACA was polled and did not have any Committee comments to submit on the proposed regional service changes in advance of the November 21 public hearing. The Board of Directors will take final action on the resulting proposal at its December 19, 2008, meeting.

- 2) Recommendations Regarding Award of Contract for District Communications Improvement Project (ACIS): At the Board of Directors' Transportation Committee meeting held earlier in the day, the Committee concurred with staff's recommendation to award the contract for the above project to GE Transportation Global Signaling, LP. The Board is scheduled to take final action on the recommendation at its November 21 meeting. This is the project that may coordinate with the paratransit MDT project mentioned in Item 6, a, 3) above.
  - 3) Recommendations Regarding Procurement of Two New High-Speed Passenger Ferries: See Item d, 1) below.
  - 4) Status Report on ADA Transition Plan: David Lynch reported the Engineering Department continues to work on updating the District's ADA Transition Plan and would provide ACA with a more detailed status report in 2009. Jerry Kao stated that the update process is being used as a tool for capital improvement planning and setting priorities. All the improvements for the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza East Parking Lot Pavement and Access Improvement Project were identified as part of that effort. Other District projects reflecting input from that process include the LFT Pavement and Access Improvement Project (currently under construction) and the LFT Ramp and Restroom Facilities Improvement Project, scheduled for FY 2010. The District is in the process of training an additional engineer on State and Federal accessibility rules to assist with the effort to maintain the District's ADA Transition Plans.
- c. **Golden Gate Transit (GGT) Regional Bus Service**: See Item 6, b, 1).
- d. **Golden Gate Ferry Service**:
- 1) Status Report on New Fast Ferry Procurement. Jim Swindler reported that both the Building and Operating Committee and the Finance-Auditing Committee concurred with staff to begin procurement of two used fast vessels from the Washington State Ferry service. A single bid of \$16 million to build one new fast ferry had been received, and for \$3 million more, the District could purchase and refurbish two used fast ferries that are less than 10 years old, providing more service options with the overall fleet. The Board is scheduled to take final action on the Committee recommendations at its November 21 meeting. To address passenger loads, refurbishment will be needed to maximize seating available in both vessels. There will be insufficient space to install an elevator between decks. One or two of the Spaulding vessels will be retired once both fast ferries are operational.
  - 2) Request for Proposals: Design Engineer for Gangway and Terminal Access Improvement Project: Nothing new to report.
  - 3) Other Items: The *M. V. Del Norte* will be out of service for 4 to 6 months in the Spring of 2009 to have all four engines replaced. Ms. Petersen will pass the list of remaining vessel access items to Mr. Katz for follow-up with Engineering and the Ferry Division in the coming year.
  - 4) LFT Access and Parking Lot Improvement Project: Mr. Lynch led ACA members on a tour of the LFT parking lot facility, pointing out improvements in the disabled parking area that have been completed and circulation improvements throughout the facility still under construction. ACA members approved of the satellite parking design, appreciative that vehicles no longer impede the path of travel around the terminal. ACA members concurred that

the disabled parking and remainder of the facility should be much improved when construction is completed.

e. **Staff Report and Information:** None to report.

7. **New Business:**

- Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, East Parking Lot Pavement and Access Improvement Project: Dr. Kao and Winston Lau presented draft plans for the above project, which are approximately 35% through the design review process. Improvements are planned for the employee parking lot and access road on the west side, and at the main entrance and Sergeant's Office entrance (east side) of the Bridge Administration Building. Improvements are also planned for the east visitors' parking lot and for the northbound U.S. 101 on- and off-ramps at the Toll Plaza. The project will go out to bid in March 2009, with construction scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2009. Copies of the plans will be e-mailed to the Committee members that requested them. This is the third project to facilitate access and other improvements at the Toll Plaza. Mr. Lynch reported that a complete redesign of the second floor restrooms and security doors to the Administration Building are also proposed. Mr. Siemens noted there are problems with the northbound bus stop light and he will e-mail the details so the Engineering Department can learn what needs to be repaired.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.