

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

### *Agenda for Thursday, February 19, 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



***Please arrive early for the pre-meeting inspection of new WSW vehicle  
1:15 p.m., Visitors Parking Lot***

	<u>Information/Recommended Action</u>
<b>1. Introductions</b>	
<b>2. Agenda</b>	Review
<b>3. Minutes of January 15, 2009, and November 20, 2008, meetings</b> <i>(Copy of January minutes attached)</i>	Approve
<b>4. ACA-related Items</b> a. Nomination of 2009 Officers	Information
<b>5. GGBHTD-Related Items</b> 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) Number of wheelchair positions on buses c. Golden Gate Ferry Service <i>(Public Hearing notice attached: "Proposed Special Event Ferry Fare Increase")</i> d. Facilities Update e. General District Matters	Information
<b>6. Marin Transit-Related Items</b> a. Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council Report b. Marin County Local Bus and Paratransit Service c. Update on Mobile Data Terminal Project	Information
<b>7. New Business</b>	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) 257-4415 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](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)

*Minutes of Thursday, January 15, 2009*



Members present: Herschel Ferguson, Sandra Gordon, Jean Hunter, Brian Pease, Kevin Siemens

Members excused: Bill Bodine, Russ Bohlke, Herb Meyer, Craig Yates

Staff: General: Harvey Katz, Acting Access & Compliance Planner; Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative; Alan Zahradnik, Planning Director  
Specific Items: Rich Hibbs, Transit Superintendent/Safety-Training; David Lynch, Senior Engineer; Christian Stark, Marine Project Manager; Gene Walker, Maintenance Manager

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

Visitors: Margot Havel, Hired Hands; Cynthia Petersen, Retired Paratransit Coordinator/Planner

In the absence of Chairperson Craig Yates, Harvey Katz called the monthly meeting of the ACA to order at 1:45 p.m. He noted the lack of quorum present.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda.** Committee members reviewed the agenda.
3. **Minutes.** Members present (not a quorum) accepted the minutes by consensus.
4. **ACA-related items**
  - a. **ACA 2009 Calendar.** Members present accepted the calendar by consensus. ACA will meet the third Thursday of every month, with no meetings in August and December to allow for seasonal breaks.
  - b. **Nomination of 2009 Officers** was postponed until the February meeting.
5. **GGBHTD-related Items**
  - a. **Intercounty Paratransit Services**
    - 1) Statistical Report and Operations Summary. Jon Gaffney distributed the December 2008 report of services provided in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). GGBHTD intercounty ridership was up 3% over December 2007 to 1,035 passenger trips but declined 7% from November 2008. Efficiency rose slightly from 1.04 passengers per revenue hour in November to 1.05 in December. Four of 6 intercounty Marin extended trip requests were provided. Intercounty service was on-time (within its 45-minute scheduling window) 91.5% of the time. There continued to be no denials of ADA-mandated paratransit service in December.

- 2) Update on Delivery of Paratransit Vehicles. Sixteen new vehicles are being driven from Woodland, CA, to San Rafael for installation of final equipment. Some vehicles are already in use. A new vehicle will be brought to the February 19<sup>th</sup> ACA meeting, so members should arrive 15 minutes early to view it in the visitors' parking lot. WSW's fleet now numbers 54, and more vehicles will be ordered in spring, including some minivans. Kevin Siemens was reassured that new buses have two tie-down locations. Jackie Mulroy told Brian Pease that a passenger in a wheelchair could be accompanied by a wheelchair-bound attendant in the same vehicle as long as WSW knows in advance. She will request that East Bay providers observe this policy, and Mr. Katz said he would back her up at regional paratransit meetings.
- b. **Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service**
- 1) MCI Lift Boarding Procedures. In response to concern raised by Kevin Siemens and Brian Pease (who reported at previous meetings that bus drivers had asked them to wait for an Orion bus rather than board an MCI bus), Rich Hibbs and Gene Walker explained that all bus operators are trained how to load wheelchairs on all buses and are supposed to test their lifts before departing. Nevertheless, it takes drivers twice as long to load a wheelchair on an MCI than an Orion, and in an effort to keep to their schedules, some drivers may recommend that passengers on short-interval routes wait for a more accommodating type of bus. Mr. Walker explained that lifts have many working parts that can malfunction, and if a driver tells someone his lift is out of order, it could be. Even though a repaired lift receives robust testing, road conditions may cause a lift that had tested satisfactorily to malfunction. Lift problems should be reported, including time, location and bus number, and Glen Woods told members that if he is called directly at (415) 257-4404, he will contact the appropriate manager.
  - 2) Number of Wheelchair Positions on Buses. Mr. Katz asked members if they wanted to pursue requesting accommodations for more than two wheelchairs per bus, and Herschel Ferguson suggested shelving the issue until the February meeting. Mr. Siemens noted that Route 17 experiences wheelchair overloads and was told that drivers have a procedure to notify Dispatch when a wheelchair is turned away.
  - 3) March Service Change Update. Some proposed service changes will be postponed until June because of construction delays on Hwy. 101. The new Route 101 between Sonoma County and San Francisco will be delayed until the HOV lanes are entirely open. The cancellation of Route 10 Geary St. service will also be postponed. Elimination of Route 9 service and reduction of Routes 8 and 75 service will free some buses to provide additional Route 4 runs.
- c. **Golden Gate Ferry Service.** Christian Stark reported that the District purchased two used passenger ferries from the State of Washington. The one currently named *Snohomish* is due to arrive in the Bay area in April or May to temporarily replace the *M.S. Del Norte* while it goes into drydock. The *Snohomish* will be made accessible and compatible with District's boarding facilities before arrival. Mr. Stark passed around drawings and noted that no elevator will be installed on the vessel because of weight issues, but when it is remodeled to improved engines and carry 450, its aisles will remain generous. An accessible restroom will be

installed, and Mr. Siemens requested that the toilet seat be higher than 19", which may be the standard building code specification; Mr. Stark said he would investigate. He explained that long-term District plans call for all ferries and terminals to use main-deck loading and possibly upper-deck loading as well; Engineering will determine what is feasible. Herschel Ferguson asked about the best time to transfer between decks to prepare for disembarkation while riding on the ferry (upon arrival, midway through the trip, or approaching the port) and Mr. Stark said the time varies with wave action and tasks the crew must handle.

d. **Facilities Update**

- 1) East Parking Lot at Toll Plaza. David Lynch reported that the East lot redesign to improve street crossing will include new sidewalks and crosswalks for the southern edge of the lot. Specifications are being completed. Also, a lift will be installed at the Sergeant's Office. Bids for the project will be solicited this spring.
- 2) LFT Access and Parking Lot Improvement Project. Mr. Lynch reported that signage will be installed soon and the perimeter path will be accessible.
- 3) Upcoming Projects. Restrooms at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal will be enlarged and made more accessible. Restrooms at the San Francisco Ferry Terminal will also be improved.

e. **General District Matters**. No reports or discussion.

6. **Marin Transit-Related Items**

- a. No Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council Report was presented because it doesn't meet until the following week.
- b. Marin County Local Bus and Paratransit Service. Lauren Gradia distributed a draft of Marin Transit's Monthly Monitoring Report, pointing out the Route 221 is underperforming and may be merged into the Marin City/Marin General loop shuttle if funding can be obtained. Mr. Siemens noted that Route 61 trips are not labeled properly at bus stops to reflect reduced service in winter; on two occasions, he waited for the 6:20 bus and it did not arrive. (It was not scheduled.) Ms. Gradia will investigate and get back to Mr. Siemens. Marin Transit has purchased four accessible taxis that are leased to On The Move, two of them already in service and the others on hold, pending licensing. These vehicles are two side-loading and two rear-loading minivans. Ms. Gradia didn't know whether the vehicles employ lifts or ramps and will find out. She can bring them to future ACA meetings for testing and feedback.
- c. Update on Mobile Data Terminal Project. Ms. Gradia reported that the quote to install this equipment came in higher than expected, so Marin Transit may put out an RFP or solicit other bids.

7. **New Business**

8. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments; Public Open Time**. Cynthia Petersen joined the meeting and presented each member of ACA a gift in appreciation of their committee service with her over the years.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.