



Agenda Item No. 2

To Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole  
Meeting of March 26, 2009

From: Ron Downing, Principal Planner  
Alan R. Zahradnik, Director of Planning  
Teri Mantony, Deputy General Manager, Bus Transit Division  
Celia G. Kupersmith, General Manager

Subject: **AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MARIN COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT TO OPERATE THE MUIR WOODS SHUTTLE FOR THE SUMMER OF 2009**

### **Recommendation**

The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize execution of an agreement with the Marin County Transit District (Marin Transit) to operate the Muir Woods Shuttle from Saturday, May 2, 2009, through Sunday, September 27, 2009, with the understanding that the service will cost approximately \$320,000 and be paid for by Marin Transit. This project would be undertaken in response to their formal request to provide these services and represents a one-year service agreement that follows the four-year demonstration project that operated during the summer seasons between 2005 and 2008.

### **Summary**

The Muir Woods shuttle had been successfully operated by GGT for four years under a demonstration project administered by the Marin County Department of Public Works (DPW). This project consisted of a federally-funded three-year demonstration project, plus a one-year extension. With federal funds for the demonstration project ending, responsibility for this service has been transferred from Marin County DPW to Marin Transit. Beginning this year, Marin Transit will administer the Muir Woods Shuttle and will fund its operations in a partnership with the National Park Service.

In August 2008, Marin Transit requested that the District submit a cost proposal to operate 2009 season service. Marin Transit specifically requested that this be a separate one-year proposal and not be included as an amendment to the Marin Local Service Agreement. GGT staff responded by preparing a proposal, which ultimately became an agreed-to project cost of \$320,000 for Summer 2009 service.

For the summer of 2009, the program will be nearly identical to that operated in 2008, with the exception of additional budget for dedicated staff resources. While fares and service levels will remain the same as in 2008, fare collection procedures will change to reflect the use of the District's new GFI fareboxes. Round-trip fares will be collected in the westbound direction, with passengers being issued a round-trip farecard that will be inserted into the farebox for the eastbound return trip from Muir Woods. All passengers returning from Muir Woods must present valid farecards, and passengers without farecards will be required to purchase one. The new fare collection program will allow for greater accuracy in ridership and revenue counting. As was done during the past summers under the demonstration project, it will be necessary to lease five smaller narrow-width buses (35 feet long by 96 inches wide) that can navigate the narrow roadways along this route. Due to the additional requirements that this service places on GGT operations personnel, \$20,819 in dedicated staff resources has been included in this year's budget. This additional cost reflects the additional staffing that would be required "above and beyond" what is covered by the rates in the Marin Local Service Agreement and the staffing resources that are normally available on the weekend to operate the rest of the GGT system.

Weekend "shoulder season" service will operate between Marin City and Muir Woods at 30-minute headways between Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 17, 2009, and also between Saturday, September 12, and Sunday, September 27, 2009. Weekend and holiday peak season service (Marin City-Muir Woods service at 20-minute headways plus dedicated Sausalito-Muir Woods trips) will be operated between Saturday, May 23, and Monday, September 7, 2009 (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day).

Total project costs for this project are estimated to be \$320,000. This includes operating costs, vehicle lease costs, and marketing/promotional expenses. Operating costs were estimated using the appropriate hourly rates from the Marin County Transit District contract that went into effect on July 1, 2008, and adjusted as per the terms of the contract by 5% for 2009. The portion of the service that will operate during FY 08/09 will be \$98.64 per hour, and the rate for the portion operating during FY 09/10 will be \$103.57 per hour. Passenger fare revenues collected on this service will be credited back to Marin Transit to partially offset costs. The County will fully reimburse the District for undertaking the project.

To have the service operational by May 2, final policy-level approvals for the service must occur prior to March 31, 2009. At its March 16 meeting, the Marin Transit Board approved entering into an agreement with the District for Muir Woods Shuttle Summer 2009 service. This schedule will allow sufficient time to lease equipment, train drivers, prepare operating schedules and develop marketing and public information materials.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact to the District because all costs, estimated to be \$320,000, will be paid by Marin Transit.