

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Agenda for Thursday, July 16, 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



	<u>Information/Recommended Action</u>
1. Introductions	
2. Agenda	Review
3. Minutes of June 18, 2009, meeting <i>(Copy of June minutes attached)</i>	Approve
4. ACA-Related Items	Information
5. GGBHTD-Related Items	Information
a. Intercounty Paratransit Services: Statistical Report and Operations Summary	
b. Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service	
c. Golden Gate Ferry Service	
d. Follow-up to Review of GGT Procedures for Boarding and Transporting Persons with Disabilities	
e. Facilities Update – Larkspur Ferry Terminal Accessible Restrooms	
f. 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 Open Time	Information
Remembrance of Russ Bohlke <i>(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.)</i>	

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) 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.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY (ACA)

Draft Minutes of Thursday, June 18, 2009



Members present: Bill Bodine, Herschel Ferguson, Kent Hill, Jean Hunter, Brian Pease, Kevin Siemens, Craig Yates

Members excused: Russ Bohlke, Herb Meyer

Staff: General: Harvey Katz, Access & Compliance Planner; Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative

Ex-officio members: Paul Branson, Mobility Manager, Marin Transit; Jon Gaffney, Director of Transportation, Whistlestop Wheels (WSW)

Visitors: Nelson Kimber aide to Bill Bodine; Sal Colombo, Hired Hands

Chairperson Craig Yates called the monthly meeting of the ACA to order at 1:45 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda.** Members reviewed the agenda. Harvey Katz explained that Mr. Yates should ask for comments on the agenda, not approval or additions, because the agenda is published and posted for the public's information according to the Brown Act. Members are unable to change it once posted.
3. **Minutes.** A quorum of members accepted the minutes for the May 21, 2009, meeting.
4. **ACA-related items.** It was noted that Russ Bohlke may miss several future meetings because of health issues.
5. **GGBHTD-related Items**
 - a. **Intercounty Paratransit Services. Statistical Report and Operations Summary.** Jon Gaffney distributed the May 2009 report of services provided in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. GGBHTD intercounty ridership increased 5% from May 2008 to 1,150 passenger trips, and increased 10% from last month, April 2009. Efficiency in May increased to 1.33 passengers per revenue hour. Seven of 10 intercounty Marin extended trip requests were provided. Intercounty service was on-time (within its 45-minute scheduling window) 89.49% of the time. There continued to be no denials of ADA-mandated paratransit service in May.
 - b. **Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service.** Mr. Katz noted that regional bus fares (not local Marin County fares) would increase 5% across the board on July 1st, including TransLink. This Monday, new express Route 101 began, stopping at only 3 stops in Marin County between Sonoma and San Francisco counties. This replacement to weekday Route 80 service has been well received. Route 10 trips along the Lombard Street/Van Ness Ave. corridor rather than Geary Blvd. also started on June 15th, and ridership has increased significantly. Local Route 71 buses are handling a lot of local Marin County passengers. So far, connections at timed transfer points have not been good and schedule adjustments may need to

be made. The headways between buses have been set by Scheduling for maximum service at a reasonable cost. Mr. Katz said Herb Meyer's suggestion to utilize deadhead buses on U.S. 101 is being seriously considered. Jean Hunter asked how riders could know the Muni fare when transferring in San Francisco, and Glen Woods recommended that they call him.

- c. **Golden Gate Ferry Service.** The *M.V. Napa* has already begun service because the *M.V. Del Norte* has had mechanical problems. Kent Hill said the *Napa* is a nice vessel.
- d. **Follow-up to Review of GGT Procedures for Boarding and Transporting Persons with Disabilities.** Further reports from Helen Haas, of Customer Service, and Bus and Ferry staff to address specific issues will be postponed until the July meeting due to conflicting schedules.
- e. **Facilities Update.** Engineer David Lynch will attend the July ACA meeting to present the 65% draft plans and specifications for the Larkspur Ferry Terminal's two fully accessible restrooms. Approval of a contractor should happen in August. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to design new ramps has been issued; ACA will be reviewing the design concepts once created by the consultant. The Notice to Proceed to a contractor to begin the Toll Plaza improvements was just released.
- f. **General District Matters.** Mr. Katz informed the Committee that the District has set aside funding for capital projects in the next three Fiscal Years for replacement buses, replacement paratransit vans, ferry vessel repair, ferry dredging and improvements to the San Francisco bus lot. Mr. Yates noted that the gate at the southeast end of the Golden Gate Bridge cannot be opened by a person in a wheelchair and Mr. Katz explained that gate is designed solely for bicyclists.

Mr. Yates asked about having variable message signs at certain bus stops and learned that this is part of the Advanced Communications & Information System (formerly termed the "Radio Replacement") project currently under design and construction. Contractor GE is working with the District to pinpoint certain key bus stops that should receive such signs. It may be another two years before all signs are installed. Mr. Bodine asked if the signs could say something like "No room for wheelchairs" when appropriate, but Kevin Siemens considered that not desirable because a driver could run the sign deliberately to keep wheelchairs off his bus. Mr. Yates brought up the issue of verbal as well as visual signage; he said that the Transit systems in San Francisco and Sacramento have buttons to push for audio messages.

6. **Marin Transit-Related Items.**

- a. Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council Report. Mr. Branson announced the next PCC meeting would be July 20. Currently several members of the Marin Transit staff are in Washington, DC, at a Senior Transportation Planning Institute, and next month Mr. Branson will update ACA about what they learned. Mr. Katz mentioned that a team from Sonoma County Transit is also attending the institute, noting how rare it is that two out of 10 invitees throughout the U.S. are from adjacent counties. The consultant's study on West Marin is wrapping up. Mr. Yates asked about an emergency travel plan for the disabled in West Marin County, and Mr. Branson said he would look into it.
- b. Marin County Local Bus and Paratransit Service. The Board passed Marin

County's Fiscal Year 2009/10 budget with a 9% increase in paratransit hours and no fare increase or service cuts. According to the Paratransit Statistical Report distributed by Mr. Gaffney, the number of Marin local ADA passenger trips decreased 2% from April and only 1% from May of last year. Taxis were utilized for 44 overflow passengers during May. North Bay Taxi is the company that makes taxi paratransit trips because they are on the road at all times. Mr. Yates believes their reliability on the 4 p.m.-to-midnight shift is questionable. Mr. Branson explained that bringing taxi service up to par is his job, and asked that ACA members call him if they find no accessible taxis available when requested. Mr. Katz suggested discussing taxi service further at the PCC meeting. On July 1, Marin County will launch a new website, and Mr. Gaffney gave an overview of how to use it.

Brian Pease asked what Dispatch can do when a rider requests service to or from a location without a street address, such as Pier 40, and Mr. Gaffney advised him to have the driver contact a Dispatch Supervisor, who can look up the cross-streets.

Mr. Branson reported that, of the three Marin Transit shuttle buses, Route 233 is showing acceptable ridership, but Routes 221 and 259 show such low ridership that they may be restructured. Mr. Bodine requested that the southbound Route 22 bus run until 11:00 p.m. rather than stop about 9:00 p.m., and Mr. Katz commented that adding night service is expensive unless a demand is demonstrated or requested.

Mr. Yates asked Mr. Branson if vehicles from Kaiser, Terra Linda, go out to pick up people for medical services. (All of Kaiser's fleet is accessible.) Mr. Branson replied that he believes Kaiser only transports its employees from off-site parking lots and does not use its fleet for patients. He will research further.

- c. Update on Mobile Data Terminal Project. Mr. Branson announced release of the RFP for the MDT Project and passed out an excerpt of the specifications. The primary objective of this joint effort between Marin Transit, GGT and WSW is "to increase efficiency and accountability through available technology for expedited trip scheduling and monitoring of the trip information." Mr. Gaffney explained that each WSW vehicle would have a moving GPS map with voice-activated instructions to the driver. Dispatchers would be able to communicate with drivers to pick up on-demand riders. This is a stimulus-funded project, and the Marin Transit Board should be approving a contractor in August. The hoped-for completion date is December 2009, when MDTs would be installed on all vehicles and be able to interact with the existing dispatch system.

7. **New Business.** Nothing specifically discussed.

8. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments; Public Open Time.** Mr. Katz announced that Richard Skaff is working with Marin Water District to organize an accessibility advisory committee, and ACA members' names and contracts were sent to Mr. Skaff. Mr. Yates said he attended a Water Board meeting himself to persuade the Board to raise the baseline water charges.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 1b



PLEASE NOTE:

**There was no meeting of the
Bus Passengers Advisory Committee in July 2009.**

July 9, 2009



Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING OF JULY 13th CANCELLED

This is to announce that the meeting scheduled for July 13, 2009, noon to 1:30 p.m., of the District's Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee will not be held. In addition, no meeting has been scheduled for the month of August.

The date of the next regularly scheduled FPAC meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2009.

It will be held at FPAC's regular meeting location:

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

You may contact Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant, Planning Department, at (415) 257-4417 if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this cancellation.