

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Agenda for Thursday, March 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



	<u>Information/Recommended Action</u>
1. Introductions	
2. Agenda	Review
3. Minutes of February 19, 2009, meeting <i>(Copy of February 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. Facilities Update	
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 Open Time <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>	Information

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) 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, February 19, 2009



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

Members excused: Herb Meyer

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

Ex-officio members: Joe O'Hehir, Executive Director of Whistlestop Wheels (WSW); Jon Gaffney, Director of Transportation, WSW

Visitors: Michelle Meeks, Hired Hands; Cynthia Petersen, Retired Paratransit Coordinator/Planner

Members arrived by 1:15 p.m. to board and tour the new Whistlestop Wheels van prior to assembling indoors for the meeting. 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.
3. **Minutes.** A quorum of members accepted the minutes for the November 20, 2008, and January 15, 2009, meetings.
4. **ACA-related items**
 - a. **Nomination of 2009 Officers.** Craig Yates was nominated to continue as ACA Chairperson and Kent Hill was nominated to be Vice Chairperson. Once the nominations were seconded, members present voted unanimously to instate these two men into the positions.
5. **GGBHTD-related Items**
 - a. **Intercounty Paratransit Services.** Before discussing the statistical report, Jon Gaffney announced promotions at WSW. Jackie Mulroy is now Director of Programs, while Mr. Gaffney has taken her position as Director of Transportation. Executive Director Joe O'Hehir was introduced to ACA as this was his first time to attend a meeting. Kevin Siemens asked if someone had the answer to a question he asked Ms. Mulroy at the last meeting, and Mr. Gaffney said he would follow up.
 - 1) Statistical Report and Operations Summary. Jon Gaffney distributed the January 2009 report of services provided in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). GGBHTD intercounty ridership was down 1% from

January 2008 to 975 passenger trips, and declined 6% from December 2008. Efficiency remained steady at 1.05 passengers per revenue hour in both December and January. Six of ten intercounty Marin extended trip requests were provided. Intercounty service was on-time (within its 45-minute scheduling window) 92% of the time. There continued to be no denials of ADA-mandated paratransit service in January. The number of Marin local ADA passenger trips increased 10%. Taxis were utilized for 25 overflow passengers during January.

- 2) Update on Delivery of Paratransit Vehicles. All 16 new vehicles have been delivered. ACA members commented on the van they tested prior to the meeting, saying the lift works well, the tie-downs are secure and easy to use, and the high-backed seats are comfortable. Kevin Siemens and Brian Pease have already ridden on one of the new vehicles and noted that both wheelchairs fit well into the van, which rode smoothly, even on the freeway.

b. **Golden Gate Transit Regional Bus Service**

- 1) Number of Wheelchair Positions on Buses. Harvey Katz explained that the District is reluctant to pursue equipping buses to accommodate more than two wheelchairs because we try to provide seats for everyone. Installing an additional wheelchair tie-down area would reduce the number of seats, possibly creating a need for additional buses on a busy route. He would check further and get back to ACA. Mr. Pease requested considering three wheelchair positions for Marin Local buses. Mr. Katz acknowledged the request, but noted that buses are shared between local and intercounty routes, where larger buses with more seats are in demand. Mr. Siemens and Mr. Pease explained that when riding together on Routes 17 and 19, they sometimes have to wait over an hour before a bus will have enough free wheelchair tie-downs for the two of them to ride together. Drivers' procedure is first-come/first-served, so other wheelchair passengers have simply arrived before them and taken available spaces on the bus. Mr. Siemens asked if there was some law stating that if ADA-compliant individuals had to wait over 30 minutes for the next bus, they should be provided transportation within a timely manner by another bus or paratransit vehicle or taxi? Mr. Katz said that he would investigate. Mr. Pease and Mr. Siemens requested the wheelchair overflow count for Route 17, and Mr. Katz said the current passenger counting system may not accurately reflect all refused wheelchairs, although the new farebox system might bring improvement. Mr. Yates suggested that a real-time sign at the bus stop could say the upcoming bus "can accommodate no more wheelchairs." Mr. Katz responded that District uses over 1,000 bus stops, and real-time signs cannot be provided everywhere.

- c. **Golden Gate Ferry Service**. This week the *M.V. Del Norte* was experiencing mechanical problems so a Spaulding vessel was substituted. District Board of Directors approved the proposed increase for special event ferry fare from \$7.50 to \$8.00 one-way between Larkspur and AT&T Park. In 2009 there will be no ferries to the 9 weekday afternoon Giants home ballgames. Availability of overflow parking above the Marin Airporth lot is subject to SMART due to the railroad right of way including a pike path. A member suggested the District run a bus to the ballpark, but that might not be cost-effective due to a limited number of buses and

drivers. Discussion included shuttling Giants fans from a park-and-ride under U.S. 101 and the likely infeasibility.

- d. **Facilities Update.** The Larkspur Ferry Terminal parking lot expansion project is about completed. Final signage has yet to be installed. Russ Bohlke pointed out several problems at the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza restroom and asked if the simple fixes could be made shortly, without waiting for full remodel. Mr. Katz said he would investigate.
- e. **General District Matters.**
 - 1) Mr. Katz explained that bridge toll revenues are reduced and District will not receive some usual State funding; therefore, staff will be investigating options to address this revenue decline.
 - 2) Fiscal Year 06/07 was the best ferry service year ever.
 - 3) Mr. Bohlke expressed the desire for ACA to learn about accessibility problems brought before the Board of Directors so ACA could discuss the issues in an effort to prevent future problems. Mr. Katz said he would investigate and report back.

6. **Marin Transit-Related Items**

- a. Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council Report. No one attended the recent meeting to bring back a report. Mr. Katz said he would try to attend the February 23rd meeting.
- b. Marin County Local Bus and Paratransit Service. No representative of Marin Transit was present at the meeting.
- c. Update on Mobile Data Terminal Project. No report.

7. **New Business**

- a. Mr. Bodine asked if the seasonal Muir Woods Route 66 summer weekend bus could make Strawberry one of its stops. Mr. Katz explained that Marin City was already an established stop that serves as a transfer point with other bus routes.
- b. ACA discussed security cameras on buses, requesting to view a tape to see how well-defined the image is. Mr. Katz will talk with District's security staff and report at next month's meeting.

- 8. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments; Public Open Time.** Cynthia Petersen joined the meeting and presented gifts in appreciation of committee service to those who did not receive them in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.