

Advisory Committee on Accessibility Minutes of April 28, 2022



Members Patti Mangles, Marcela Vargas

Present:

Staff: Jon Gaffney, ACA Compliance and Program Manager
Carlena Natouf, Customer Relations Supervisor
Collette Martinez, Acting Director of Operations Ferry Division
Roberta Regan, Administrative Assistant

Ex-Officio Joanna Huitt, Senior Mobility Planner, Marin Transit

Members:

Visitors: Director Michael Theriault
Director Elbert Hill
Director James Mastin

Chair Patti Mangles started the meeting at 1:32 pm. There was not a quorum of members present. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

1. Introductions

2. Minutes / Agenda – As there was no quorum for the meeting. Jon Gaffney stated that the minutes would be approved at the next meeting.

3. ACA-Related Items

- a) CalACT Spring Conference 2022 – Mr. Gaffney gave a report to the group. Mr. Gaffney explained that CalACT is a statewide, non-profit organization that represents the interests of small, rural and specialized transportation agencies and described their bi-annual conferences. He then went on to describe a few of the sessions he attended. Mr. Gaffney then proposed having presentations on various topics that were presented at future meetings.
- b) ACA Recruitment – Mr. Gaffney explained that in the past, ACA committee recruitment was mainly conducted through advertisements in the Riders Guide, the Golden Gate Gazette, and by word of mouth to other bay area

organizations. Marcela Vargas offered to assist with recruitment. She also suggested that recruitment notices should be placed at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal and San Francisco Ferry Terminal..

4. Marin Transit-Related Items / Paratransit Report

- a) Marin County Local Bus and Mobility Management – Joanna Huitt discussed a pilot project that Marin Transit offered that provided free fixed route transit to seniors and individuals with disabilities. She stated that the program ran from October 2021 to March 2022. She also discussed Marin Transit’s Low Income Fare Assistance Program.

Ms. Huitt then described the Marin Access Incubator Program. She explained that this grant program is focused on making transportation opportunities available for seniors and individuals with disabilities in the West Marin area. Marin Transit was seeking applications for funding from various organizations in the community.

- b) Paratransit Service (Regional and Local) – Ms. Huitt announced that the Marin Access Paratransit contract had transitioned between operators from Vivalon to Transdev last February. She explained that the new contractor is operating out of a new facility owned by Marin Transit in San Rafael, as well as two parking facilities owned by the District in San Rafael and Novato.

Mr. Gaffney presented ridership and on-time performance statistics for the paratransit service.

5. GGBHTD Related Items

- a) COVID-19 Continued Response – Mr. Gaffney announced that masks were no longer required onboard GGBHTD buses or ferries.
- b) Alternative Ferry Service – Mr. Gaffney described an ongoing situation involving the Larkspur Ferry service at the San Francisco Ferry Terminal. He explained that, due to mechanical issues outside of the District’s control, the Ferry Division cannot service Gate A at this time, and has moved its operations to Gate B. Mr. Gaffney explained that the configuration of Gate B in San Francisco requires passengers to disembark from a different deck

than that which they board. Therefore, passengers who cannot access the internal stairs on our vessels cannot complete a trip onboard the Larkspur Ferry service when high-speed catamarans, which have no elevators, are in use.

To ensure that individuals who need to travel from Larkspur to San Francisco can continue to do so, the District contracted with Vivalon to provide an emergency backup service for individuals who cannot traverse the stairs. That service consists of vehicles that will transport these individuals between the ferry terminals without need for advance reservation. This service is in effect seven days a week during Larkspur Ferry service hours of operation. This service is temporary and will only remain in place until repairs can be made to Gate A in San Francisco.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 21st, 2022. That meeting was later canceled and October 20, 2022 was announced as the next meeting.



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