

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Minutes of Meeting of Monday, April 4, 2024

FPAC Members Present: Carlin Long, Erik Selvig, Chris Snell, Michael Stryker

FPAC Members Not Present: Jordan Jaffe, Chuck Hornbrook

Guests Present: Zachary Adami, Port of San Francisco; David Dick, Jacobs Solutions

Staff Present: Collette Martinez, Manager of Ferry Operations; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner

A. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call. A roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2024. Minutes were reviewed and approved with no edits.

D. Other Business

1. Larkspur Ferry Service Expansion and Parking Project Presentation.

David Dick, consultant from Jacobs Solutions, presented an update, beginning with a general status overview, then discussing ferry ridership growth from pre-COVID to the present. The Larkspur Expansion Project updates were brought to the District Board in December 2023. The Project will not go straight into construction when complete, but rather is focused on permitting and approval of service expansion and facility design. Wake wash analysis was discussed, as was the October 2023 Board action to move to an all-catamaran fleet, which will produce less wake wash when compared to monohull Spaulding vessels. Michael Stryker requested studying if crossings could be sped up to operate shorter headways. The committee made a motion to approve this idea and all were in favor. State housing requirements were discussed and the committee was told they were incorporated into the TAM ridership model which was utilized. Baseline pre-COVID ridership is expected to return by 2032-33. Parking options at the main lot and the north lot were presented. An alternative will be selected possibly by the summer and a report issued in 2026 after preliminary design approval.

2. Operational Issues

- a. Ridership Updates - Ridership by Time of Day and Route Summary. Josh Widmann reported ridership for January, stating overall ridership is up 48 percent compared with 2023. Tiburon increased 12 percent, Sausalito 17 percent, Larkspur 67 percent, and Angel Island 64 percent. It was noted that January 2023 received three inches more rain than January 2024 resulting in higher ridership in 2024. February ridership was up 19 percent overall compared with 2023. It was noted February 2024 contained 29 days.

Josh Widmann reported on ridership by time of day, day of week, and average per trip, providing a snapshot for February 2024. Larkspur experienced higher patronage on a.m. weekday commute trips when compared to p.m. trips. Like other routes, Saturday ridership was higher than Sundays. Sausalito experienced a higher p.m. peak ridership than a.m. peak, due to more tourist travel in the afternoon. Saturday Sausalito ridership is almost double that of Sunday. Tiburon a.m. commute ridership is slightly higher than p.m. ridership and Tiburon weekend ridership in general is lower than weekday ridership. Josh Widmann discussed day of week trends, noting that Angel Island service picks up throughout the week starting around Wednesday, increasing daily through Saturday. Larkspur ridership is the highest on Tuesdays and some Saturdays are also good ridership days. Sausalito experiences good ridership on Tuesday, but higher ridership on Thursday and Friday, and peaking on Saturday.

- b. Service Updates. New ferry schedules take effect April 8, including 25 departure and arrival time changes as well as six new trips. Collette Martinez noted that major changes occur twice a year to align with MTC regional coordination guidelines. In May, a Tiburon Ferry survey will take place to determine which departure time changes would work best.

3. Updates and Other Items

- a. Vessel Updates. Collette Martinez provided updates on the M.V. *Del Norte*, which will be in San Diego until June. When it returns the M.V. *Mendocino* will be sent out for work. The M.S. *Marin* is at Bay Ship & Yacht but will be in service in May, at which time another Spaulding vessel will go out for work. The new-build vessel package will result in a shipyard selection in December 2024, with construction in 2025, and is anticipated to take 18 to 24 months.
- b. Terminal Updates. Larkspur berth 1 ramp work is finished and now ready for use again. Vessel parking adjacent to San Quentin was discussed and FPAC was told that once the District has a fleet of eight vessels, they will pursue this option in the future.
- c. Return to Office Timeline Discussion. No major updates were reported.

E. Committee Business

1. FPAC Initiatives.

- a. Sonoma-Marin Bike Share. Mr. Widmann reported that Drop Mobility has introduced a variety of branding logos for discussion for participating agencies. Site review at Larkspur Ferry Terminal for the bike rack installation will occur in the coming weeks.

2. Membership Recruitment.

- a. Updates on Recent Outreach. Two prospective members attended in February but did not return for the April meeting. They may elect to continue to seek membership by attending two meetings in a row.

F. Public Comments

No comments were received in advance of the FPAC meeting or in person at the FPAC meeting.

G. Adjournment. Next Meeting: June 6, 2024. The committee agreed to reconvene on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.