

BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Convene at 5:30 p.m. – Adjourn by 7:30 p.m.

Meeting will be held via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94565242998?pwd=MVRGOGNjMFBndHliMW1JRkM2N0swZz09>

Call-in number: 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 945 6524 2998

Passcode: 654326



Chairperson: Scott Kempf

Vice Chairperson: Brian Bailey-Gates

Members: Win Archibald, Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Fredi Bloom, Jon Horinek, Scott Kempf, Valeria Sasser, Dave Troup, Arthur Young

1. Roll Call and Staff Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Approval of November 18, 2020, Meeting Minutes (2 minutes) (*Attached*)
3. Bus Stoppers¹ (10 minutes)
4. Outstanding Business (20 minutes)
 - a. COVID-19 Response Update
 - b. COVID-19 Financial Impact Update
5. New Business (30 minutes)
 - a. San Rafael Transit Center – Relocation Review and Preliminary Design
6. Review of Events and Announcements (2 minutes)
7. Members' Forum² (10 minutes)
8. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: March 17, 2021

¹ Members to submit observed problems in bus operations, preferably in writing before the meeting, and provide a verbal summary in less than 2 minutes.

² Members to discuss topics not covered on the agenda or that should be added to a future agenda.

BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Committee Members Present: Win Archibald, Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Fredi Bloom, Jon Horinek, Scott Kempf, Valeria Sasser, Dave Troup

Committee Member Absent: Arthur Young

District Staff Present: Mona Babauta, Deputy General Manager, Bus Division; David Davenport, Senior Planner; Carolyn Derwing, Supervising Scheduler and Data Analyst

Guests Present: Mohamed Osman, Marin Transit; David Herrera; Robert Payne; Jim Petersen, David Pilpel; Shane Weinstein

1. **Roll Call:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 6:23 p.m. Eight members were present, representing a quorum.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the September 16, 2020, meeting minutes.
3. **Bus Stoppers:** None.
4. **Outstanding Business:**
 - a. San Rafael Transit Center Update: David Davenport reported that a Zoom-based community meeting is scheduled for the following evening at 5:30 p.m. Three design alternatives will be discussed, and a survey has been posted on the District's project website. The draft environmental impact report should be released in the first quarter of 2021. Dan Bell asked if the alternatives consider bus operations, and Mr. Davenport affirmed that all are technically feasible. Mr. Bell asked if uses within the Whistlestop building would remain, and Mr. Davenport reported that Whistlestop—now known as Vivalon—plans to relocate to the old PG&E site on Lindaro Street. Jon Horinek expressed dislike for the Under the Freeway alternative. Dave Troup asked if the City of San Rafael is a stakeholder in the project, and Mr. Davenport clarified that the city is a stakeholder but does not have final say because it is a District project. Mr. Troup asked if the existing transit center might be sufficient, and Mr. Davenport indicated that keeping the existing facility is being analyzed as the no-build alternative. Mr. Troup expressed appreciation for how the survey was prepared and expressed dislike for the Under the Freeway alternative. Mr. Kempf asked if the ATU has a preferred alternative, and Shane Weinstein responded that drivers would not support the Under the Freeway alternative.
 - b. Clipper START Means-Based Fare Program Update: Mr. Davenport reminded the committee that the District's means-based fare program began July 15. Subsequent to this date, the Metropolitan Transportation Committee opened the program to additional transit agencies. Marin Transit decided to join the program and will offer a 50% discount starting



November 23. GGT will extend its current 50% discount to include Marin local fares at this time because GGT matches Marin Transit's fares. Mr. Davenport added that SMART will join the program on November 23 and offer 50% discounts too. Sonoma County transit systems will join the program as well, and their discount will be 20% once fare collection resumes.

- c. MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force Update: Mr. Davenport reported that a Transformation Action Plan will be developed over the next few months. Scoping has been completed, and a review of equity goals has started. It is anticipated that the action plan will help guide transit agencies through the recovery from COVID. He added that the Blue Ribbon Task Force will meet again on December 12.

5. New Business:

- a. December 2020 Service Changes: Mr. Davenport informed the committee of service changes scheduled to take effect December 13. Routes 4 and 18 will be suspended, and Route 27 will be modified to run between San Rafael and San Francisco only with stops added at bus pads and Manzanita. Service will be reduced on Routes 30, 40, and 70, and Route 70 will provide coverage in Sausalito during hours that Route 30 is cut back. In addition, Route 101 will begin stopping at Spencer Bus Pad. Mr. Bell asked if stop changes in San Francisco would occur, and Mr. Davenport stated that Financial District stops would change and signage would be updated accordingly. Val Sasser asked about ridership, and Mr. Davenport reported that it is down 80%. Brian Bailey-Gates asked if there would be any GGT service to Ross Valley after these changes, and Mr. Davenport confirmed that there would not be. Carolyn Derwing noted that the District would begin operating Marin Transit Route 71 on December 13. Mohamed Osman updated the committee on other Marin Transit service changes, including the expansion of Route 171. Mr. Kempf asked about Marin Transit ridership, and Mr. Osman said it is at about 65% of normal.
- b. COVID-19 Financial Impacts: Mr. Davenport reported that the District started the fiscal year on July 1 with a \$98 million deficit. Through CARES Act funding and other savings, the deficit was reduced to \$48 million. The District's \$26 million reserve will be spent this fiscal year, and a deficit is anticipated for next fiscal year. Due to a lack of movement on additional stimulus at the federal level, the Board voted on November 13 to lay off 205 positions, including 146 filled and 59 vacant positions, effective January 4. The layoffs could be averted by action at the federal level or if District staff and the unions can devise a new plan. Mona Babauta reported that the number of driver layoffs is expected to be less than 88 now that some retirements have been announced. Mr. Horinek asked if most transit funding comes from bridge tolls, and Mr. Davenport confirmed that it is the primary means. He added that fares help round out the numbers, along with grants and other revenue sources. Bridge traffic is down 30%, so after accounting for bridge operations expenses, much less money than usual is available to fund the District's bus and ferry services. Ms. Sasser asked if federal stimulus action would pause layoff plans, and Mr. Davenport expressed hope that it would be possible. However, no federal action has been taken so far. He noted that the layoffs include a severance package, so even if action is taken after January 4, it may be possible to avert significant impacts to people who are laid off.

- c. BPAC Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Election: Mr. Kempf opened the annual election of chairperson and vice chairperson for the committee. Mr. Davenport explained that the election occurs every November for a one-year term, and no term limits exist. The chair runs the meetings and consults with staff on the agenda as needed, and the vice chair is involved with both tasks as needed. The committee voted unanimously for Mr. Kempf and Mr. Bailey-Gates to serve another term as chair and vice chair, respectively.
6. **Review of Events and Announcements:** Two announcements were made:
 - a. Mr. Osman announced that Marin Transit will provide free rides from October 31 through November 3 for Election Day.
 - b. Mr. Davenport requested input from committee members on the 2021 meeting calendar. Mr. Troup suggested that meetings start earlier while being held via Zoom, and the committee agreed and voted to start meetings at 5:30 p.m. The committee also agreed to move the September meeting to September 1 to avoid holiday conflicts.
 7. **Members' Forum:** Mr. Bell asked the committee if it should make a motion to support a particular alternative for the San Rafael Transit Center replacement project. BPAC members agreed, and Mr. Kempf requested that a discussion be placed on the agenda for January.
 8. **Public Comment:** Three public comments were made:
 - a. David Pilpel supported the move to discuss the San Rafael Transit Center at a future meeting. He expressed a desire to bring back bus service sooner rather than later, even at a limited level, so transit can remain relevant moving forward. He also supported restoring service in a thoughtful manner so that routes can be rationalized.
 - b. Mr. Weinstein expressed appreciation for the District's bus riders and looked forward to building a stronger bond with them and BPAC as we emerge from the pandemic. He supported restoring service in areas that had been ghosted by the suspension of service, and wants GGT buses to remain visible within the community.
 - c. David Herrera thanked committee members for their work. He also expressed concerns about Route 27 in light of social distancing limitations. Mr. Davenport responded that District staff will be monitoring ridership on a regular basis and back-up service will be scheduled if necessary. Ms. Derwing noted that social distancing requirements may change over time, and Mr. Davenport added that the District will be looking to county health orders for direction on appropriate capacity limits.
 9. **Adjournment:** Mr. Kempf adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting will take place Wednesday, January 20, 2021, starting at 5:30 p.m.