

BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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

Meeting will be held via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/95885719294?pwd=TnpiQVJlUzI1VWZqaTdMU2lFaUEwUT09>

Call-in number: 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 958 8571 9294

Passcode: 931829



1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. Approval of January 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes (*Attached*)
3. Bus Stoppers¹
4. Ongoing Business (10 minutes)
 - a. COVID-19 Update
5. New Business (40 minutes)
 - a. March 2021 Service Changes
 - b. San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Discussion
 - c. Bay Area Council Survey of Employees
 - d. COVID-19 Recovery Service Planning
6. Announcements
7. Members' Forum²
8. Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: May 19, 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, January 20, 2021



Committee Members Present: Win Archibald, Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Scott Kempf, Dave Troup, Arthur Young

Committee Members Absent: Fredi Bloom, Jon Horinek, Valeria Sasser

District Staff Present: David Davenport, Senior Planner; Carolyn Derwing, Supervising Scheduler and Data Analyst; Hitham Hamdon, Acting Superintendent of Operations; Carlena Natouf, Customer Relations Supervisor; Krystalyn O’Leary, Acting Director of Operations; Raymond Santiago, Principal Planner

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

1. **Roll Call:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 5:40 p.m. Five members were present, representing a quorum, and a sixth member joined later.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the November 18, 2020, meeting minutes.
3. **Bus Stoppers:** Dan Bell submitted one bus stopper, which he agreed to defer to the discussion of item 5a.
4. **Outstanding Business:**
 - a. COVID-19 Response Update: David Davenport reported that the District continues to clean and disinfect its facilities and enforce social distancing requirements on board buses. Back-up bus service is being provided where needed and is adjusted weekly to meet demand. Hi Hamdon indicated that on-site COVID-19 testing for employees is now available. Mr. Kempf asked about the District’s infection rate and Mr. Davenport stated that it is below average. Mr. Kempf also asked if front-line transit workers will be vaccinated, and Mr. Davenport indicated that the District continues to advocate for it.
 - b. COVID-19 Financial Impact Update: Mr. Davenport updated the committee on the District’s improved financial condition, which prevented employee layoffs over the holidays. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act will provide \$975 million to Bay Area transit agencies in two tranches. The District will qualify for both tranches; the first will make the District whole through 2020 and the second will provide additional funding in 2021. President Biden has proposed the American Rescue Plan, which would provide additional emergency transit funding. Mr. Kempf asked about the current state of GGT ridership, and Mr. Davenport reported that it fell considerably over the holidays due to stricter shelter-in-place orders and is just now starting to improve again.

5. New Business:

- a. San Rafael Transit Center – Relocation Review and Preliminary Design: Ray Santiago gave a presentation outlining the San Rafael Transit Center replacement project, including the required environmental review, as well as preliminary design aspects. The replacement project focuses on three options, and a preferred alternative will be identified through the environmental review process. Arthur Young asked if a two-level design is under consideration, and Mr. Santiago indicated that it was eliminated as part of the preliminary analysis. Mr. Bell observed that the three options under consideration have potential issues and asked if the current transit center could be kept and extended west across Tamalpais Avenue. Mr. Santiago said this concept was eliminated twice during the preliminary analysis. Mr. Young suggested enlisting the assistance of design school students for an outside perspective and recommended the use of durable anti-graffiti materials. Mr. Kempf expressed concerns about the design of bus bays in the under-the-freeway option, and Dave Troup suggested that the under-the-freeway option lacks broad appeal. Mr. Troup asked who would chose the preferred alternative, and Mr. Santiago indicated that the District would because it is the facility owner. Mr. Kempf recommended that the committee defer taking a formal position on the options until the next meeting. Mr. Davenport asked Mr. Santiago for clarification on the project timeline, and based on his input, the committee agreed to discuss the topic in March and take action in March or May as appropriate.

- 6. Review of Events and Announcements:** Mohamed Osman announced that Marin Transit implemented service changes in December, including the creation of Route 71 to mitigate potential passenger pass-ups.

- 7. Members' Forum:** Mr. Young asked if there is a methodology behind roping off seats on buses, and Mr. Hamdon said yes and indicated that the first two rows of seats are closed and then remaining rows have staggered closures.

8. Public Comment: Three public comments were made:

- a. David Pilpel noted that federal funding only covers transit losses and not toll losses, and he expressed concern that future funding issues remain. He expressed concern about the lack of extensive bus service and hopes for a service restoration plan so transit stays relevant post-pandemic.
- b. Jim Petersen expressed concerns about the lack of marked crosswalks at San Rafael Transit Center. Mr. Davenport said he would pass on the concerns to the appropriate District staff member for follow up.
- c. David Herrera asked what the committee thinks is necessary for people to ride the bus again. Mr. Kempf said his workplace will not to reopen soon, but a new administration and more vaccinations may help. He suggested that increased traffic and faster transit would be an influence. Brian Bailey-Gates said his employer is not eager to reopen until vaccinated, but his wife is an essential worker and may be vaccinated next month.

- 9. Adjournment:** Mr. Kempf adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting will take place Wednesday, March 17, 2021.