

# BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

## *Agenda for Wednesday, May 19, 2021*

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

Meeting will be held via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/96659079483?pwd=Rh1dUxlbXRXQ2tQNzRXcTJrcnRQdz09>

Call-in number: 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 966 5907 9483

Passcode: 071813



1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. Approval of March 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes (*Attached*)
3. Bus Stoppers<sup>1</sup>
4. Ongoing Business (10 minutes)
  - a. COVID-19 Update
5. New Business (40 minutes)
  - a. June 2021 Service Changes
  - b. San Rafael Transit Center Relocation – BPAC Preferred Alternative
  - c. Emerging Bay Area Transit Coordination and Integration Efforts
6. Announcements
7. Members' Forum<sup>2</sup>
8. Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 1, 2021

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

<sup>2</sup> 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, March 17, 2021***

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

**Committee Member Absent:** Fredi Bloom, Arthur Young

**District Staff Present:** David Davenport, Senior Planner; Carolyn Derwing, Supervising Scheduler and Data Analyst; Hitham Hamdon, Acting Superintendent of Transportation Operations

**Guests Present:** Mohamed Osman, Marin Transit; David Pilpel; Shane Weinstein

1. **Roll Call:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 5:37 p.m. Seven members were present, representing a quorum.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the January 20, 2021, meeting minutes.
3. **Bus Stoppers:** Dave Troup asked if the Transit Guide could be posted online since it is not available in person. David Davenport reported that the PDF version of the Transit Guide is posted in the schedules section of the District's website, and starting with the March signup, paper copies will once again be available on board buses.
4. **Outstanding Business:**
  - a. COVID-19 Update: Mr. Davenport reported that cleaning and social distancing protocols remain in place at District offices and terminals, as well as on board buses and ferry vessels. On-site weekly COVID-19 self-testing remains available to employees. In addition, a drive-up vaccination site is located at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Vaccinations are now available to all transit workers who wish to receive them.
5. **New Business:**
  - a. March 2021 Service Changes: Mr. Davenport informed the committee of service changes scheduled to take effect March 14, 2021. Route 30 will have minor schedule changes. The northbound timepoint at the Golden Gate Bridge will be removed from Routes 30, 70, and 101. Also, the northbound detour for Route 101 in SOMA will be made official.
  - b. San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Discussion: Mr. Davenport shared the current project timeline, which includes a presentation to the District's Transportation Committee on March 25 and the San Rafael City Council on April 19, 2021. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be released in June, with community outreach scheduled for the summer and adoption of the Final EIR set for later in the summer or early fall.



Mr. Kempf remarked that BPAC did not support the Under the Freeway alternative. Val Sasser and Dan Bell agreed. Mr. Bell asked if a letter from BPAC could be included in the Draft EIR, and Mr. Davenport answered that it could be submitted for consideration in the EIR process. Mr. Bell also expressed concern about the Fourth Street Gateway alternative, and he expressed a preference for the Whistlestop Block alternative with a new or relocated building. Mr. Kempf asked for a motion to reject the Under the Freeway alternative and draft a letter for review and vote at the May BPAC meeting. Mr. Bell suggested that more specificity be provided due to concerns about pedestrian safety with the Fourth Street Gateway alternative. Committee members agreed to discuss position details at the May meeting to determine if a unanimous consensus for one alternative could be reached.

- c. Bay Area Council Survey of Employees: Mr. Davenport reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) recently enlisted EMC Research to conduct 11 focus groups of Bay Area transit riders and employers of various sizes to determine when employees would likely return to work. Both choice and dependent transit riders were surveyed, including a Spanish-speaking group. Focus groups were held in January 2021, and findings will help develop the region's Return-to-Transit Project as part of the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The Task Force's next efforts include a comprehensive research review and outreach to community-based groups that serve transit-dependent riders. Mr. Bell asked about the District's role in these efforts, and Mr. Davenport replied that the District is participating in the Blue Ribbon Task Force and would do its own outreach to bus and ferry riders.
- d. COVID-19 Recovery Service Planning: Mr. Davenport reported that District staff expects a measured return of ridership to levels lower than pre-pandemic. New trips will be added first, then new routes if demand warrants them. Carolyn Derwing remarked that lifting the current capacity restrictions would help bolster ridership. Brian Bailey-Gates remarked that some of his friends anticipate office consolidations, and he does not expect his office to reopen until after summer. Mr. Troup asked if capacity data can be shared to assist riders, and Mr. Davenport will follow up to see if the information is available. Mr. Bell inquired about the federal funding received by the District. Mr. Davenport reported that two tranches were received from the CARES Act, plus two tranches from the CSSRA Act. Additional funding will be forthcoming from the American Recovery Plan.

## **6. Review of Events and Announcements:**

- a. Mr. Bell and Mr. Davenport announced that the general managers of Golden Gate Transit and Marin Transit would speak at Marin Coalition's "Challenges and Opportunities for Public Transit Post-COVID" Zoom webinar, which was scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.
- b. Mohamed Osman reported that Marin Transit is following the same cleaning and social distancing protocols as GGT. They also made service adjustments for school service, and recently presented various future service scenarios to their Board of Directors.

7. **Members' Forum:** Win Archibald asked about a Marin Transit bus she saw at Target in Petaluma. Mr. Osman explained that the bus was likely for paratransit; both Marin Transit and GGT operate the service using Marin Access branded vehicles.
8. **Public Comment:** Two public comments were made:
  - a. Shane Weinstein expressed optimism that transit riders will return and that increased traffic will encourage transit ridership. He stated that the bus drivers' union is interested in improving the HOV lanes in Marin County. He does not support relocating the San Rafael Transit Center under the freeway. He was encouraged to report that the vaccination rate of drivers is high. Mr. Weinstein remarked that the District will receive more funding than it lost during the pandemic. Lastly, he expressed concern that Sonoma County transit operators had complained that GGT received too much federal stimulus funding.
  - b. David Pilpel suggested that the committee consider future agenda items, including regional coordination matters like fare integration and a network manager, Sonoma County's transit integration effort, a zero-emissions bus update, and shared bus facilities in San Francisco. He also encouraged BPAC members to attend Board meetings. Mr. Kempf asked for coordination effort and zero-emission bus items to be put on the agenda. Mr. Davenport agreed; however, he noted that a zero-emission bus update might need to be deferred to later in the year.
9. **Adjournment:** Mr. Kempf adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, starting at 5:30 p.m.