

Draft Staff Report

Subject: Remote Participation Rules

Recommendation: Approve Remote Participation Rules

Discussion:

The Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code section 54950 et seq. ("Brown Act"), requires, with limited statutory exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate.

The Passenger Advisory Committees (Bus Passengers Advisory Committee, Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on Accessibility, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee) created by the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District ("District") are subject to the Brown Act.

The Brown Act has been modified through a series of executive orders and legislative actions over the past several years, including but not limited to Assembly Bill 361 and Assembly Bill 2449. These changes were initially adopted to address pandemic-related needs for remote meetings and were later refined to provide more permanent pathways for remote participation.

Most recently, on October 3, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 707 into law. Senate Bill 707 amended the Brown Act to expand the circumstances under which members of certain types of legislative bodies called "eligible subsidiary bodies" may participate remotely in public meetings. The Passenger Advisory Committees are eligible subsidiary bodies.

On April 24, 2026, the Board authorized the Passenger Advisory Committees to approve the use of these new remote participation rules, which are attached to this report ("Remote Participation Rules"). District staff is presenting these Remote Participation Rules to each Passenger Advisory Committee for consideration. If a Passenger Advisory Committee votes to approve the use of the Remote Participation Rules, the members of that Passenger Advisory Committee may participate remotely in accordance with the Brown Act and Remote Participation Rules.

The Board's authorization is time-limited and must be renewed at least once every six months in order to remain effective. Passenger Advisory Committees that approve the use of the Remote Participation Rules may continue to use such rules as long as the Board's authorization remains in effect and is timely renewed.