

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, February 6, 2025



FPAC Members Present: Chuck Hornbrook, Jordan Jaffe, Carlin Long, Nathan Lozier, Erik Selvig, Michael Stryker

Guests Present: Emily Betts, Planning Manager, SMART (remote presentation)

Staff Present: Joshua Cosgrove, Ferry Maritime Program Manager; Collette Martinez, Manager, Ferry Operations; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner

A. Call to Order. Chair Chuck Hornbrook called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call. A roll call was taken and a quorum was recognized at 12:10 p.m.

C. Election of 2025 Officers. At 12:12 p.m. the committee elected Chuck Hornbrook as Chair and Jordan Jaffe as Vice Chair. Michael Stryker introduced the motion and Erik Selvig seconded the motion. All were in favor.

D. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2024. Members reviewed and approved the minutes with no edits. Michael Stryker wished to re-emphasize his request for a faster allowable speed for catamarans in the Corte Madera Channel. He was told the catamarans are currently making 35-minute crossings and any faster speeds would result in more engine wear and tear.

E. New Updates

1. SMART Topics Discussion. SMART Planning Manager Emily Betts attended remotely via Teams to discuss SMART and Larkspur Ferry coordination. Due to the single tracking limitations, SMART can only operate at 32-minute headways. SMART is focusing on key peak directions and key connections as a result of this limitation. The Larkspur Ferry to Larkspur SMART connection pathway signage improvement plan is currently underway with the regional MTC agency, which is leading the planning efforts for improvements. The SMART Connect shuttle is an option for select trips. Any changes to the Larkspur SMART and Ferry transfer window connection will result in schedule changes at other SMART stations, affecting the timing with work and school start times and end times, for example.

2. Operational Issues

a. **Ridership Updates.** Josh Widmann reported ridership statistics for October, November, and December 2024. In total October ridership was up 19 percent compared to 2023, with Larkspur up 23 percent and Sausalito up 8.5 percent. Tiburon ridership increased year-over-year 46 percent, due to the Art and Wine festival. November total system ridership increased 0.5 percent compared to 2023. December total system ridership increased 15 p 2percent

compared to 2023. Chuck Hornbrook requested trip-level analysis. Jordan Jaffe requested day-of-week analysis.

- b. Service Updates. New schedules began January 13, 2025, and Larkspur is carrying more riders despite the elimination of three weekday round trips. Riders have been able to utilize alternate adjacent trips.

3. Updates and Other Items

- a. Vessel Updates. The M.V. *Mendocino* returned December 29, after being out of the active fleet since June 2024. The M.S. *Sonoma* has been out for routine maintenance since January 7 in Alameda, with a likely return by April 4. Collette Martinez reported that the new build vessel contract will be awarded in five months.
- b. Terminal Updates. The San Francisco outer berth work has begun and once finished, the inner berth work will begin. Sausalito landside improvements will finish on February 15.
- c. Return to Office Timeline Discussion. This item was skipped due to time constraints.

F. Committee Business

1. FPAC Initiatives

- a. Larkspur Ferry Service and Parking Expansion Study. The environmental analysis work is underway and there will be no updates to report until closer to the end of the year.
- b. Sonoma-Marin Bike Share. Josh Widmann informed FPAC that there are now two bike racks for Redwood Bikeshare at Larkspur Ferry Terminal.
- c. 2025 Meeting Schedule and Discussion Topics. The committee agreed to modify the FPAC meeting time to 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

2. Membership Recruitment.

No prospective members were in attendance.

G. Public Comments

There were no public comments. Josh Widmann mentioned that there is a public comment period for a No-Cost or Reduced Cost Interagency Transfer Pilot Program, as well as the Proposed Increase in Larkspur to San Francisco Special Event Ferry Fares. Public comments can be submitted to publichearing@goldengate.org through February 28, 2025 by 4:30 p.m.

- H. Adjournment.** The committee agreed to reconvene on Thursday, April 3, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Port of San Francisco.