

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Meeting of Monday, August 14, 2023



FPAC Members Present: Chuck Hornbrook, Jordan Jaffe,

Guests Present: Bert Hill, GGBHTD Board of Directors; Carlin Long, prospective member; Christopher Snell, prospective member; Anita Yao, Port of San Francisco

Staff Present: John Gray; Michael Hoffman, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division; Collette Martinez, Manager of Ferry Operations; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2023.** Minutes were reviewed and approved with no edits.
2. **Operational Issues**
 - A. **Ridership Updates.** Josh Widmann reported weekday ridership for all routes are averaging 4,000 unlinked daily passenger trips in April, rising to 6,500 in July. Larkspur average weekday ridership was around 3,000 unlinked passenger trips during the mid-week currently. Sausalito service was carrying around 1,500 riders per day in April and now in July around 2,500 to 3,000. Tiburon has been averaging up to 400 unlinked passenger trips and now 500 in July. Unlinked daily passenger trips for Angel Island are upwards of 1,000 on sunny days. Overall ferry total ridership is approximately at 50 to 60 percent of normal, pre-Covid levels.
 - B. **Service Updates.** The ferry schedules changed August 14, the day the FPAC meeting took place, with just one trip moving in the morning for Larkspur from 7:15 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. Chuck Hornbrook noted Tiburon users paid at tag-off today on the 9:30 a.m. trip. Chuck Hornbrook also noted earlier schedules would be convenient for those working at UCSF starting the 7:00 a.m. shift. Collette Martinez noted that only two major schedule changes per year will be taking place to line up with MTC regional schedule coordination efforts amongst the different operators in the Bay Area. These will occur January and mid-August.
3. **New Build Ferry Presentation by John Gray.** Director of Engineering and Maintenance John Gray presented on the upcoming new build ferry vessel project. This project will provide an eighth boat to the fleet. This vessel will allow existing schedules to be met, will be integrated into existing terminals and facilities, will be accessible to all, and accommodate bicycles. The vessel will be the first high speed vessel in North America to include an accessibility lift. The vessel will contain six engines and will be able to operate at 36 knots. Construction is expected to begin early summer 2024 and will be delivered to the fleet approximately 12 to 18 months later.

4. Updates and Other Items

- A. Vessel Updates. Collette Martinez reported that the M.V. *Golden Gate* is on its way back to the active fleet. When it is received the M.V. *Napa* will be sent out for maintenance.
- B. Terminal Updates. At the last meeting it was reported that more service would be relocated to the inner berth (“C”). An update on the outer berth (“D”) was requested and the committee was told that the emergency funds went in to repairing Berth C and the normal funding route will be used to fund the Berth D.
- C. Return to Office Timeline Discussion. Chuck Hornbrook relayed that an attorney acquaintance from the ferry stated in the fall that their office will require four days a week in-person attendance. Carlin Long stated no announcements had been made from UCSF. Christopher Snell stated he had heard Palo Alto law firms will be mandating five days a week in the fall. Chuck Hornbrook noted that paying for parking three days per week is the pain point upper limit, after which taking transit becomes more attractive for commuters. Joshua Widmann reported some Bay Area Council statistics from May 2023. Seventy-seven percent stated their workplaces were operating at a new normal for days per week commuting. Seven percent stated in seven to 11 months their workplaces would be back to normal. Only twenty six percent stated the 5 day a week commute would return by November 2023.

5. Committee Business

A. FPAC Initiatives.

- a. Larkspur 42 Crossings/Parking Needs Environmental Review. Josh Widmann reported Larkspur Ferry Terminal parking lot soil boring tests began in early August but had no other updates to share.
- b. Sonoma-Marin Bike Share. Mr. Widmann reminded the committee that the prior vendor Bolt Bikes was in violation of the contract back in the fall of 2022. The RFP submittal period for a new vendor closes today, August 14. The question period closed on July 13 with 14 comments received.

B. Membership Recruitment & New Member Vote.

- a. Updates on Recent Outreach. Mr. Widmann reported an additional email marketing notice soliciting applications was sent to subscribers. Recruitment flyers have been posted at terminals and aboard vessels.
- b. Prospective Member Introductions. The two prospective members returned. The committee was reminded that Chris Snell resides in San Rafael and bikes to the Larkspur ferry three days per week for a job in Rincon Hill. Carlin Long bikes to the Sausalito ferry for employment in Mission Bay. Both prospective members decided to join the committee, and as per Robert’s Rules of Order, which grants membership after attendance of two meetings in a row.

6. Member/Visitor Comments

No comments were received.

- 7. **Next Meeting: November 30, 2023.** The committee agreed to reconvene on November 30, 2023 from 11:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. This meeting will occur on a Thursday instead of the normal Monday due to the shift in commute patterns. [This meeting was later cancelled.]