

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Meeting of Monday, August 8, 2022



FPAC Members Present:

Jordan Jaffe, Maryline Lewett, Michael Stryker, Jaime Taylor, Bardha Varfaj

Guests Present:

Dan Bell, Member of Public; Bert Hill, Board of Directors; Jim Mastin, Board of Directors, David Pilpel, Member of Public

Staff Present:

Michael Hoffman, Director of Engineering and Maintenance; Collette Martinez, Manager of Ferry Operations; Carlena Natouf, Supervisor of Customer Relations; Josh Widmann, Planning Department; Glenn Williams, Director of Ferry Operations

1. Approval of Summary of Meeting of June 13, 2022. Minutes were approved.

2. Operational Issues

- A. **Ridership Updates.** Josh Widmann reported recent ferry ridership, showing trendlines. Weekday ridership is close to 4,000 unlinked daily passenger trips with some weekends upwards of 5,000 – 6,000 depending on weather. Larkspur weekday ridership is just under 2,000 unlinked passenger trips while weekend ridership approaches approximately 1,000 unlinked daily passenger trips. Sausalito service has been carrying around 1,200 unlinked passenger trips and up to 2,500 unlinked passenger trips on weekend days. Maryline Lewett suggested using smaller electric vessels for the low passenger trips in the future. Michael Stryker noted the differences in deficit per passenger from 2019 to 2022, which is the deficit when fare paid is subtracted out of operating cost.
- B. **Service Updates.** Collette Martinez discussed upcoming ferry service changes starting September 26, including the additional 6:30 p.m. departure run as well as the early morning “stockbroker bus” leaving Larkspur Ferry Terminal (LFT) at 5:30 a.m. The new ferry schedule changes will also be better aligned with SMART train service with the addition of two extra ferry commute trips. Muir Woods shuttle service, connecting LFT to Muir Woods has been extended to June 2023, with free parking on weekends.

3. Updates and Other Items

- A. **Vessel Updates.** The M.V. *Mendocino* arrived and was placed back into service July 19 and the M.V. *Napa* arrived and was placed back into service July 14. The M.S. *San Francisco* went out to the shipyard July 18 and will return late September. Michael Hoffman noted the M.S. *Sonoma* will go out for repairs October 30. Michael Hoffman stated the new-build vessel design phase contract will go to the Board in late August.
- B. **Terminal Updates.** Collette Martinez stated that the LFT paid waiting area coffee kiosk vendor did not match state and county regulations and Ferry is working with Marin Health for additional inspections for approval. Gate B in San Francisco will continue to be used while the inner berth is being repaired. Collette Martinez responded to a question from Jordan Jaffe about which routes

would eventually utilize the inner berth and was told all Larkspur service would use the inner berth and Tiburon and Sausalito a.m. commute may also utilize the inner berth. Gate B will be utilized by midday Tiburon and Sausalito as well as Angel Island.

- C. Return to Office Timeline Discussion. Maryline Lewett suggested utilizing the Bay Area Business Council as a resource for tracking how many days per week employees are currently commuting to the office. She estimated this is at best two to three days per week. Michael Stryker noted that the SFMTA has a policy to maintain 10 percent of parking spaces empty with demand-based pricing. At the moment the balance is still in favor of driving to UCSF Mission Bay. He also noted when the T-Line changes with the opening of the Central Subway, it will be more difficult to take transit to the ferry terminal, as a result of the extra transfer or long walk up to Fourth and King. Jordan Jaffe stated parking in the Financial District is back to the pre-pandemic levels of demand and is quite expensive. At Jordan Jaffe's firm, Monday and Friday are the lighter commute days. Bardha Varfaj stated her office on California Street utilizes two floors but may move to South San Francisco to consolidate with the offices down there.

4. Committee Business

A. FPAC Initiatives.

i. Larkspur 42 Crossings/Parking Needs Environmental Review. Josh Widmann stated there are no new updates to report and that the baseline travel demand calibrations continue.

ii. Sonoma-Marin Bike Share. Josh Widmann reported that the Bolt bike share company has been non-responsive with Sonoma and Marin Counties, along with the City of Richmond. There are news stories indicating the company has folded. Updates will be provided as the situation develops at the November meeting.

iii. Alternative Fuels Vessel Discussion. Michael Hoffman provided a summary of his trip to the conference at the Norwegian Consulate General's office on innovation. He provided an overview of the three different fuels, green hydrogen, blue hydrogen, and electricity. Blue hydrogen is half the cost of green hydrogen, but has some CO₂ and methane emissions. Electric powered vessels seem to be the eventual path, but at more of a longer term timeline for implementation. There is nothing near the 30 knot required range. One vessel can do 27 knots however it can only carry 150 passengers and the downtime for recharging is significant. The District has budgeted for an electrification concept. Shore-side charging may require utility upgrades. Michael Hoffman noted if the District were to utilize smaller vessels, they may have to operate twice as much service, which would be expensive, as the operating cost structure would also double, requiring twice as many on-board crews.

- B. Membership Recruitment & New Member Vote. Josh Widmann indicated there is still a wait list for FPAC. No major need for recruitment is necessary due to the waitlist and current group size.

5. Member/Visitor Comments

No comments.

6. Next Meeting: November 14, 2022.

The committee agreed to reconvene on November 14, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. using the Zoom meeting format.