

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, June 4, 2026



FPAC Members Present: Mike Ghaffary, Chuck Hornbrook, Jordan Jaffe, Nathan Lozier, Michael Stryker, Emerson Wyper

Staff Present: Chris Bearden, Director of Ferry Operations; John Gray, Director of Ferry Engineering and Maintenance; Carlena Natouf, Supervisor of Customer Relations; Katie Turner, Ferry Operations Specialist; Josh Widmann, Planner

- A. **Call to Order.** Chair Chuck Hornbrook called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
- B. **Roll Call.** The chair took roll call and recognized a quorum.
- C. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2026.** Mike Gaffary made a motion to approve and Michael Stryker seconded. All were in favor and approved the minutes at 1:06 p.m.

At this point in the meeting, the committee briefly discussed the District's new Remote Meeting Policy, in order to take a vote while all members were present.

- D. **Ferry Bike Storage Discussion.** John Gray began his bike storage presentation at 1:10 p.m. Vessel sections are being fabricated for the new Liwa class vessel, which will be 51 meters long. The new vessel will be one meter wider than the current catamarans, with seating for 500 patrons. Current seating on the Spaulding vessel class is 440. There will be bicycle storage space on the main deck and upper deck. The third top bridge deck is designated for crew use only. Mr. Gray shared that one bike rack concept is already in use on some WETA vessels and could be modified for GGF. The group discussed the various needs of bicyclists, and the pros and cons of different rack styles.

E. New Updates

1. Operational Issues

- a. Ridership Updates. Katie Turner, Ferry Operations Specialist, presented recent ridership trends. Tiburon Fridays were lower than other weekdays. Mondays were second lowest for weekday ridership. On all routes, March year-over-year ridership increased by 40 percent. April year-over-year ridership increased by 6 percent and May was estimated at 14 percent.
- b. Service Updates. There will be a four-day Angel Island service interruption during the third week of June for dock repairs. The Larkspur "Retro Route" 5:35 p.m. weekday trip is being promoted as a less crowded alternative for commuters.

2. Updates and Other Items

- a. Vessel Updates. The M.V. *Golden Gate* went out for service in March. John Gray indicated a July return. The M.V. *Napa* returned and is now in service. The M.V. *Mendocino* is

running well, as is the M.S. *Sonoma*. The M.S. *Marin* will be back in service Monday, June 8.

- b. Terminal Updates. All Larkspur berths are now operational. The outer berth work in San Francisco continues and will take several months.
- c. Return-to-Office Timeline Discussion. Chris Bearden noted that increases in ferry ridership track with return to office growth. Michael Stryker stated that there are new Marin residents who were previously unaware of the ferry commute option. This agenda item will be skipped at the September meeting.

F. Committee Business

- 1. **Remote Meeting Policy**. This item was briefly discussed prior to Item D, Ferry Bike Storage Discussion. The remote meeting policy will require remote attendees to be on both video and audio. Attendees must state the names of anyone else in the room if they are aged 18 and older. The Board will review this policy in six months. Chuck Hornbrook made a motion to approve, and Emerson Wyper seconded. All voted in favor at 1:10 p.m.

2. FPAC Initiatives

- a. Redwood Bikeshare Updates. Josh Widmann noted that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and Metropolitan Transportation Commission will be looking beyond October for future funds to keep the bikeshare pilot in operation.
- b. Clipper 2.0 Updates. Josh Widmann reported that 1.8 million Clipper cards have been migrated to Clipper 2.0. Golden Gate Transit is ranked fourth in the region for open payment use at a 15 percent market share of the region. Golden Gate Ferry is 13 percent of the region.

3. Membership Recruitment

Josh Widmann reported that there are currently no prospective members. Membership recruitment will continue.

G. Public Comments

No public comment.

H. Adjournment

The committee agreed to reconvene on Thursday, September 10, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Port of San Francisco. This meeting time will work better with the ferry schedules.