BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Location: San Rafael District Conference Room, 1011 Andersen Dr, San Rafael, CA 94901

Committee Members Present: Dan Bell, Mike Combs, Odin Palen, Patty Rodgers, Dave Troup

Committee Members Absent: Scott Kempf

District Staff Present: David Davenport, Principal Planner; Melanie Sanborn, Marketing & Communications Specialist; Francis Tremblay, Marketing & Communications Specialist

Guests Present: Shane Weinstein and David Herrera, ATU 1575

1. **Roll Call and Introductions:** Mike Combs opened the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Five members were present, representing a quorum.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the May 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

3. **Bus Stoppers:**
   a. Mike Combs reported that real-time departure information is not displaying on the signs along Van Ness Avenue. Staff will research the issue.

4. **New Business:**
   a. Proposed Amendment of Bylaws: David Davenport presented proposed revisions to the BPAC bylaws to provide consistency with other District committees. Committee members were agreeable to the revisions, which will be brought to the following meeting for formal adoption.
   b. MASCOTS Plan – Service Change Proposals: David Davenport presented proposed changes to GGT bus routes under the Marin-Sonoma Coordinated Transit Service (MASCOTS) Plan. The package includes the discontinuation of Routes 150, 164, and 172X and changes to Routes 101, 130, 132, 172, 580, and 580X. No changes to Routes 114 and 154 or the ferry are under consideration. Staff requested BPAC's feedback on the proposal, which would be shared with the Board as part of the public hearing process if provided as a formal letter or verbal comments.

      Mike Combs stated that MASCOTS could be perceived as a service cut due to the elimination of routes, especially since service is not provided under a unified brand. He observed that there is a tradeoff between losing direct service to San Francisco from various bus pads and improving service elsewhere. Dave Troup and Odin Palen emphasized the need to provide unified messaging.

      Odin Palen opined that there is too much service at bus pads and service should be provided into neighborhoods too, potentially with every other trip offset between bus pad

and neighborhood service. Dave Troup suggested that every other trip on Route 130 continue to serve bus pads to maintain direct service to San Francisco, and along with Mike Combs, he noted that it would be difficult to make a fully informed recommendation without specific Marin Transit and SMART proposals available. Patty Rodgers agreed with the need to maintain direct service to San Francisco from the bus pads.

Dan Bell expressed support for changes to Routes 172 and 580, except he did not think it was necessary to restrict San Francisco local travel on the 172. He also felt that direct service at Southern Marin bus pads was not necessarily an issue, and he was supportive of Marin Transit's preliminary proposal to extend Route 71 to Sausalito.

Mike Combs acknowledged the committee's general sense of frustration with agency-level planning and approval processes for what is a holistic public transit project. The committee voted unanimously to have Mike Combs draft a formal comment letter that reflects BPAC's concerns, with the understanding that the letter would not reflect everybody's exact feedback due to some differences of opinion.

5. **Announcements:** None.

6. **Members' Forum:**
   a. Dan Bell requested that a presentation on the District's fiscal cliff be given at a future meeting.
   b. Odin Palen shared that this would be his last meeting, and the committee thanked him for his service.

7. **Public Comment:**
   a. Shane Weinstein expressed concern about the MASCOTS Plan's reliance on SMART, which he felt would put up barriers to travel to Sonoma County and result in a late-night service gap. He noted that customers want one-seat rides and faster service.
   b. David Herrera pointed out that the District's Board has members who sit on the Boards of other public transit agencies, and he said the committee's feedback is important to the MASCOTS process.

8. **Adjournment:** Mike Combs adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting will take place on September 17, 2025. [The next meeting was subsequently rescheduled to October 15, 2025.]