

# **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

*Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 15, 2023*



**Committee Members Present:** Scott Kempf, Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Mike Combs

**Committee Members Absent:** Fredi Bloom, Jon Horinek, Dave Troup

**District Staff Present:** Jason Cave, Schedules Analyst; Jamos Yeager, Operations Control Center Manager; David Davenport, Principal Planner; Emily DelRoss, Senior Planner

**Guests Present:** Cedar Makhijani

1. **Roll Call:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 6:12 p.m. Four members were present, representing a quorum.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the January 18, 2023, meeting minutes.
3. **Bus Stoppers:**
  - a. Dan Bell and Mike Combs reported concerns over the recent increase in cancelled trips and communication of this information to customers. Staff explained that the recent uptick in cancellations is due to an increase in operator absenteeism combined with the existing operator shortage. Operations has selectively pre-scheduled trip cancellations one week in advance to minimize rider impacts. Cancelled trips do not appear in the Transit App or on real-time electronic signs. Riders wishing to see cancelled trip details can click on the "Rider Alerts" banner at the top of the District's website or sign up for service updates via email. Staff will explore posting signs about cancelled trips at transit center message boards.
  - b. Mike Combs requested the percentage of overall GGT ridership traveling locally in San Francisco. Staff reported that San Francisco local ridership constitutes 17%-18% of total GGT ridership. On commute routes, this increases to 30%-32%, which helps support regional service.
  - c. Mike Combs inquired about the return of ferry feeder service. Staff reported that future service expansions will be based on demand and the availability of parking at Larkspur Ferry Terminal (LFT), as well as the availability of funding and operators. There are no current plans to restore ferry feeder service due to the more than \$400 million deficit over the next five years to restore pre-pandemic service, national operator shortage, and current surplus of available parking at LFT. The District will continue to monitor all these factors and reintroduce service accordingly.
  - d. Dan Bell requested schedule changes to the Route 150 to accommodate connection to the SMART train. Staff noted the challenges of scheduling connections with the infrequency of the train and the clockface headways of the bus. Scheduling staff noted the concern and plans to investigate further.

## **4. Ongoing Business:**

- a. San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC) Relocation Update: Emily DelRoss presented recent developments in the project including Board approval of the “Move Whistlestop” site alternative in December 2022. The District has begun the preliminary design phase of the project and is in the process of establishing a Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG). CDAG will advise on the design on the project and will meet four times through 2023. The group will consist of Marin County residents who represent transit center users and the broad and diverse interests that comprise the surrounding community. District staff and City of San Rafael staff will coordinate contact with individuals who have expressed interest in or provided input on the project, as well as members of community organizations and committees, including BPAC members, to complete the CDAG selection process by the end of April.

## 5. New Business:

- a. Review of Proposed BPAC Bylaws: Emily DelRoss presented draft bylaws to the committee for review and discussion. The creation of bylaws was initiated by the District’s desire to formalize committee procedures and bring greater uniformity across all District advisory committees. Document formatting was taken from recently approved FPAC and PBAC bylaws, both of which were reviewed by the District’s legal counsel, while procedures were pulled from BPAC’s 2018 guidelines document. BPAC members discussed desired alterations to simplify the committee’s existing attendance policy, making it more consistent with other District advisory groups. BPAC members approved the document with edits to Article II, Section 3 regarding member attendance.
- b. March 2023 Service Changes: Emily DelRoss reviewed minor service changes that went into effect on March 12. Changes were made to improve overall system efficiency and included minor schedule adjustments on Routes 114, 132, 154, and 172. Route 114 no longer serves the Spencer Bus Pad and an additional trip was added in each direction. Route 132 will serve the Manzanita Park and Ride only on the first two morning trips.
- c. Five-Year Fare Program: David Davenport reported that the Board authorized the setting of a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Five-Year Fare Program. In February two virtual public meetings and a public hearing were held to solicit public feedback on the program. The plan detailed four options; each option incrementally increasing fares across all modes every year over the next five years. The Board is expected to select the preferred option at its March Board meeting, with the first fare increase effective July 1, 2023.
- d. Caltrans Tamalpais Drive Overcrossing Project: Emily DelRoss provided an update on this Caltrans project, which aims to redesign the bicycle and pedestrian crossings where Tamalpais Drive passes over US Route 101 to address seismic requirements and improve pedestrian access. District staff recently met with Caltrans, Marin Transit, Transportation Authority of Marin, and the Town of Corte Madera to discuss the project and share the District’s concerns about design elements of the relocated bus pads that could create significant transit delays. The District will continue to engage Caltrans staff to advocate for a transit-friendly design solution. Caltrans is working to complete the environmental review by March 31 and complete design by June 2024, with construction expected to begin in 2025.
- e. Introduction to National Transit Database (NTD): David Davenport provided an overview on the history and purpose of NTD, which is the FTA’s repository for financial, operating, and asset data for public transit providers in the United States. Key metrics

collected include unlinked passenger trips, vehicle revenue hours and miles, passenger miles traveled, and operating expenses. Data is used to apportion funding to urbanized and rural areas. Data is accessible to the public on the NTD website via agency profiles and downloadable spreadsheets.

**6. Announcements:** None.

**7. Members' Forum:**

- a. Dan Bell requested an update on the Highway 37 Carpool and Bus Project.
- b. Dan Bell requested another update on the Caltrans Tamalpais Drive Overcrossing Project.

**8. Public Comment:**

- a. Cedar Makhijani thanked staff for the information shared in the meeting.

**9. Adjournment:** Scott Kempf adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place in-person at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at Vivalon.