

BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Committee Members Present: Win Archibald, Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Fredi Bloom, Jon Horinek, Scott Kempf, Valeria Sasser, Dave Troup

Committee Members Absent: Arthur Young

District Staff Present: David Davenport, Senior Planner; Carolyn Derwing, Supervising Scheduler and Data Analyst; Bill Middleton Jr., Acting Superintendent of Safety and Training; Krystalyn O’Leary, Acting Director of Operations

Guests Present: Mohamed Osman, Marin Transit; David Pilpel

1. **Roll Call:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Seven members were present, representing a quorum.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Valeria Sasser remarked that her name was misspelled as “Valerie” in the meeting minutes for March 17. With this correction, BPAC members approved the May 17, 2021, meeting minutes.
3. **Bus Stoppers:** There were no Bus Stoppers to discuss.
4. **Ongoing Business:**
 - a. COVID-19 Update: David Davenport reported that social distancing protocols have been revised in San Francisco and Marin County. Fredi Bloom remarked that she was glad to hear this, having been on a Route 23 bus recently that became full. Dave Troup mentioned that he had been passed up twice over the past year, and suggested that Route 101 capacity be eased on southbound trips from Marin County into San Francisco. Carlena Natouf commented that driver discretion was possible but noted that it was not possible to enforce two different policies on one route. Ms. Bloom asked about mask usage on board buses, and Mr. Davenport answered that federal regulations requiring masks remain in effect through September 13, 2021. Mr. Davenport reported that a vaccination site is available at Larkspur Ferry Terminal, and free bus and ferry rides are being offered to people traveling to/from vaccination appointments. He also reported that the District is surveying bus and ferry passengers about their return-to-work plans through May 30. Lastly, he reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is slated to approve the first tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in July; ARPA’s two tranches are expected to cover the District’s transit revenue shortfalls through late 2022.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. June 2021 Service Changes: Mr. Davenport announced service changes effective June 13. Routes 27, 30, 54, 72, and 101 will have added trips. Hourly service on nights and



weekends will be restored on Route 40. Route 70 will be realigned to serve Manzanita Park & Ride and most Sausalito service will move to an expanded Route 30, and late evening service will be reduced in conjunction with expanded service on Marin Transit Route 71. In addition, Route 72 will be realigned in Petaluma to serve the Fairgrounds Park & Ride. Mohamed Osman further explained Marin Transit service changes, such as the expansion of Route 71, and Dan Bell noted that SMART train service will be expanded starting May 24.

- b. San Rafael Transit Center – BPAC Preferred Alternative: Mr. Davenport explained the four alternatives under consideration, and told the group that the District’s Board of Directors must identify a preferred alternative before releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Release of the DEIR is expected in June, and the public comment period will be at least 45 days. The Board will adopt a preferred alternative at the end of the public process, which does not necessarily have to be the same as the preferred alternative identified upon release of the DEIR. Mr. Bell and Mr. Kempf stated that they were in favor of the Move Whistlestop Alternative. Mr. Bell explained that moving the building addresses issues with the street alignment and sight lines, and provides more open space. He requested that BPAC provide a letter of support specifically for this alternative. Mr. Kempf, Brian Bailey-Gates, Ms. Sasser, and Ms. Bloom agreed with this assessment. Ms. Bloom asked if Tamalpais Avenue would be closed to car traffic in this alternative, and Mr. Davenport confirmed that it would be open only to transit vehicles. Mr. Bailey-Gates suggested they keep the letter short, as time is of the essence. After discussing the language of the letter, the committee agreed unanimously to submit a letter in favor of the Move Whistlestop Alternative.
 - c. Emerging Bay Area Transit Coordination and Integration Efforts: Mr. Davenport reported that several transit coordination and integration efforts are underway in the Bay Area. He noted that MTC is leading a fare integration study, and the Blue Ribbon Task Force has hired a consultant to study “network manager” concepts to improve regional transit service. Lastly, he reported that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority recently produced a Transit Integration and Efficiency Study (TIES) with a consultant, and the report examined coordination and integration possibilities between local transit operators within Sonoma County.
6. **Announcements**: Win Archibald announced her retirement from BPAC after serving on the committee for 20 years. In response to an inquiry at the previous meeting, Mr. Davenport reported that Golden Gate Transit (GGT) plans to move towards a zero-emission bus fleet, and components of the plan will be shared at this month’s Transportation Committee meeting. Lastly, Mr. Osman announced that Clipper released an iPhone app last month and just released an Android app this month.
 7. **Members’ Forum**: Jon Horinek inquired about progress on the Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project. Mr. Davenport replied that bus lanes should be constructed by the end of this year, and service should be live in early 2022. Mr. Bell observed that buses tend not to use the new Mission Street bus lanes. Mr. Davenport noted that this might change when the permanent lane configuration is installed and traffic increases.

- 8. Public Comment:** David Pilpel spoke on three items. First, he asked for a one-sentence update on Angel Island ferry service. Second, Mr. Pilpel requested the restoration of bus service on Geary Boulevard and 19th Avenue since Muni is not currently providing service to the Golden Gate Bridge. Third, he indicated his support for GGT's new "open door" policy that allows local bus rides in San Francisco. In response to Mr. Pilpel's first question, Mr. Davenport that Angel Island ferry service plans are not yet set and that he should check either with the Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee or stay tuned for information at a future Board meeting.
- 9. Adjournment:** Mr. Kempf adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m., in honor of retiring member Win Archibald.

Members were advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday, September 1, 2021, via Zoom.