

BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 20, 2024



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

Committee Members Present: Mike Combs, Odin Palen, Dave Troup

Committee Members Absent: Dan Bell, Scott Kempf

District Staff Present: David Davenport, Principal Planner; Meaghan Goodwin, Digital Communications Program Manager; Carlena Natouf, Customer Relations Supervisor

Guests Present: Mohamed Osman, Senior Operations Analyst, Marin Transit

1. **Roll Call and Introductions:** Mike Combs opened the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Three members were present, representing a quorum.
2. **BPAC Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Election:** Members voted to elect Mike Combs as Chair and Dan Bell as Vice Chair for the 2025 term.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the April 17, 2024, meeting minutes.
4. **Bus Stoppers:**
 - a. Dan Bell provided feedback on schedule changes that took effect in August, noting that additional Route 101 service was good but that the shift in times at San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC) for Routes 101, 130, 150, and 580 had potential negative rider impacts. David Davenport indicated that SRTC changes on Routes 101, 130, and 150 were made at the request of SMART and Marin Transit, and Route 580 was modified to maintain connections to Routes 71 and 101 where possible. Odin Palen suggested that Route 580 be modified to meet SRTC pulse times because BART schedules have since improved, and Mike Combs welcomed the changes to Route 101.
 - b. Mike Combs requested that GGT information be displayed on the real-time signs installed along the Van Ness bus lanes in San Francisco and that specific route numbers be used on the bus stop signs there to help infrequent riders find the service they need. He also requested that southbound bus headsigns be changed from "San Francisco Mission & Fremont" to "San Francisco Transit Center" to clarify that GGT buses serve the same facility as Muni, AC Transit, and other agencies. David Davenport reported that District staff has worked with SFMTA on real-time signage but progress has been slow due to SFMTA staff turnover, and he noted that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission is working on signage standards as part of its Regional Mapping and Wayfinding Project. He added that District staff would discuss the headsign issue to see if changes are warranted.

5. Ongoing Business:

- a. Proposed Amendment of Bylaws: Members approved changes to the BPAC bylaws to incorporate the code of conduct presented at the meeting on April 17, 2024.

6. New Business:

- a. 2025 Meeting Schedule: The committee agreed to continue meeting on the third Wednesday of every other month, with a summer hiatus, from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. in the District Conference Room at 1011 Andersen Drive in San Rafael. David Davenport indicated that a special meeting could be called if feedback on the MASCOTS Plan is required outside of this timeline.
- b. Recap of August 2024 Service Changes: David Davenport provided a recap of service changes that took effect since the last BPAC meeting, which included additional service on Routes 101, 114, 132, and 172; significant schedule changes for routes serving SRTC; and a minor realignment of the northern end of Route 154. BPAC member comments were shared during Bus Stoppers.
- c. January 2025 Service Changes: David Davenport provided a list of service changes set for January 2025, including a new late-night trip on Route 101, evening schedule changes on Route 130, realignment of the second morning trip on Route 132, modifications to Financial District bus stops, and three new trips on Route 580X. He also noted that GGT will no longer operate Route 29 on behalf of Marin Transit.
- d. Petaluma Ridership Campaign: Meaghan Goodwin presented initial findings of a campaign to boost ridership in Petaluma, which was based on key findings from a survey conducted in May. The campaign contributed to a 17% boost in peak morning ridership at the Petaluma Fairgrounds Park & Ride, which was consistent with overall ridership increases in Petaluma during the same timeframe.
- e. TRANSFER Plan: David Davenport gave a presentation on the Bay Area Transit Reliability and Accessibility Network Scheduling Framework and Equitable Regional (TRANSFER) Plan, which is an ongoing effort to improve schedule coordination between transit systems in the Bay Area. The two pilot study locations were San Rafael Transit Center and El Cerrito del Norte BART Station; initial schedule changes were implemented in August 2024, and refinements will be implemented in January 2025. Future TRANSFER Plan work will occur outside the GGT service area, but inter-agency coordination will be ongoing for the two pilot locations served by GGT.
- f. MASCOTS Plan – Background and Existing Conditions: David Davenport presented background and existing conditions from the Marin-Sonoma Coordinated Transit Service (MASCOTS) Plan, which is a multi-agency effort to redesign transit service across Marin and Sonoma Counties. The goal of MASCOTS is to design a transit system that is legible and logic, reflecting the rising importance of SMART and accounting for significant post-COVID travel pattern changes. Mike Combs expressed rider frustration around the bus, train, and ferry connections in Larkspur, which are not co-located, as well as the nearby SRTC. Odin Palen noted that Marin Transit Route 228 is not timed to connect with the Larkspur Ferry, and Mike Combs added that SMART Connect shuttle buses do not accept Clipper. David Davenport will provide updates as the MASCOTS Plan progresses.

7. **Announcements:** Mohamed Osman shared Marin Transit's January 2025 service changes, which include schedule revisions to Routes 23, 49, and 57 and the transition of contractors for Route 29.

8. Members' Forum: Odin Palen stated that a shuttle bus between Santa Rosa and Calistoga would be interesting due to apparent worker demand.

9. Public Comment: None.

10. Adjournment: Mike Combs adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting will take place on January 15, 2025. [The next meeting was subsequently rescheduled to May 21, 2025.]