

BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 20, 2023



Location: Caboose Room at Vivalon, 930 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901

Committee Members Present: Scott Kempf, Brian Bailey-Gates, Mike Combs, Dave Troup

Committee Members Absent: Dan Bell

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

Guests Present: Vaggelis Sotiropoulos

- 1. Roll Call and Introductions:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Four members were present, representing a quorum.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the May 17, 2023, meeting minutes pending edits to include the meeting location and attachment of the finalized letter to the board regarding the committee's strategic plan input.
- 3. Bus Stoppers:**
 - a. Dan Bell reported observing high local ridership in San Francisco and suggested using this ridership data to support increased service to San Francisco. Staff explained that approximately one-third of GGT riders come from San Francisco, which allows for the current service levels. Part of this ridership is attributed to SFMTA's directive to former 30X riders to utilize GGT service while the line remains suspended. Driver shortages and an impending fiscal cliff prevent expansion of GGT service in San Francisco at this time. SFMTA and GGT will continue to coordinate to understand and monitor the situation.
 - b. Dave Troup requested alternative route alignment options in the financial district, including an alignment that uses the Embarcadero through Fisherman's Wharf. Staff explained that GGT utilizes a run-limited service through the financial district and that financial and operational constraints limit the number of viable alignments at this time. GGT will continue to weigh the pros and cons of realignment and redesign options in the future, while continuing to monitor performance on the Civic Center alignment.
 - c. Dave Troup reported bus bunching between Routes 130 and 101 in the evening and requested schedule changes to create better spacing and minimize rider wait times at Salesforce Transit Center. Staff explained that bus bunching occurs in the city due to scheduled pulses at the San Rafael Transit Center and travel times that vary greatly, depending on time of day. A redesign of the system would be necessary to avoid bunching in downtown San Francisco. Direction from the Board on this topic may come as a result of the Strategic Plan.
 - d. Dave Troup requested schedule changes to Marin Transit Routes 23 or 68 for better bus spacing and shorter wait times for riders traveling from Fairfax to San Rafael. Marin

Transit staff appreciated the feedback and will take the recommendation into consideration as part of their January schedule changes.

4. Ongoing Business:

- a. San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC) Relocation Update: Emily DelRoss reported recent developments in the project. The Final Environmental Impact Report was adopted by the Board in December 2022 and a preferred alternative was selected. The preliminary (30%) design phase began in January 2023, and the Community Design Advisory Group (CDAG) was formed in May. CDAG met in May, June, July, and September, with one more meeting scheduled for October. A preliminary design is expected to be completed in early 2024. More information on the project can be found on the project webpage at: www.goldengate.org/srtc.
- b. Tamalpais Overcrossing Project Update: Emily DelRoss reported that District staff is continuing to work with Caltrans to resolve transit issues related to proposed interchange improvements. District staff expressed concerns about the lack of coordination with transit agencies and the feasibility of proposed modifications and their impact on transit operations. Staff from Caltrans and the District have met at staff and executive levels to discuss these concerns. Caltrans is preparing a traffic operations analysis and will be meeting with staff in September to discuss effort findings.
- c. Customer On-Board Survey Update: Emily DelRoss reported that on-board customer surveying is nearly complete on both bus and ferry, with expected completion by the end of the month. Telephone surveying of infrequent and non-users is in progress. The District is working with the Canal Alliance to collect input from Canal residents. The Canal District was identified as a focus area in this survey due to its high proportion of low-income and minority residents. The final report, which will summarize survey results, is expected to be completed in December 2023.

5. New Business:

- a. Highway 37 Traffic and Transit Improvements Update: This topic will be addressed at the November 15 BPAC meeting.
- b. June Service Changes: Emily DelRoss reviewed service changes that went into effect on Sunday, September 10. Most notably, Route 580 underwent major schedule adjustments to improve connections at the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station. Weekday westbound trips from El Cerrito del Norte now depart hourly on the :21s from 5:21 A.M. to 9:21 P.M., and every 30 minutes on the :51s during peak hours. Weekday eastbound trips now depart hourly from 6:22 A.M. to 9:24 P.M., and every 30 minutes during peak commute hours. Weekend eastbound and westbound trips now depart hourly in coordination with arrivals and departures from the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station. Other minor service changes include minor schedule adjustments on Route 114 with the resumption of service to the Spencer Avenue Park and Ride. Two northbound and two southbound trips were cancelled on Route 101 due to the driver shortage, with the Cotati Park and Ride lot remaining closed. Minor schedule adjustments were also made on Route 132. The next service change is scheduled for January 14, 2024.

6. Announcements:

- a. Member Resignation – Thank You for Your Service, Fredi!: Fredi Bloom has resigned from the committee. The Committee would like to thank Fredi for her fourteen years of service as a dedicated member.
- b. Bus Division Management Change: Mona Babauta left her role as Deputy General Manager for the Bus Division at the beginning of August to take a role as CEO and general manager of "SunBus" at SunLine Transit Agency in Palm Springs, CA. She was with the District for six years. An executive recruitment is underway to fill the position. Denis Mulligan will cover the role until the position is filled.
- c. State Route 37 Flood Protection Project – U.S. Highway 101 to Atherton Avenue in Novato: Caltrans is hosting a hybrid public meeting on September 21 from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato. Caltrans will provide an overview of the Project and its purpose and need, the current build alternative, and the potential environmental impacts of the project.

7. Members' Forum:

- a. Dave Troupe requested future presentation topics to cover changes coming as part of Clipper 2.0.

8. Public Comment: None.

9. Adjournment: Scott Kempf adjourned the meeting at 6:44 P.M.

Members were advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place in-person at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at Vivalon.