

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PBAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 15, 2026



Location: Board Room, Administration Building
Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94129

Members Present: James Grady, Barbara (BJ) Jones, Stephen Lambe, Sasha Madfes, Charles Metzler, David Pilpel, Ray Scherck, Aaron Weiman, Warren Wells

Members Absent: Candy Doran, Parker Day, Kevin Gammon, Susan Nawbary

District Staff Present: David Rivera, Deputy General Manager, Bridge Division; Josh Widmann, Planner; Roberta Regan, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present: Prospective Member Lisa Mroz

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Warren Wells called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. A quorum of eight members was present.
2. **Roll Call and Introductions.** Committee members, staff, and a visitor introduced themselves.
3. **Consent Calendar.**
 - a. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2025.** David Pilpel noted that on page two, the first line of the second paragraph should state Senate Bill 707, not 757. Mr. Pilpel then moved to approve the meeting minutes. James Grady provided a second. The November 12, 2025, meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **2026 Election of Chair and Vice Chair.** Vice Chair Sasha Madfes nominated Chair Warren Wells for another term as chair. Mr. Wells nominated Ms. Madfes for another term as vice chair. David Pilpel moved to close nominations if there were none further, and BJ Jones provided a second. The motion was unanimously approved. Warren Wells and Sasha Madfes were elected chair and vice chair for 2026.
5. **Great Redwood Trail Presentation.** Michael Jones stated that the Great Redwood Trail is a 300-mile-long proposed multi-use rail-trail project connecting San Francisco Bay to Blue Lake in Humboldt County. The Master Plan was approved in March 2026. The trail follows the path of former Northwestern Pacific Railroad and is managed by the Great Redwood Trail Agency (GRTA), in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties, passing through the Eel River Canyon Preserve. The trail alignment there will be challenging, due to erosion and some areas of failing infrastructure including tunnels, bridges, and train trestles. The corridor in Sonoma and Marin Counties was transferred to Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART), who will be responsible for development in the southern segment.

Mr. Jones remarked that the project was the brainchild of CA Senator Mike McGuire, who saw an opportunity to create a regional trail that could bring jobs and money to the North Coast. The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) had tried to obtain funds to repair the many landslides and tunnel collapses with no success. GRTA hopes this project will promote tourism, bring financial resources to the region, and promote recreational and environmental opportunities.

Stephen Lambe asked about funding for the project. Mr. Jones answered that the trail is being built in segments, currently around Ukiah. Mr. Wells mentioned that Proposition 4 funding is crucial, as 75 miles of the trail aligns with SMART and multi-use pathways. Funding may come from public and private sources, he added. James Grady asked about the timeline for the project. Mr. Jones stated that it was a 20-year project, with five-year updates. Group discussion continued, including whether the northern terminus of the Golden Gate Bridge could be considered “Mile Zero” for the project, as stated in SB 727, which created the Great Redwood Trail Agency.

6. Committee Business.

a. Approval of Updated Bylaws. In Article III, Section 2, sentence three: BJ Jones proposed deleting the phrase, “if elected the following year” and so moved. Stephen Lambe provided a second. The PBAC Bylaws were updated by unanimous vote.

b. Bridge Patrol and Sidewalk Bike Safety. David Rivera explained that the Bridge patrol officers are public safety personnel whose primary purpose is to ensure the safety, security, and smooth operation of the Golden Gate Bridge. With regards to cyclists, officers can tell them to slow down but cannot issue citations. The District works with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), who can issue citations, and also responds if there is a serious accident on the Bridge.

Mr. Rivera stated that an electrical project related to a power issue is currently ongoing on the Bridge. Due to upcoming maintenance and training, staff will close the west sidewalk and push bicyclists onto the east sidewalk from 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. on May 8-9 and May 23-24. Cyclists and pedestrians will share the east sidewalk during this time. Announcements will be posted on the website and signs will be placed at the bike gates at the north and south end, westside. Also, night work will begin soon for the retrofit project, starting at the north tower. He emphasized that all Bridge lanes or both sidewalks are never closed at the same time, and there is never a Bridge special event or lane closure taking place simultaneously. Warren expressed his thanks to Mr. Rivera and staff for the timely text alerts. Mr. Rivera said to always let him know if more alerts or postings are needed.

Aaron Weiman commented that he had seen patrol officers on their phones and in cars, appearing inactive. He added that more safety resources are needed around the Bridge towers, where they can get congested. Mr. Rivera again encouraged members to email him with any problems: DRivera@goldengate.org.

c. Vista Point Trail Updates. David Rivera gave an update on the new multi-use path between Vista Point and Lower Conzelman Road. Funded by the National Park Service (NPS), trail updates are expected to be completed in May 2026. The trail will provide a

safer, more accessible connection for walking and biking between the Golden Gate Bridge and Fort Baker. Currently they are working on hand railings, signs and pavement markings. He stated that he was not sure if it would be a lighted trail at night. He shared online graphics of the area under construction.

d. Other Updates. Mr. Rivera announced that automatic bike and pedestrian counters had been installed on the Golden Gate Bridge. Data will be available each month and can be found in the General Manager's report on the website and directly on the Monthly Traffic Crossings webpage:

<https://www.goldengate.org/bridge/history-research/statistics-data/monthly-traffic-crossings/>

At this time, Warren Wells requested that staff bring back an agenda item that has been deleted, "Recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues/Observations – Ongoing." Staff confirmed that it would be back on the next meeting agenda.

7. **Public Comment.** None.

8. **Adjournment.** Warren Wells adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Golden Gate Bridge Board Room, San Francisco, CA. [This meeting was later cancelled.]