

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PBAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 12, 2025



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

Members Present: Parker Day, Candy Doran, James Grady, Barbara (BJ) Jones, Sasha Madfes, David Pilpel, Warren Wells

Members Absent: Kevin Gammon, Timothy Hunter, Charles Metzler, Susan Nawbary, Ray Scherck

District Staff Present: David Rivera, Deputy General Manager, Bridge Division; Les Belton, Deputy General Manager, Bus Division; Mario Jacquez, Director of Transportation; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner, Roberta Regan, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present: Michael Jones, Consultant

1. **Call to Order.** Warren Wells called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. A quorum of members was present.
2. **Roll Call and Introductions.** Committee members, staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
3. **Election of Officers.** Josh Widmann confirmed that current officers may be re-elected for another term if the committee votes to approve. Sasha Madfes moved to re-elect Warren Wells as Chair, and Candy Doran provided a second. David Pilpel moved to re-elect Sasha Madfes as Vice Chair, and BJ Jones provided a second. The committee unanimously voted to approve both motions.
4. **Consent Calendar.**
 - a. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2024.** David Pilpel moved to approve the minutes with one minor word change, and Sasha Madfes provided a second. The committee voted unanimously to approve the October 9, 2024 meeting minutes.
5. **Committee Business.**
 - a. **Bike Storage on Buses Discussion.** Mario Jacquez, Director of Transportation, shared that he researched the last two years of cyclists' complaints submitted to the District. There were several requests to acquire more Gillig buses in the fleet, which can carry more bicycles on their front rack compared to the MCI underbelly storage. Mr. Jacquez presented a PowerPoint to the committee. He stated that Gilligs have front-mounted racks with space for three bikes, while MCIs have underbelly racks with space for two bikes. Bikes are loaded on a first-come, first-served basis. He also shared detailed step-by-step instructions for loading bikes on both bus types. A YouTube video is available on the District website (<https://www.goldengate.org/bus/riding-the-bus/bringing-your-bike/>). He pointed out the challenges that exist at certain stops in San

Francisco and provided the Committee with a list of those locations. A slide of “Do’s and Don’ts for Bicycle Etiquette” on GGT followed. Mr. Jacquez also stated that gas-powered devices are never allowed on GGT buses. A question-and-answer period followed.

Several PBAC members asked about higher weight limits that currently exist on other agencies using bike racks from different companies such as Byk Rak. The rules for front racks on larger 45-foot buses were also discussed. Mr. Jacquez explained that the California Highway Patrol imposes limits on the configuration of 45-foot bus bicycle racks GGT is allowed to use due to our buses traveling on freeways and on city streets with Caltrans designations such as Lombard Street and Van Ness Avenue, where a bus may pass over a yellow line. There are also limitations due to the turns buses need to make through narrow San Francisco street intersections, where a front rack could cross over to the oncoming traffic lane. He shared the safety issues that require no more than two bikes in under-belly bike storage. Because of line-of-sight constraints for the driver, the second underbelly storage to the rear of the bus is not used. BJ Jones asked how the public is educated about District rules for bicycles. Several options were discussed but the group favored posting a District bike resources QR code on buses and a QR code at Golden Gate Transit San Francisco bus stops with bike constraints. Warren Wells mentioned setting up a location for cyclists to practice loading their bikes onto a bike rack.

b. Recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues/Observations. Warren Wells mentioned that the Vista Point trail is under construction. Candy Doran stated that the entrance signs on the east sidewalk still need to be reversed. David Rivera said he would check on this. James Grady mentioned a close call he had on Alexander Avenue to East Road location, where he almost came in contact with a small wine tour bus. BJ asked about speed restrictions on the Bridge sidewalks, after seeing e-bikes on the west sidewalk moving as fast as 28 mph. Warren Wells responded that all bikes are now allowed on multi-use pathways per state law, but speeds must not exceed 15 mph on the Golden Gate Bridge.

c. Recap of 2025 Discussion Topics. Warren Wells reiterated that the Larkspur Ferry Expansion project presentation would need to be later in the year, likely the October meeting due to the timing of the environmental document process. He also commented that a presentation on Bridge event policy and noticing requirements would be of interest. Josh Widmann stated that David Rivera could share Bridge sidewalk bicycle and pedestrian incident statistics and special event sidewalk closures at a future meeting. An update on Alexander Avenue was mentioned. Sasha Madfes inquired as to whether the Board of Directors had an official response to the wayfinding letter submitted in November 2023. David Rivera said he would reach out to the District Secretary’s office. Bicycle counts on the Bridge and on ferries were also of interest to members. An update to the 2020 Bicycle Study was mentioned.

d. Outreach for Vacant PBAC Spot. Josh Widmann stated that Odin Palen is still a prospective member.

6. **Public Comment.** None.

7. **Adjournment.** Warren Wells adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

The next meeting of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 5:00 p.m., at the Golden Gate Bridge Board Room, San Francisco, CA.