

Draft Staff Report

Subject: Remote Participation Rules

Recommendation: Approve Remote Participation Rules

Discussion:

The Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code section 54950 et seq. ("Brown Act"), requires, with limited statutory exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate.

The Passenger Advisory Committees (Bus Passengers Advisory Committee, Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on Accessibility, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee) created by the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District ("District") are subject to the Brown Act.

The Brown Act has been modified through a series of executive orders and legislative actions over the past several years, including but not limited to Assembly Bill 361 and Assembly Bill 2449. These changes were initially adopted to address pandemic-related needs for remote meetings and were later refined to provide more permanent pathways for remote participation.

Most recently, on October 3, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 707 into law. Senate Bill 707 amended the Brown Act to expand the circumstances under which members of certain types of legislative bodies called "eligible subsidiary bodies" may participate remotely in public meetings. The Passenger Advisory Committees are eligible subsidiary bodies.

On April 24, 2026, the Board authorized the Passenger Advisory Committees to approve the use of these new remote participation rules, which are attached to this report ("Remote Participation Rules"). District staff is presenting these Remote Participation Rules to each Passenger Advisory Committee for consideration. If a Passenger Advisory Committee votes to approve the use of the Remote Participation Rules, the members of that Passenger Advisory Committee may participate remotely in accordance with the Brown Act and Remote Participation Rules.

The Board's authorization is time-limited and must be renewed at least once every six months in order to remain effective. Passenger Advisory Committees that approve the use of the Remote Participation Rules may continue to use such rules as long as the Board's authorization remains in effect and is timely renewed.

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

Rules for Remote Participation for Passenger Advisory Committee Members

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District ("District") has four passenger advisory committees (Bus Passengers Advisory Committee, Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on Accessibility, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee; individually referred to as "Committee" and collectively referred to as "Committees"). The Committees are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, §§ 54950 et seq.; "Brown Act") and have each adopted their respective bylaws. If authorized by the District Board of Directors and approved by the Committee, these rules supplement the Committee's bylaws. If the District Board of Directors has not authorized use of these rules, the Committee's use of the rules is automatically suspended until further action by the District Board of Directors.

A Committee may use these remote participation rules for "eligible subsidiary bodies" under the Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54953.8.6) if all of the following requirements are satisfied:

1. **Physical, staffed public meeting location.** A physical location attended in person by District staff and equipment with audiovisual technology must be made available for each Committee meeting. Committee Members and the public may participate in person from this location.
2. **Remote participation by audio and video.** Committee Members must use both audio and visual technology to participate remotely during a Committee meeting. Joining in a "listen-only" or "view-only" mode does not count as attendance. Committee Members must appear on camera during all open portions of the meeting. Committee Members may turn off their camera only in the following limited circumstances:
 - **Disability.** If a Committee Member has a physical or mental disability that requires participation off camera. If this is the case, please contact District staff in advance of the meeting regarding the reasonable accommodation process.
 - **Internet or connectivity failure.** If a Committee Member's connection is too poor to support video, the Committee Member may turn off their camera, but must announce the reason prior to doing so.
3. **Disclosure of others in the remote location prior to taking action.** If any other adult (age 18 or older) is present in the room from which a Committee Member is participating remotely during the meeting, then before any action is taken, the Committee Member must state: (1) who is present and (2) their general relationship to the Committee Member (such as spouse, caregiver, or colleague). Committee Members do not need to disclose the presence of individuals under 18.

In the event of any inconsistency between these rules and the Brown Act, the Committee must comply with the Brown Act.