

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, September 4, 2025



FPAC Members Present: Chuck Hornbrook, Jordan Jaffe, Christopher Snell

Guests Present: Parker Day, Member of Public/PBAC; Mike Ghaffary, Prospective Member; Warren Wells, Member of Public/PBAC, Emerson Wyper, Prospective Member

Staff Present: Chris Bearden, Director of Ferry Operations; Joshua Cosgrove, Ferry Maritime Program Manager; Michael Hoffman, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner

A. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m.

B. Roll Call. A roll call was taken; however, no quorum was recognized.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2025. No quorum of members was present.

D. New Updates

1. Bikes on Ferries Discussion

Chris Bearden provided background on the new e-bike signage at Larkspur Ferry Terminal, which is the result of rapidly changing bicycle designs and technologies. Guidance was developed for the safety of staff and passengers with newer, longer and heavier e-bikes. Additional updates were provided by Josh Cosgrove regarding the development of the new policy details. Christopher Snell noted that powering the e-bikes off is the biggest issue. Some longer e-bikes have difficulties turning on the loading ramps to board and alight vessels; however, terminal supervisors monitor what is occurring in the field. The vessel masters have the ultimate say regarding the safety of certain e-bikes due to their size. The discussion turned to the dissemination of the e-bike policy on the website, e-blast notifications, social media notification, and physical signage at terminals and on-board vessels. Some discussion about bikes on SMART trains followed, with Parker Day notifying the group that larger e-bike boarding is at the conductor's discretion due to passenger loads in the cars and other geometry issues. The group discussed future policy roll-out strategies which may involve a soft launch of new policies in order to receive feedback from ferry riders with e-bikes.

2. Operational Issues

a. Ridership Updates. Josh Widmann reported select ridership trends comparing 2019 and 2025. Summer events resulted in a bump in ridership from concerts to ballgames, as well as tourism. Chris Snell asked when the Larkspur commute trips are expected to sell out and was told currently this only happens during weekday baseball day games. Notice is sent to riders to encourage the use of shoulder commute trips to avoid the peak of the peak. Chuck

Hornbrook noted the Tiburon wine festival resulted in increased ridership on October 5, 2024.

- b. Service Updates. The August 11 signup will continue through January 11, 2026. There was continued discussion on whether a third vessel will be needed for Larkspur commute trips and the committee was reminded that an additional vessel was leased pre-Covid to serve this purpose, due to the lack of an available vessel in the normal fleet. The committee was notified that routine vessel maintenance is now a 90-day period for inspection and repairs, as opposed to the older compacted schedule of 30 days, which may affect vessel availability.

3. Updates and Other Items

- a. Vessel Updates. The M.V. *Mendocino* will hopefully return in October, as a major repair to the engine and crankshaft is taking place in Kent, Washington. Mike Hoffman notified the group that bids for the new build vessel are due September 12, after some back and forth with bid questions. The upcoming new vessel will take two years to complete. After the first year of construction on the new vessel, work will begin on building a second vessel simultaneously. A third and fourth vessel will be built and delivered this same overlapping schedule as well. These vessels will be the cleanest burning diesel engines in the country.
- b. Terminal Updates. Mike Hoffman stated the San Francisco outer (east) ramp is at Bay Ship in Alameda being rehabilitated. The Larkspur Berth One ramp will return in the winter. Larkspur berth two will return after berth one.
- c. Return-to-Office Timeline Discussion. Chuck Hornbrook noted an uptick in commercial real estate purchases downtown.

E. Committee Business

1. FPAC Initiatives

- a. By-Laws Review. Draft Bylaws wording was proposed, adding that “Members may not serve on multiple District Passenger Advisory Committees (PAC) concurrently.” No quorum was present so this will be presented in November.
- b. Three-Year Membership Term Renewal. No quorum was present to renew membership.
- c. Larkspur Ferry Service and Parking Expansion Study. Travel demand forecasts are continuing, including work-from-home percentages.
- d. Sonoma-Marin Bike Share. Josh Widmann presented recent usage statistics for the ten Redwood Bikeshare bicycles stored at Larkspur Ferry Terminal, including origins and destinations. Chuck Hornbrook was curious about SMART shuttle statistics.
- e. Clipper 2.0 Updates. Due to time constraints information presented was limited to report that debit cards may now be used on BART at the faregates.

2. Membership Recruitment

Two prospective members were in attendance.

F. Public Comments

- G. Adjournment.** The committee agreed to reconvene on Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Port of San Francisco.