

Agenda Item No. (4)

Special Board of Directors
Meeting of November 13, 2020
(REVISED 11/17/20)



PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Received as of November 12, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.)

1. Letters to the Golden Gate Bridge District, from Sonoma County Supervisors Susan Gorin and Lynda Hopkins (11/06/20), and Marin County Supervisors Damon Connolly and Dennis Rodoni (11/12/20), expressing opposition to employee layoffs.
2. Emails addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors, from Hayden Miller (11/09/20) and Giovanni Mejia (11/12/20), expressing opposition to layoffs in the Golden Gate Transit Bus Division.
3. Emails addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge District, dated 11/11/20, from Charles Minster, and dated 11/12/20, from TJ Williams, Cynthia Lee, Wendy Kahn, patblake611, Art, and Debra Russell, expressing opposition to a toll surcharge.
4. Emails addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors, dated 11/11/20, from Bus Operators Francis Gleason (2) and Patricia Burgos, expressing opposition to layoffs in the Golden Gate Transit Bus Division, and opposition to the toll surcharge.
5. Letter from David Pilpel, dated 11/12/20, offering suggested alternate actions as ways to close the current budget deficit and avoid or minimize employee layoffs.
6. Emails addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors, dated 11/12/20, from Bus Operators Brian Gillett, Elwood Dominguez, and Raul Martinez, expressing opposition to layoffs in the Golden Gate Transit Bus Division.
7. Emails addressed to Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors, dated 11/12/20, from Susan Swan and Katarina Koster, expressing support of employee layoffs in lieu of the toll surcharge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Received as of November 13, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.)

1. Emails addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors, dated 11/12/20, from Bus Operator Kim Joseph, and dated 11/13/20 Bus Operator Diana Brown, expressing opposition to layoffs in the Golden Gate Transit Bus Division.
2. Email addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge District, dated 11/13/20, from Ferry Division employee David Heran, expressing opposition to employee layoffs.
3. Emails addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge District, dated 11/13/20, from Emma Moore and Lynn Serchia, expressing opposition to a toll surcharge.

{continued}

Special Board of Directors
Meeting of November 13, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(Received as of November 13, 2020, while the
Special Board of Directors meeting was in session.)

1. Emails addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors, from Gigi Gamble, Lucas & Gary, and Rudy Gonzalez, dated 11/13/20, expressing opposition to employee layoffs.
2. Email addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge District, dated 11/13/20, from Marc Norton, expressing opposition to employee layoffs.
3. Email addressed to the Golden Gate Bridge District, dated 11/13/20, from Michael Papesh, expressing opposition to a toll surcharge.

The above-listed public comments are attached. A copy will also be posted to the District's web site.

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

575 ADMINISTRATION DRIVE, RM. 100A
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403

(707) 565-2241
FAX (707) 565-3778



SUSAN GORIN
CHAIR

LYNDA HOPKINS
VICE CHAIR

November 6, 2020

Dear Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District,

We understand that on September 11, 2020, you announced that you would send out WARN ACT notices to 185 employees who currently work the bus and ferry transit system carrying passengers between Marin, Sonoma, and San Francisco counties. As the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, we are writing you today to oppose any effort to issue layoff notices to the 185 employees before January 1, 2021.

In this time of crisis, fear and anxiety is already high due to Covid-19, wildfires and unsafe air quality, and potential layoffs can be overwhelming and magnify emotional and economic stress and anxiety. These threatened layoffs also include workers losing healthcare during a pandemic, and are during the holiday season, a time when mental health episodes and financial stress can be particularly challenging for many. These essential workers are skilled professionals with years of experience, training, and certifications to do their jobs. These brave workers risk their health every day in this pandemic environment to keep transit moving and should be honored.

As Sonoma County recovers, it will need this system and its experienced workers to provide the public with the transportation it needs, and layoffs would interfere with recovery as ridership returns. The District has nonessential capital projects, including paving a parking lot, which could be delayed in order to continue funding these positions and avoid layoffs. Additionally, the District has discretion to use certain capital funding for operations during this pandemic. Finally, the District anticipates some additional federal funding in the future.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our request that issuances of any layoff notices be delayed until 2021.

Sincerely,

Susan Gorin, Chair

Lynda Hopkins, Vice Chair

Thomas Morgan

From: Hayden Miller <stokes555@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 8:04 PM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Golden Gate Board Meeting - Comments

Hello Board Members,

My name is Hayden Miller and I am a high school student in San Francisco and am a frequent Golden Gate Transit Bus and Ferry rider.

Golden Gate Transit is essential for me to visit family and conduct essential business in the North Bay as I am not able to drive. I depended on midday service on routes 27 and 92 as well as the larkspur before the pandemic but have since had to adapt to taking routes 30 and 101. The buses on routes 101 and 30 are almost always at capacity and I have been passed up and forced to wait an hour for the next bus in bad air and more recently freezing temperatures and have seen many other who depend on GGT passed up. There is definitely demand for more service on existing lines so when I heard that the Golden Gate Bridge District was considering layoffs in the middle of a pandemic I was deeply disturbed. Leaving people unemployed and without healthcare during a pandemic is unacceptable especially when it would hurt Golden Gate Transit riders who are largely low income, disabled, or people of color. Some riders would also switch to driving private cars creating more climate change and congestion but many riders are not able to afford a car or drive and would be left without a way to get around.

I urge you to STOP the layoffs and vote to change a \$2 surcharge on bridge tolls to save jobs and support transit riders in the middle of a pandemic and climate crisis

Sincerely,
Hayden Miller

Thomas Morgan

From: Charles Minster <friscoworker@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 4:31 PM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Contact link via website

Golden Gate Bridge District Secretary,

I have just noticed you are, again, bemoaning lost revenues due to the lack of travel on the Golden Gate Bridge because of the Covid-19 pandemic. You figure you have a cash cow and it should always produce all the milk you need and when it can't you cry crocodile tears and beg the public for more money. You are simply shameless and corrupt if you expect to get more money out of the people that NEED to use the bridge for work or emergency issues and foolish if you think the public should have to pay for more the same service AFTER the bridge has been paid for 20 times over since its completion. Get the money from the State or Federal Government not from the pockets of the working men and women of the Bay Area.

Sincerely
s/Charles M. Minster
San Francisco resident

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Thomas Morgan

From: Francis Gleason <frankgle@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 9:16 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Fwd: GGBH&TD board hikes tolls / layoffs PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS
Attachments: attachment 1.pdf

Dear Board Member ,
Denis Mulligan (numbered citations) has made misleading statements in the past about ——my pension at a board meeting claiming millions of dollars in false contributions (1)
Made false claims about 42 drivers failing to show up to work (2) told the public he was having bus drivers pickup “nurses and firefighters “ on Lombard st in San Francisco (3) didn’t want to pay the drivers that moved buses to safety during the fires in Santa Rosa (4) though his spokesman told the public that studies showed the bridge would sing(5)

Please don’t vote on any of the agenda items regarding layoffs or toll increases until January 20, 2021 .
Congress may change and the United States will have a new president. Covid19 vaccines will be further along and a clearer picture of the traffic on the bridge , bus and ferry will come into focus. The \$270 million in reserves will not be used up in the least by waiting two months. Reassessment not destruction of the GGBHTD is needed. When bus service is eliminated it does not come back. When tolls are financially prohibiting those most in need of a recovery are denied. Please hold off, and hold on all of us are almost to a clearer day. Two Months.
Thank you
Frank Gleason

(1) REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2019

Contrary to the recent testimony from bus operators, during the “pension holiday” when the bus drivers’ Retirement Plan was overfunded, the District did not cease making contributions or get a free pass on making contributions toward our bus operators’ retirement. Instead, during this period, the District continued to provide funds for bus operators' retirements by making contributions into the Special Payment Plan (SPP) of the Golden Gate Transit-Amalgamated Retirement Plan.

(2)<https://www.kqed.org/news/11776854/golden-gate-transit-bus-runs-delayed-or-canceled-amid-contract-battle-with-drivers>

(3)<https://www.marinij.com/2020/04/12/golden-gate-transit-drivers-contest-order-to-help-muni/amp/>

(4)<https://www.marinij.com/2019/10/30/fire-opens-new-pay-dispute-at-golden-gate-transit/amp/>

(5)<https://www.sfgate.com/local/amp/San-Francisco-Golden-Gate-Bridge-singing-fix-15379759.php>

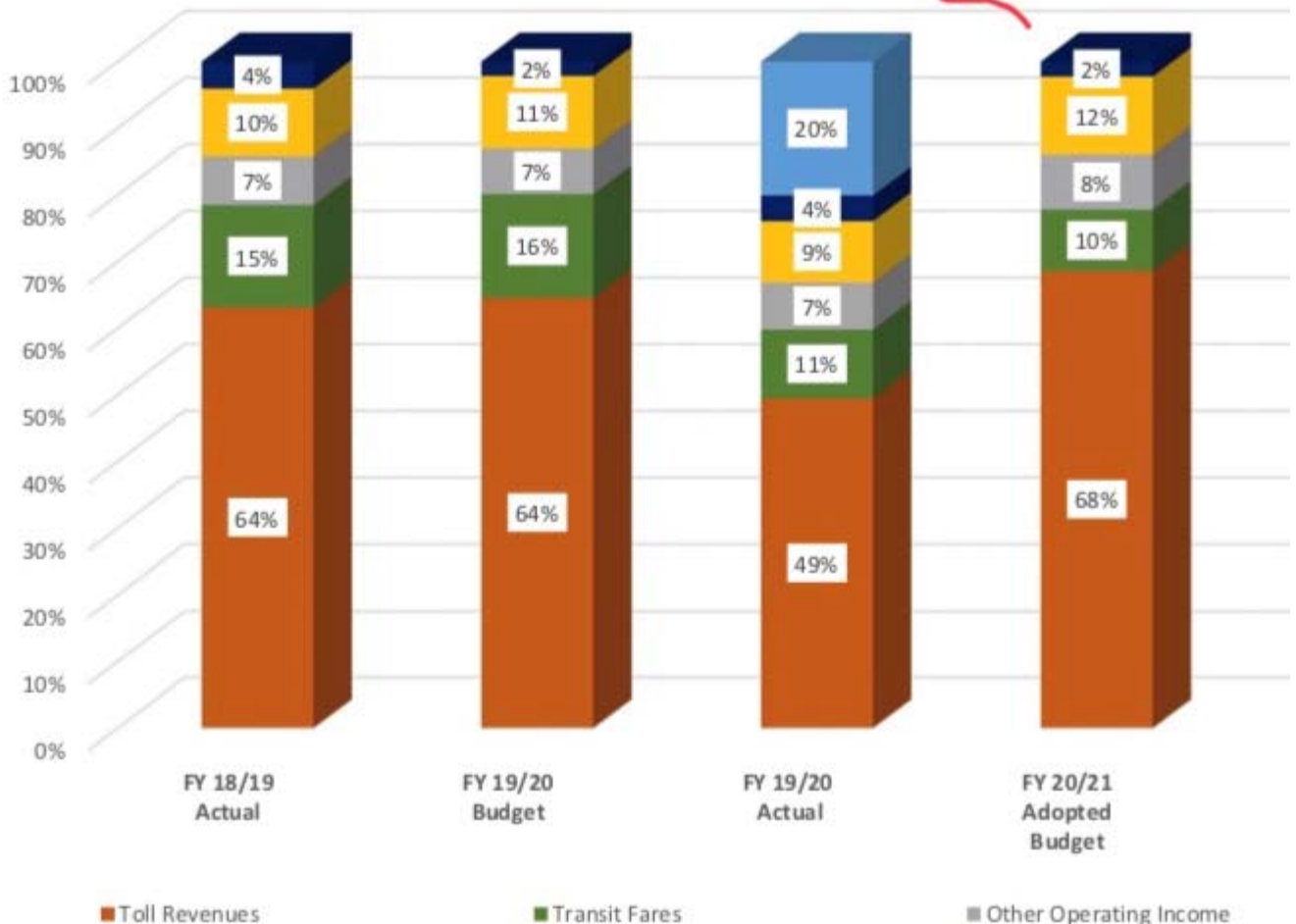
GGBH&TD financial budget showing vastly reduced toll subsidies to bus (brown) because of Cares Act money (blue) -doing so saved bridge toll money but did not help bus division

OPERATING REVENUES

Revenues	FY 18/19 Actual	FY 19/20 Budget	FY 19/20 Actual	FY 20/21 Adopted Budget
Toll Revenues	\$146,471,101	\$152,190,600	\$125,764,310	\$106,170,000
Transit Fares	35,727,311	36,820,900	26,478,738	14,414,000
Other Operating Income	6,181,668	5,527,700	6,499,028	3,221,000
State Operating Income	23,444,923	25,574,100	23,350,951	17,973,000
Federal Operating Income	143,369	24,000	69,876	172,000
Contract Revenue (MCTD)	10,818,301	10,720,000	11,435,400	9,550,000
Investment Income	9,436,889	5,100,000	9,855,152	3,500,000
CARES Act Funding			51,163,007	
Revenues	\$232,223,562	\$235,957,300	\$254,616,462	\$155,003,000
Percent Change		1.6%	7.9%	-39%

Note: Revenues and expenses are not balanced unless revenues are increased and expenses are decreased to make it balance.

CHART OF OPERATING REVENUES



2008 board meeting approving Suicide Deterrent System with statements by present board members “no toll funds to be use to fund” project

GGBH&TD reserves \$270 million



scng-dash.digitalfirstmedia.c

County	Entity Name	Cash and Investments
San Francisco	Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District	\$270,489,01
Los Angeles	Burbank - Glendale - Pasadena Airport Authority	\$255,570,71
Los Angeles	County Sanitation District No. 2 (Los Angeles)	\$251,783,01
	Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare	\$251,630,91



suicide deterrent system from \$76 million to \$234 million—300% increase

“Oakland-based Shimmick/Danny's Joint Venture bid \$142 million and American Bridge Company of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, bid \$174 million back in July. Both bids were significantly larger than the **\$76 million the bridge district** had [set aside for the project](#) in 2014.”—Ryan Levi, KQED | on September 25, 2016

Originally set for completion in January, the **\$211 million** bridge suicide barrier is now set to be completed on Jan. 12, 2023, because of delays [announced](#) in late 2019. The district estimates that the delays through the end of the project will add **\$23.2** million in administrative and consulting costs.-Will Houston

- PUBLISHED: August 28, 2020 at 4:38 a.m. | UPDATED: August 28, 2020 at 4:40 a.m

Thomas Morgan

From: Francis Gleason <frankgle@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:01 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Please Distribute to all board Members/Conflicting budget shortfalls

Dear Directors,

Please wait on toll increase and layoffs until the shortfalls the Districts is expressing in media interviews are reconciled. Below are two headlines and articles showing wildly different financial numbers. This can wait until January 20, 2021 - When Covid19 updates , bridge traffic numbers and relief money will be clear. Haste makes mistakes. Those headlines are 4 months apart and they're numbers are 100% different. Give it two months please.

Thank you

Frank Gleason

Golden Gate Bridge district approves budget with \$98M shortfall

- Will Houston
- June 27, 2020 at 6:33 p.m

San Francisco Chronicle

Golden Gate Bridge tolls may go up as district faces financial crisis: 'It's quite ...

21 hours ago — But even those measures won't entirely fill its looming \$48 million shortfall this fiscal year, with toll lanes less busy and ferries and buses ...



Sent from my iPhone

Thomas Morgan

From: patricia burgos <ptoty@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:59 PM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Board meeting 11-13-2020

Please distribute to all members again here we are our jobs depending on a group of board members. Now that we know Biden it's in the house I'm pleading with you all just hold on for a couple of months, You have the money that you got from care act and some how end up in the suicidal barrier budget? Please give a chance don't leave us in the cold how are you going to leave with your selfs while you celebrate Christmas with your families and children's and here we are bus drivers with nothing to look forward for our families, you may try to think is all business but it not!! people are not numbers you can re arrange your budget and give us a couple of month. We deserve it, sincerely thank you Bus Operator Patricia De la cerda Gray

Sent from my iPhone

Thomas Morgan

From: TJ Williams <info@lstax1040.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 12:15 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Please do not continue to continue to raise tolls

I read the articles in Marin IJ and SF Chronicle and I ask that you do not consider raising tolls at this time when the people crossing the bridge are not able to afford the raise and it does not make sense. My wife is at UCSF and they are on hiring freezes and working understaffed. For you to consider raising a fee at this time is just raiding our pocketbooks. And would be what may push a multi-generational democratic voting Californian out of the state or at least out of the Bay Area.

Sincerely,
TJ

TJ Williams, E.A.
L.S. Tax
223 San Anselmo Ave., Ste. 6
San Anselmo, CA 94960

ph. 415.381.2112
fx. 415.381.2143
www.lstax1040.com

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Mary Lucas

From: customerservice
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Patsy Whala; District Secretary; customerservice
Cc: Carlena Natouf
Subject: FW: Proposed Toll Increases

From: phenixaan@gmail.com <phenixaan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 11:44 AM
To: bridgecomments <bridgecomments@goldengate.org>
Subject: Proposed Toll Increases
Importance: High

To whom it may concern,

Stop going to the “well”; enough is enough. The public is fed up with government agencies thinking that all issues can be solved with higher taxes and fees.

It’s time everyone at your organization realizes that sacrifices have to be made. I own a business and everyone has had to take 40 – 80% pay decreases to survive the pandemic!
And even then we have no guarantee that it will be enough.

Plus we don’t have a Pension to fall back on that I and my fellow citizens will have to pay for infinitum while less and less is actually provided in services.

With regards,

art

ART NIETO
phenixaan@gmail.com
415-602-4070

Mary Lucas

From: Brad Gillett <bradgillett@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:57 PM
To: District Secretary
Subject: distribute to all Board Members

Directors,

I've been at GGT as a bus operator for 4+ years and a professional driver for 10. I primarily work out of the Santa Rosa location.

GGT, make no mistake, has a superior driver workforce in terms of quality drivers. GGT helped develop them no doubt. The reason our drivers are best is because the package WAS the best. GGT could attract and retain the best. Not true today.

GGT's operators have been under steady declining pressure in terms of pay over the past four years in real terms (what's reflected in the paycheck). It's at a point now, where I strongly believe that once you lose these drivers, many, including myself, will not be back.

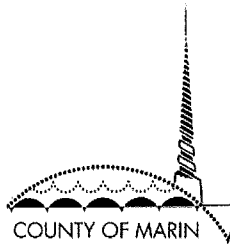
Anticipating that the drivers you need will be waiting around for the call to return is a dangerous game. As it is, we've been getting the message from current management for months. The message that many, if not most of us hear is, "you're not valued". Is that effective leadership?

Please, however, consider the longer term consequences and costs of having to retrain and build back the workforce when we now have a vaccine that will, within a few months, at a minimum somewhat restore us to pre-covid levels.

I greatly appreciate your service and consideration during these challenging times.

Regards,

Brad Gillett



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DAMON CONNOLLY

First District

Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 473 7331 T
415 473 3645 F
415 473 6172 TTY
DConnolly@marincounty.org
www.marincounty.org/bos1

November 12, 2020

Dear Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District,

We write regarding the WARN ACT notices to 185 Golden Gate employees who currently work the bus and ferry transit system carrying passengers between Marin, Sonoma, and San Francisco counties. We are writing you as Marin County Supervisors to oppose any effort to issue layoff notices to the 185 employees before January 1, 2021.

The economic and emotional stress of potential layoffs cannot be understated. The proposed layoffs would also take away healthcare from employees and their families during a pandemic. These essential workers are skilled professionals with years of experience, training, and certifications to do their jobs. These workers continue to come to work, with some risk to their health, to keep transit moving.

As Marin County recovers, it will need this system and its experienced workers to provide the public with the transportation it needs. Layoffs would interfere with recovery as ridership returns. We respectfully request that the District look at all funding streams for funding that could be directed toward maintaining employees beyond January 1, 2021, including but not limited to, funds currently directed to nonessential capital projects, capital funding, and any future federal funding.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our request that issuances of any layoff notices be delayed until 2021.

Sincerely,

Damon Connolly
District 1

Dennis Rodoni
District 4

Thomas Morgan

From: Cynthia Yee <cynthia@vensanacap.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:03 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Re: Comment Toll Increase/Budget Short Fall Nov 13 2020 meeting

The responsible action would be to furlough workers for 2-3 days a week until ridership increases to support rehiring. You should not increase bridge toll by \$2 or \$1.25. Everyone is suffering and to keep employees whole without the budget to do so is fiscally irresponsible and negligent. No business would keep labor levels above the need. Let workers maintain healthcare benefit through furlough and allow them to collect UI benefits. I certainly will NOT be crossing the bridge for close to \$10. It's untenable.

David Pilpel
2151 27th Ave
San Francisco CA 94116-1730

President Barbara Pahre and Members, Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
PO Box 29000
San Francisco CA 94129-9000

November 12, 2020

Re: Suggestions to Close the Current Budget Deficit and Avoid or Minimize Employee Layoffs

Dear President Pahre and Board Members,

I write to offer the following suggestions that I believe the District should consider as ways to close the current budget deficit and avoid or minimize employee layoffs. I recognize that many of the items listed are controversial or difficult, but in my opinion, avoiding or minimizing layoffs and having a more stable fiscal situation for the District are better choices for all of us. I understand that many of these items either have already been implemented or are now being considered for implementation.

1. District-wide, labor and non-labor: Review the District's most recent Strategic Financial Plan for any items not yet fully implemented.
2. District-wide, labor and non-labor: Solicit ideas from the public to save costs and increase revenues.
3. District-wide, labor and non-labor: Solicit ideas from employees to save costs and increase revenues.
4. District-wide, non-labor: Ask District consultants, contractors, and vendors (materials and supplies, services, construction, and other) to voluntarily reduce contract costs.
5. District-wide, non-labor: Review any outstanding District debt and refinance it at a lower rate.
6. District-wide, non-labor: Review opportunities to reduce District energy and other utility costs.
7. District-wide, non-labor: Review District real estate, including property, leases, permits, and concessions, for opportunities to consolidate, minimize risk, restructure, and reduce costs.
8. District-wide, labor: Freeze hiring non-essential positions. Continue hiring essential positions.
9. District-wide, labor: Reduce scheduled employee overtime wherever it is cost-effective to do so.
10. District-wide, labor: Negotiate and implement changes to employee benefits, health care, pension, and post-employment health care plans. If it saves money, any employees not in CalPERS should be.
11. District-wide, labor: Negotiate standardized night differential pay in District labor agreements to no more than 6.5% of base pay for work performed between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.
12. District-wide, labor: Negotiate and implement lower sick leave, vacation, and other accrual limits.

13. District-wide, labor: Negotiate and implement winter employee furloughs from 12-20-20 to 1-2-21.
14. District-wide, labor: Negotiate and implement an additional, ongoing employee furlough program.
15. District-wide, labor: Negotiate base wage decreases of 5% for workers, 7.5% for supervisors and junior managers, and 10% for senior managers and officers. Reconsider base wages every 6 months.
16. Bus Division, non-labor: Consider reducing bus fleet size or delaying vehicle replacement cycle.
17. Bus Division, service reduction: Continue temporary suspension of most commute bus trips.
18. Bus Division, labor: Continue temporary closure of Division 2 (Novato), with staff to San Rafael.
19. Bus Division, labor: Negotiate increase in transit operator deduct from 8 and ¾ hours to 10 hours.
20. Bus Division, revenue increase: Increase bus transit fares to achieve a farebox ratio of 25%. Urge Marin Transit to increase its local adult fare to \$2.50. Review bus transit fares every 6 months.
21. Ferry Division, service reduction: Continue temporary suspension of all ferry service on weekends except for special events if and when needed (using overtime).
22. Ferry Division, revenue increase: Increase ferry transit fares to achieve a farebox ratio of 50%. Review ferry transit fares every 6 months.
23. Bridge Division, revenue increase: Increase bridge toll rates to cover any remaining operating budget deficit. Review bridge toll rates every 6 months.

I can address any questions regarding these comments and suggestions at your next Board meeting or another time. Thank you for considering my thoughts, offered in good faith to try to help.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Pilpel

cc: Denis Mulligan, General Manager

Mary Lucas

From: customerservice
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Patsy Whala; District Secretary; customerservice
Cc: Carlena Natouf
Subject: RE: Bridge Toll

-----Original Message-----

From: Debra Russell <debrarussell2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:59 AM
To: bridgecomments <bridgecomments@goldengate.org>
Subject: Bridge Toll

Hello,

I am very concerned about the announcement of raising the bridge toll to the \$10 range. This is abhorrent! Yes, it is understandable that the Bridge District has lost money due to the pandemic, but so have the residents of the North Bay! Many of us are unemployed and other businesses are suffering as well. Why are we the ones who have to pay? I will not use the bridge anymore! There are other alternatives; for example, you can charge people who walk across, and once things get going in Washington, DC, you can get funding from the Federal Government. But, it is not right to make us pay for this. We are already paying a lot to cross, please consider other avenues like the rest of us have to do.

Thank you,
Debra Russell

Mary Lucas

From: Elwood Dominguez <elwoodblues1954@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 1:24 PM
To: District Secretary
Subject: To all District Board Members

I'm a bus driver for GGT, and would like to express my feelings toward an eventual vote that will impact my co-workers during these trying and difficult times. If there is a way to delaying a vote for layoffs, that would be the humane decision. I don't have the answers, and I do know that you we are operating a business, but, traffic has definitely increased and a toll hike seems to be a very viable direction to go. The future in the coming months I hope will bring better circumstances and we can move on. Thanks for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

Mary Lucas

From: Udelle Knudsen
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Patsy Whala; District Secretary
Cc: Carlena Natouf
Subject: FW: PBS Forum Segment feedback..

From: Giovanni M <giovannimejia83@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:10 AM
To: bridgecomments <bridgecomments@goldengate.org>
Subject: PBS Forum Segment feedback..

To whom it may concern,

Comments:

- Please do not layoff employees--furlough with promise of wage increase based on inflation after budget stabilizes i.e. 2 years of furloughs will equal 2 years of wage increases when budget stabilizes.
- Make toll hikes temporary e.g. 1-year with possibility of renewal.
- Cut executive wages more.
- Seek legislation to establish a broader revenue/tax base not dependent on tolls (call Gavin).

We all depend on goods delivered via the GG bridge, so we should all pay--not just drivers.

Good luck,

Giovanni Mejia

Mary Lucas

From: Katarina Köster <katarina.koster@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:45 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Public Comment for BOD Mtg 11/13/2020

Option #1 is the only solution that makes sense long-term and is fair to the greater public. It makes no sense to keep staff when there is no work for them in the foreseeable future. Even if a vaccine becomes available soon, a lot of corporate workers will continue to work from home because the companies, the managers, and the employees have figured out it works for many positions and saves the company money, so even when the Covid threat goes away, the whole commuting landscape will have changed permanently. Public utilities and other services need to adjust to this new world and raising the bridge toll wouldn't be adjusting, it would be fighting against it but only prolonging the inevitable.

Thank you.

Katarina Köster
Belmont, CA

Mary Lucas

From: customerservice
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Patsy Whala
Cc: District Secretary; Carlena Natouf
Subject: FW: Opinion regarding upcoming meeting decisions

-----Original Message-----

From: patblake611@gmail.com <patblake611@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 10:47 AM
To: bridgecomments <bridgecomments@goldengate.org>
Subject: Opinion regarding upcoming meeting decisions

Your upcoming decisions on Friday must look to the future and not just the present. Raising tolls will not help the continuing budget deficits overall.

The changes in commuting and the changes in the way businesses function, I believe will both continue and be maintained after the pandemic.

You are a bridge district primarily and this should be your function.

Running a bus and ferry system only extends your budget deficits and for the future you need to address that transportation is and will be changed. Maintaining this overextended system and budget is not good business and it is not possible. Disengage from bus and ferry and run a bridge and your budget shortfalls will improve. But you must face issue that telecommuting is way of future not automobile commuting and your toll fares are going to be less in the future even if you try to raise tolls.

Address your real needs and set priorities. No business can keep the same policies when business and life has changed and will continue to change.

Sent from my iPhone

Mary Lucas

From: Raul Martinez <mexicamotors@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 4:08 PM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Distribute to all Board members

Dear GGB Board members,

My name is Raul Martinez, I am a Golden Gate Transit Bus Operator. I write to you with great urgency, imploring you to do all within your power to vote against the proposed layoffs of Golden Gate Bridge employees at the November 13, 2020 board meeting. Please ask critical questions and inquire about available alternatives to layoffs and furloughs. The SF Bay Area is an incredibly expensive geo-economic area to live and work in. We are frontline, essential, public relation representatives, and conflict managers for our passengers. We perform our duties with safety, pride and professionalism.

Bus Operators and our extended families are already suffering from the weight of a 25-30% pay cut to our wages. We are negotiating beyond reasonable efforts to accommodate the current financial reality of the Operating budget. We can't continue living in the SF Bay Area with the proposed pay and job cuts you will be voting on. Please vote no and ask good questions.

Sincerely,

Raul Martinez

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Mary Lucas

From: customerservice
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Patsy Whala; District Secretary; customerservice
Cc: Carlena Natouf
Subject: FW: Balancing budget

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Swan <susanswanri@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 2:49 PM
To: bridgecomments <bridgecomments@goldengate.org>
Subject: Balancing budget

If the reason your budget has a major shortfall is because people aren't crossing the bridge as often or using your bus and ferry systems, then I believe laying off employees who aren't needed at this time is the only reasonable option. Jacking up tolls will only reduce your Bridge use further and penalize those essential workers who must commute by the bridge.

Sincerely,
Susan Swan
San Francisco

Sent from my iPad

Mary Lucas

From: customerservice
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Patsy Whala; District Secretary; customerservice
Cc: Carlena Natouf
Subject: FW: deficit

From: Wendy Kahn <wendyhermina@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:22 PM
To: bridgecomments <bridgecomments@goldengate.org>
Subject: deficit

Dear GG Transit Board Members

My preference for dealing with the deficit is to FURLOUGH employees as many days per week as needed to cover the loses in revenue from the Covid. Many non profits , State, County and municipalities and for profit companies have had to do so.

Many of the people who use buses, cars and ferries are dealing with financial challenges and cannot afford additional tolls.

I look forward to your comments.

Best,
Wendy Kahn

November 12,2020

To all of the Board of Directors

My name is Kimmiko Joseph I am a bus driver with district for almost 20 years. So right now in the agenda item 5A and page 4 If the Board doesn't approve one Of the three options by default the Board will have to spend their Capital reserves. So that tells me that the district have reserves and wants to keep that instead of Keeping families feed with a roof over their head. I can't understand why the rush. My family of operators and ferry have created a bond that you wouldn't even understand. When you divide our family we all suffer. Why aren't their discussions about giving a early Retirement to those that can to help our other brothers and sister to stay employed. My family here at GGT is suffering everyday we go out to work not knowing if we are Infected not know if we going to have a check to feed our love ones. This adds so much stress To all our lives .Personal I feeling that the district is not trying hard enough to treat Us as loyal employees. We are loyal to them every time we go out in the world and deal With this pandemic looming in our heads and all around us. We are not being treated like heroes more like zeros because our life and lively hood doesn't matter. I have a brother That I try to stay away from because he is a transplant patient meaning that he has a New kidney that any little infection could kill him.I worry that my job seems to look at All of us as numbers and not human beings. You have the means and the way to fix the Problem by using \$220 million in reserves. You should also wonder why is the district the only company that wants to lay people off in the Bay Area. Other company have not even enter that Discussion till the first of the year to see there going to be Government assistance giving Before such a harsh decision. I encourage all of you to consider that the district has money To pay us until the first of the year and enter into negotiations then.

Thank you for you time and consideration
Kimmiko Joseph

Patsy Whala

From: Diana Brown <dianabrown007@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 4:29 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Job reduction

We all have families just like you all all I can say is put yourself in our shoes and think about it! Some of you have been on the board for many years and even grown to be old together at least we have I've be around 20 year! I would like to ask you have you guys ever thought about even putting a pandemic in order for our company? Or do you just rely on state and federal funds? What have you all put into this hard hitting pandemic? No preventative measures of us keeping our hubs just like you!! I'm leaving early maybe I can save one body from being laid off. Some of you probably could do the same I guess If I were making over 250 thousand a year I would have to think about it too

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Patsy Whala

From: david heran <davidheran@email.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 2:21 AM
To: District Secretary
Cc: Robert Estrada
Subject: re. B of Directors Spec Meet 11/13/2020

Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 at 2:18 AM
From: "david heran" <davidheran@email.com>
To: distictsecretary@goldengate.org
Cc: robert@ibu.org
Subject: re. B of Directors Spec Meet 11/13/2020

Dear Secretary: Please include this email in Public Commentary, for the Board of Directors Special Meeting being held 11/13/2020.

As a member of the Inland Boatmen's Union, a concerned California taxpayer, and a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, I wish to express my opposition to any action of this Board to create mass layoffs during this Covid 19

era, when operating budgets are being squeezed to the breaking point. Because viable alternatives to trimming the labor force exist, it behooves the Board to consider these better options, such as postponing capitol

improvement projects, and generating short term operating income from sales of District equipment, and real estate.

These assets of the Bridge District can be sold today, and restored tomorrow. The same cannot be said about the District employees, many who have worked for the Golden Gate Ferry, some for decades, who, if layed off during

these difficult times, may never return, and could be subject to economic ruin. The Ferry Division would be basically starting up again at some future date from scratch. They would be without the best people in their ranks with skills,

and experience, and would need to rely on a workforce of "D" cards, and Casuals, who are basically at the bottom rung of the ladder for maritime workers.

Because the Holidays are already upon us, if some layoffs absolutely must occur, please consider defering them to January, 2021, at the earliest.

Even the notice of this Special Meeting could be a purveyor of unintended consequences to come if the workforce is decimated, with the intention of somehow reconstructing it at some future date. The "audio conference only" is

slated to begin at nine o'clock in the morning, but the notice says "0900 AM". Which one is it? Do we mean 0900 hours, or 9am? One cannot say 0900 AM, which is redundant, and not reflecting the maritime professionalism

found in the ranks of the Union employees, who just want to hold on to their jobs. RETAIN ALL GOLDEN GATE EMPLOYEES!

Submitted by David Heran 11/13/2020

Patsy Whala

From: Emma Moore <emmamariemoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 7:47 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Public Comment for 11/13/20 Meeting

Hello,

I would like to provide public comment for the 11/13/20 Board of Directors meeting regarding additional tolling on the Golden Gate Bridge.

I am an essential worker and registered nurse who has driven from San Rafael to San Francisco almost everyday for the duration of this pandemic. While I'm certainly not excited to pay more than what I currently pay, I also understand that we are a community and need to take care of those around us. If an additional toll is what is needed to preserve jobs, then that seems reasonable- but with three additional items for consideration:

- 1) This must be a temporary toll with a end date- this should not go on indefinitely
- 2) If there is no work for most of these employees who would otherwise be laid off, why not redeploy them 40 hours per week to nonprofits in the community who are desperate for assistance (food banks, etc.)?
- 3) Rather than the straight \$2 to pay for labor costs, why not compromise with the short-term furlough and the \$1.25 option for labor and take \$.75 for this temporary time period to save for capital projects. Specifically to purchase a gantry and transponders to toll the northbound direction of the bridge. As someone who watches the traffic slowdowns daily, the Larkspur and San Rafael exits to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge are the most common cause of dangerous slowdowns and accidents. My understanding of the current mission of the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District does not include service of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Why not simultaneously focus service on those counties represented by the board and make the San Francisco/Marin County 101 corridor a safer place to drive. A medium-term plan of tolling the southbound lane at the same cost as the Bay Bridge and a nominal toll northbound could successfully control traffic patterns so as to safely serve constituents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Emma Moore, MS, RN
Emmamariemoore@gmail.com

Patsy Whala

From: Udelle Knudsen
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Patsy Whala; District Secretary; customerservice
Cc: Carlena Natouf
Subject: FW: Toll Increase

-----Original Message-----

From: serchiafamily@gmail.com <serchiafamily@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 7:41 AM
To: bridgecomments <bridgecomments@goldengate.org>
Subject: Toll Increaae

WHY DON'T YOU CHARGE PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS THE BRIDGE INSTEAD OF INCREASING TOLLS FORTHE PEOPLE THAT
COMMUTE AND SUPPORT THE CITY. ANOTHER INCREASE IS RIDICULOUS.
CHARGE THE TOURIST COMMUNITY AS EVEY OTHER COUNTRY DOES IN THE WORLD TO VISIT FAMOUS LANDMARKS

Lynn

Patsy Whala

From: Gigi Gamble <gigi.gamble@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 9:31 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: No Layoffs

Dear Golden Gate Transit Board of Directors,

As a bus rider, and occasional ferry user, and BART worker (local 1555, ATU) I do not support balancing the budget by raising fares and laying off front line workers.

Look to your reserves and to the new WH administration for funds to cover the shortfalls.

Keep people riding, keep people working, and don't balance your budget on the backs of front line workers and riders.

Thank you,

Gigi Gamble
ATU Local 1555
BART station agent

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"We work in the dark—we do what we can—we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion, and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art."

From "The Middle Years", by Henry James.

Patsy Whala

From: Gigi Gamble <gigi.gamble@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:48 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Would the board address the option

of eliminating or laying off management positions before laying off front line workers?

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"We work in the dark—we do what we can—we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion, and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art."

From "The Middle Years", by Henry James.

Patsy Whala

From: Lucas & Gary <lucassc212@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:20 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Agenda Item 5

Good morning Board of Directors,

My name is Lucas Stuart-Chilcote, a member of the Inlandboatmen's Union. Golden Gate Transit: Ferry division has been the start of a new chapter in my life as a 22 year old. The time I've had as a Terminal Agent has sparked a new career path and I am indebted to Golden Gate Transit for providing that.

Let me provide a theoretical example of in the future. Years pass by and I gain seniority, I grow at the terminal and a similar world-altering event happens like COVID. I would hope Golden Gate Transit would be on my side to protect and preserve my employment. After all, you, my employer, would be indebted to my service to OUR company.

Please do the right thing of persevering and saving these jobs. Be on the right side of history creating a precedent that YOU are on the employees side. Be the employer WE all want you to be. Listen to the unions.... I cease my remaining time.

Thank you

Patsy Whala

From: Rudy Gonzalez <rudy@sflaborcouncil.org>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:24 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Public Comment for 11/13/2020

Board of Directors,

I am writing to urge that you reject the proposal to raise tolls and lay-off staff. Please use capital planning money to protect the healthcare of your workforce. It is quite possible to negotiate a reduction of hours to maintain employment and healthcare during this emergency. The parking lot and solar installation project, as an example, could be postponed or even cancelled to retain a highly skilled and essential workforce.

There is an element to this conversation that has not been adequately raised, which included disaster preparedness and readiness.

Please carefully consider the ripple effect of laying off skilled and trained workers. Spending down reserves can be seen as an investment in the recovery of our District.

I ask that you pause, spend down reserves for the next 60 days and revisit the matter once we assess what relief will be available from the Federal government.

Thanks,

Rudy

Rudy Gonzalez
Executive Director
San Francisco Labor Council
1188 Franklin Street, Suite 203
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (415) 440-4809 Fax: (415) 440-9297

Check out our web site: www.sflaborcouncil.org

Join us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/San-Francisco-Labor-Council/146765198711800>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/@sflabor>

Sign up for Email Alerts: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/join-the-sflc-e-activist-list>



Patsy Whala

From: Marc Norton <nortonsf@ix.netcom.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 9:24 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: No Layoffs!

The workers built and maintain the bridge, the buses and the ferries.

Tax the Rich.

Marc Norton
San Francisco
(415) 648-2535 (landline)

Patsy Whala

From: Michael Papesh <michaelpapesh@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 11:21 AM
To: District Secretary
Subject: Proposed Golden Gate Bridge Fare Increase - Opposition from San Francisco

I am a 73 year old long time San Francisco resident and have seen the bridge tolls increase every year to a ridiculous level.

Now there is a proposed \$10 toll!!!!

I would suggest that the Board of Directors deal with reality that remote working is here to stay.

Cut back on your costs for the new reality.

Fewer busses, ferries, and riders.

Concerning staff, rationalize the staff for less demand now.

Offer early retirement, but then implement layoffs.

The GGB Board of Directors is paid big money to make decisions, so make the tough choices.

Regards

Michael Papesh