

May 20, 2021



**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE/
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20, issued by the Governor of the State of California, in which portions of the Ralph M. Brown Act are suspended and allows, all Board members, staff and the public to participate by telephone.

**These minutes are supplemented by the audio recording that is posted online at:
<https://www.goldengate.org/district/board-of-directors/meeting-documents>.**

Honorable Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway
and Transportation District

Honorable Members:

A meeting of the Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole (Committee) of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) was held via audio conferencing on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., Chair Fredericks presiding.

- (1) **Call to Order:** 9:00 a.m.
- (2) **Roll Call:** Secretary of the District Amorette M. Ko-Wong.

Committee Members Present (8): Chair Fredericks, Vice Chair Arnold; Directors Hill, Mastin, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; President Pahre.

Committee Members Absent (0): None.

Other Directors Present (4): Directors Cochran, Garbarino, Hernández and Theriault.

Committee of the Whole Members Present (12): Directors Arnold, Fredericks, Garbarino, Hernández, Hill, Mastin, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; Second Vice President Cochran; First Vice President Theriault; President Pahre.

Committee of the Whole Members Absent (3): Directors Grosboll, Melgar and Stefani.

[Note: On this date, there were four vacancies on the Board of Directors.]

Staff Present: General Manager Denis Mulligan; Auditor-Controller Joseph Wire; Secretary of the District Amorette Ko-Wong; Attorney Kimon Manolius; Deputy General Manager/Administration and Development Kellee Hopper; Deputy General Manager/Bridge Division Steve Miller; Deputy General Manager/Bus Division Mona

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Babauta; Deputy General Manager/Ferry Division James Swindler; Deputy District Engineer John Eberle; Executive Administrator to the General Manager Justine Bock; Senior Board Analyst Elizabeth Eells.

Copies of all reports and presentations are available on the District's web site at <https://www.goldengate.org/district/board-of-directors/meeting-documents/> or upon request from the Office of the District Secretary.

(3) Report of District Advisory Committees [2:32 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

(a) Advisory Committee on Accessibility; (b) Bus Passengers Advisory Committee; and (c) Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee

General Manager Denis Mulligan presented the staff report, which was for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

(4) Approve the District's Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Rollout Plan and Board Resolution for Submittal to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) [3:36 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

Deputy General Manager/Bus Division Mona Babauta highlighted some items in the staff report and introduced Sasha Pejic of Stantec who gave an overview of the ZEB Rollout Plan and presented the PowerPoint presentation.

Directors Mastin, Garbarino, Hill, Snyder, Theriault, Hernández, Arnold and Rodoni, and Chair Fredericks commented and inquired about the staff report. Directors Garbarino, Hill, Snyder, Hernández, Arnold and Rodoni and Chair Fredericks expressed their appreciation for the information provided in the staff report. Directors Theriault, Hernández and Hill suggested staff consider the value of additional solar installations beyond the one being implemented in San Rafael. Director Hill suggested that staff also consider other clean energy sources, which are available through Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Director Arnold stated that she believes that Ford's introduction of the all-electric F-150 trucks would shift people's attitudes towards electric vehicles. She noted that the District's shift to all-electric vehicles would set an example for the country about the viability of electric buses.

Ms. Babauta, Mr. Mulligan and Mr. Pejic responded to the Directors' inquiries. Ms. Babauta stated the lifespan of a bus is about 10 to 12 years. She clarified that the District's team is planning for the buses to be able to climb the Waldo Grade which is the grade that is most demanding in the District's routes. Mr. Pejic confirmed the District could invest sooner in ZEB buses as the technology evolved. Ms. Babauta said that the District is due to replace its commuter coaches sometime in the next three years, and staff would monitor the market developments and could possibly recommend the District invest sooner than projected in the ZEB Rollout Plan. She stated the critical path was the equipment and charging technologies that would allow the District to meet ridership demands. She explained some of the District's procurement considerations, and the meaning of a block analysis, and outlined the District's risk considerations. Mr. Pejic explained the cost per

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mile comparison of the various technology mixes, noted the calculation is for the vehicle and clarified it does not include the other vehicle costs. He and Mr. Mulligan outlined the bus manufacturer industry's capabilities to produce the ZEB vehicles, and stressed the manufacturers would have to expand manufacturing capabilities to meet demand.

The following individual spoke under public comment: **[1:01:47 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- Dave Rhody, The Climate Reality Project

(a) Action by Committee

Staff recommended and the Committee concurred by motion made and seconded by **Directors SNYDER/RABBITT** to forward the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for its consideration:

RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole recommends that the Board of Directors approve the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District's Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan and Board Resolution for submittal to and in compliance with the California Air Resources Board Innovative Clean Transit regulation.

Action by the Board at its meeting of May 21, 2021 – Resolution

AYES (12): Directors Arnold, Fredericks, Garbarino, Hernández, Hill, Mastin, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; Second Vice President Cochran; First Vice President Theriault; President Pahre.

NOES (0): None.

ABSENT (3): Directors Grosboll, Melgar and Stefani.

(5) Designate a Preferred Alternative to Serve as the Focus of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Project No. 2017-D-30, San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Analysis, Environmental Clearance, and Preliminary Design **[1:06:48 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Deputy General Manager/Administration and Development Kellee Hopper introduced the District's consultant, Adam Dankberg of Kimley-Horn who presented the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Mulligan stated that a recent California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) court ruling indicated the project should identify a preferred alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). He noted that the selection of a preferred alternative does not indicate it is a final decision. He also spoke about the Regional Measure 3 funding, and noted that the key stakeholder agencies (SMART, City of San Rafael, Marin Transit, and Transportation Authority of Marin) would have to concur with the District's final selected alternative in order for the District to receive \$30 million of funding. He reviewed some of the reasons why staff recommends designating the Move Whistlestop Alternative as the preferred alternative.

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Directors Rabbitt, Hernández, Garbarino, Theriault, Hill, Snyder, Rodoni and Arnold commented and inquired about the staff report. Many of the Directors who spoke expressed appreciation for the project and the work on the alternatives. Directors Rabbitt, Hernández, Garbarino, Theriault, Rodoni and Arnold expressed appreciation for the public outreach that had been conducted to date. Director Hernández spoke about attending the Stakeholder Committee meetings of the various involved entities and the level of agreement amongst the group about the alternatives. She expressed support for the preferred alternative. Director Theriault asked how the Move Whistlestop Alternative would affect historic structures. Director Hill expressed support for the preferred alternative and the desirability of integrating transit centers with a viable residential and commercial area. Director Snyder stated that the Move Whistlestop Alternative appears to be the best option. Director Rodoni expressed his support for the Move Whistlestop Alternative. He expressed his view that rebuilding confidence in public transit was a key goal and the preferred alternative could play a role in rebuilding confidence. Director Arnold seconded Director Rodoni's comments. President Pahre expressed her appreciation for Director Hernández's engagement and efforts on the project.

Mr. Mulligan responded to the Directors' inquiries. He stated that the DEIR would include an Historic Report. He briefly explained that the Whistlestop Building is not eligible to be registered as an historic property because the original structure has been modified extensively. He said that if the Move Whistlestop Alternative is ultimately selected by the Board, the project representatives would communicate with San Rafael Heritage representatives about which parts of the Whistlestop Building reflect its original historic construction. He outlined some of the City of San Rafael's goals for housing in the area. He stated that when the new transit center is built, the District's existing transit center would be considered surplus and staff envisions selling it to a developer for uses, which are consistent with the City of San Rafael's General Plan. He noted the sale proceeds would help offset the cost of the new transit center.

The following individual spoke under public comment: **[1:44:59 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- Scott Kempf, Bus Passenger Advisory Committee
- Linzy Klumpp, San Rafael Heritage
- Warren Wells, Marin County Bicycle Coalition
- David Pilpel, County of San Francisco Resident
- Bill Carney, Sustainable San Rafael
- Leslie Simons

(a) Action by Committee

Staff recommended and the Committee concurred by motion made and seconded by **Directors HERNÁNDEZ/MASTIN** to forward the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for its consideration:

RECOMMENDATION

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The Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole recommends that the Board of Directors designate the Move Whistlestop Alternative as the preferred alternative to serve as the focus of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) relative to Project No. 2017-D-30, *San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Analysis, Environmental Clearance, and Preliminary Design*:

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the agency undertaking environmental review of a project, also known as the "lead agency," to provide an "accurate, stable, and finite" description of the proposed project. More recently, CEQA has been interpreted to require the lead agency to designate a "preferred alternative" to serve as the focus of the environmental study. This designation is required at this time so that the consultant can complete the DEIR. This designation does not require the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District to ultimately adopt the preferred alternative, but is intended merely to make it easier for the public to understand what the project entails and which alternative seems to best meet the project's purpose and the community's priorities.

Action by the Board at its meeting of May 21, 2021 – Resolution

AYES (10): Directors Fredericks, Hernández, Hill, Mastin, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; Second Vice President Cochran; First Vice President Theriault; President Pahre.

NOES (0): None.

ABSENT (5): Directors Arnold, Garbarino, Grosboll, Melgar and Stefani.

(6) Monthly Report on Bridge Traffic, Transit Ridership Trends, and Transit Service Performance [1:57:20 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]

General Manager Denis Mulligan presented the staff report, which was for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

(7) Monthly Report on Activities Related to Marin Transit [1:58:16 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]

General Manager Denis Mulligan presented the staff report, which was for informational purposes only and no action was taken. He stated that staff would keep the Board informed about staff's efforts to negotiate and extend the District's contract with Marin Transit to provide some of the local bus service.

(8) Public Comment [1:59:35 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]

The following individual spoke under Public Comment:

- Hayden Miller, County of San Francisco Resident

Mr. Mulligan responded to the public comments. [2:01:54 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]

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(9) **Adjournment** [2:03:28 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]

All business having been concluded, Directors ARNOLD/MASTIN moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Alice Fredericks, Chair
Transportation Committee

AF:AMK:EIE:mjl