

July 22, 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, July 22, 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 (7): Chair Fredericks; Directors Hill, Mastin, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; President Pahre.

Committee Members Absent (2): Vice Chair Arnold; Director Melgar.

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

Committee of the Whole Members Present (11): Directors 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 (5): Directors Arnold, Conroy, Grosboll, Melgar and Stefani.

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

Staff Present: General Manager Denis Mulligan; District Engineer Ewa Bauer-Furbush; Secretary of the District Amorette Ko-Wong; Attorney Kimon Manolius; Deputy General Manager/Administration and Development Kellee Hopper; Deputy General

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Manager/Bridge Division Steve Miller; Deputy General Manager/Bus Division Mona Babauta; Deputy General Manager/Ferry Division James Swindler; Director of Planning Ron Downing; 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 [2:25 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) Status Report on Golden Gate Transit Bus and Golden Gate Ferry Ridership Trends and Where We Are Today [2:56 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

Director of Planning Ron Downing made the presentation on the status of transit service, the changes that Staff has implemented in that service, and the expected trends in service levels in the coming months. The presentation was for informational purposes only and no action was taken. Mr. Mulligan added that people are not traveling into San Francisco as frequently.

Chair Fredericks, Directors Hill, Mastin and Rabbitt, and President Pahre commented and inquired about the presentation. Several Directors expressed appreciation for the presentation and staff's work to adjust service. Chair Fredericks observed staff has been nimble about adjusting service as ridership changes. Director Hill inquired about the possibility of pursuing public private partnerships (PPP) for the last mile, the feasibility of operating a smaller electric ferry, and the City and County of San Francisco's plans for implementing congestion pricing. Director Mastin inquired about the cost effectiveness of operating the MCI buses. President Pahre inquired about how District staff make decisions about adding service. Director Rabbitt spoke about the future of transit. He also inquired about the timing of people's return to transit, and the percentage of former transit riders who would be driving instead of taking transit.

Mr. Mulligan and Mr. Downing responded to the Directors' inquiries. Mr. Downing stated that District staff look at demand and ridership when making decisions about service. Mr. Mulligan added that staff also look at the survey results. He emphasized that one key indicator would be the return of commuters to downtown San Francisco, and their return could be affected by the Delta variant of COVID-19. He said that staff would evaluate how traffic is flowing across the Bridge, and the mixture of Bridge traffic and transit ridership would guide the District in its decision-making about future transit service. He observed that demand for transit could be different than the past. He noted that Bridge traffic has returned faster than transit ridership, and the District can rely on its Bridge traffic revenues

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to sustain itself financially. He also said that the District transit costs are aligned with service whereas some other agencies have high fixed costs to offer even a small amount of service.

A public comment was received from the following individual: **[46:44 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident

(5) Adopt Title VI Equity Analysis Findings Relative to COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Adjustments to Golden Gate Transit Commute Bus Service [50:03 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

Director of Planning Ron Downing presented the staff report. He expressed his appreciation for the contributions of Principal Planner Barbara Vincent and Attorney Shayna van Hoften to the report.

A public comment was received from the following individual: **[55:09 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident

(a) Action by Committee

Staff recommended and the Committee concurred by motion made and seconded by **Directors HILL/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 adopt the findings of the Title VI equity analysis for Golden Gate Transit commute bus service changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes include service reductions on Routes 27, 54, and 72 and the suspension of Routes 2, 4, 8, 18, 24, 25, 38, 56X, 58, 74, 76, and 92 (including all lettered variations of the impacted routes). The equity analysis concludes that the changes do not have a disparate impact on minority passengers nor impose a disproportionate burden on low-income passengers.

Action by the Board at its meeting of July 23, 2021 – Resolution

AYES (11): Directors Fredericks, Garbarino, Hernández, Hill, Mastin, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; Second Vice President Cochran; First Vice President Theriault; President Pahre.

NOES (0): None.

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

(6) Monthly Report on Bridge Traffic, Transit Ridership Trends, and Transit Service Performance [58:29 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

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General Manager Denis Mulligan presented the staff report, which was for informational purposes only and no action was taken. He pointed out the statistics for Bridge traffic in the morning.

Chair Fredericks inquired about the staff report.

Mr. Mulligan responded to the Chair's inquiry.

(7) Monthly Report on Activities Related to Marin Transit [1:01:21 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 the District provides local bus service under contract to Marin Transit and staff is negotiating to continue the contract with that agency.

(8) Public Comment [1:02:20 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]

The following individual spoke under Public Comment:

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident

(9) Adjournment [1:03:53 Hours Mark on the Audio Recording]

All business having been concluded, Directors RABBITT/SNYDER moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Alice Fredericks, Chair
Transportation Committee

AF:AMK:EIE:tnm