



Agenda Item No. (3)(a)–(3)(c)

To: Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 21, 2021

From: Ron Downing, Director of Planning  
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **REPORTS OF DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEES**  
(a) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY**  
(b) **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
(c) **FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Recommendation**

There is no recommendation associated with this item.

**Summary**

The purpose of the formation of the above-mentioned Advisory Committees is to provide the public a forum by which they can communicate their viewpoints and suggestions on the operations of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District), as well as on the bus and ferry transit systems, to the District Board of Directors and staff. These Advisory Committees meet regularly, and designated District staff participates in these meetings. From time to time, these Advisory Committees submit recommendations to the District’s Transportation Committee (Committee) for its consideration.

The Secretary of the District is required to provide packets of the Advisory Committees to the Committee.

The documents attached to this report are as follows:

- (a) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY**  
There is no meeting information at the time of this mailing.
- (b) **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Meeting Packet of September 1, 2021
- (c) **FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
There is no meeting information at the time of this mailing.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Attachments

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# BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

## *Agenda for Wednesday, September 1, 2021*

Convene at 5:30 p.m. – Adjourn by 7:30 p.m.

Meeting will be held via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85958171723?pwd=VGJkMnJyNXBSdFhIMnZBeWVHMzNLUT09>

Call-in number: 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 859 5817 1723

Passcode: 482144



1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. Approval of May 19 and July 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes (*Attached*)
3. Bus Stoppers<sup>1</sup>
4. Ongoing Business (10 minutes)
  - a. Clipper START Means-Based Fare Program Update
5. New Business (30 minutes)
  - a. September 2021 Service Changes
  - b. Real-Time Crowding Data
  - c. San Francisco Street Project Update
6. Announcements
7. Members' Forum<sup>2</sup>
8. Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: November 17, 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Members to submit observed problems in bus operations, preferably in writing before the meeting, and provide a verbal summary in less than 2 minutes.

<sup>2</sup> Members to discuss topics not covered on the agenda or that should be added to a future agenda.

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# **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

## ***Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 21, 2021***



**Committee Members Present:** Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Fredi Bloom

**Committee Members Absent:** Jon Horinek, Scott Kempf, Valeria Sasser, Dave Troup, Arthur Young

**District Staff Present:** David Davenport, Senior Planner; Bill Middleton Jr., Acting Superintendent of Safety and Training; Carlena Natouf, Customer Relations Supervisor

**Guests Present:** Director James Mastin; Mohamed Osman, Marin Transit; Davis Schwartz, Capital Partners

1. **Roll Call:** Brian Bailey-Gates opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Three members were present, which did not represent a quorum.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Approval of the meeting minutes for the May 19, 2021, meeting was deferred due to the lack of a quorum.
3. **Bus Stoppers:** Dan Bell recommended that the use of Golden Gate Transit be encouraged as a way to visit the Golden Gate Bridge, and Fredi Bloom and Mr. Bailey-Gates agreed. David Davenport noted that GGT usage to the bridge has increased in light of Muni's current service suspension, and Carlena Natouf reported that she has seen an uptick in hotel concierges calling for transit information after a long pause due to the pandemic.
4. **New Business:**
  - a. **Transit Status Report:** Mr. Davenport presented a transit status report prepared for the District's Transportation Committee meeting on July 22. The report highlighted that traffic and transit usage continues to be down, and that transit service has focused on equity with the need for commuter-oriented service diminished. The District anticipates transit service demand to remain weak until office workers return to San Francisco. In addition, the Board of Directors must adopt the findings of a Title VI equity analysis that shows that disadvantaged riders were not adversely affected by the reduction in commute bus service throughout the pandemic. Ms. Bloom asked if the emergence of the delta variant would have an impact on service, and Mr. Davenport responded that service changes would be dependent upon increased demand. Mr. Bailey-Gates reported that his office anticipates reopening after Labor Day but added that the opening is subject to change due to the delta variant. He asked about the District's feedback process, and Mr. Davenport said the District's rider survey in May is being taken into consideration along with external information from sources like the Bay Area Council.
  - b. **Strategic Plan Workshop:** Davis Schwartz led a discussion with BPAC members to solicit feedback on six questions related to the District's effort to create a new strategic plan.

(1) Mr. Schwartz asked about key bus service issues, and Ms. Bloom suggested additional surveying to gauge the return of riders. Mr. Bailey-Gates noted that the emergence of the delta variant may delay the return of riders, and Mr. Bell indicated that Regional routes are essential and should see a boost in service. (2) Mr. Schwartz asked about the relocation of the San Rafael Transit Center, and the committee reiterated its support of the Move Whistlestop Alternative. (3) Mr. Schwartz asked about bicycle and pedestrian access to transit service, and Mr. Bell suggested that policies treat bikes and e-bikes the same. Ms. Bloom said she likes the idea of bikesharing. (4) Mr. Schwartz asked about regional transit coordination, and Mr. Bell and Mr. Bailey-Gates suggested improved connections to the Larkspur SMART Station. Mr. Bailey-Gates observed that GGT is responsive with service changes, and Mr. Bell indicated his support for the means-based fare program. (5) Mr. Schwartz asked about customer service messaging and wayfinding, and the committee expressed support for new technologies. Mr. Bell and Mr. Bailey-Gates stated that 511 is a good information source. (6) Mr. Schwartz asked about the structure and usefulness of BPAC, and committee members agreed that they serve an important role as the voice of bus riders. They added that sharing observations with District staff allows issues to be addressed before the public complains. Lastly, Mr. Schwartz asked for general feedback, and Mr. Bell stated that bus drivers should see themselves as ambassadors. Mr. Bell and Ms. Bloom emphasized the need to be familiar with Marin Transit services where possible. Mr. Schwartz agreed to update the committee on the strategic plan at a future meeting.

**5. Announcements:** None.

**6. Members' Forum:** None.

**7. Public Comment:** None.

**8. Adjournment:** Mr. Bailey-Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday, September 1, 2021, via Zoom.

## **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

### *Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 19, 2021*

**Committee Members Present:** Win Archibald, Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Fredi Bloom, Jon Horinek, Scott Kempf, Valeria Sasser, Dave Troup

**Committee Members Absent:** Arthur Young

**District Staff Present:** David Davenport, Senior Planner; Carolyn Derwing, Supervising Scheduler and Data Analyst; Bill Middleton Jr., Acting Superintendent of Safety and Training; Krystalyn O’Leary, Acting Director of Operations

**Guests Present:** Mohamed Osman, Marin Transit; David Pilpel

1. **Roll Call:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Seven members were present, representing a quorum.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Valeria Sasser remarked that her name was misspelled as “Valerie” in the meeting minutes for March 17. With this correction, BPAC members approved the May 17, 2021, meeting minutes.
3. **Bus Stoppers:** There were no Bus Stoppers to discuss.
4. **Ongoing Business:**
  - a. **COVID-19 Update:** David Davenport reported that social distancing protocols have been revised in San Francisco and Marin County. Fredi Bloom remarked that she was glad to hear this, having been on a Route 23 bus recently that became full. Dave Troup mentioned that he had been passed up twice over the past year, and suggested that Route 101 capacity be eased on southbound trips from Marin County into San Francisco. Carlena Natouf commented that driver discretion was possible but noted that it was not possible to enforce two different policies on one route. Ms. Bloom asked about mask usage on board buses, and Mr. Davenport answered that federal regulations requiring masks remain in effect through September 13, 2021. Mr. Davenport reported that a vaccination site is available at Larkspur Ferry Terminal, and free bus and ferry rides are being offered to people traveling to/from vaccination appointments. He also reported that the District is surveying bus and ferry passengers about their return-to-work plans through May 30. Lastly, he reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is slated to approve the first tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in July; ARPA’s two tranches are expected to cover the District’s transit revenue shortfalls through late 2022.
5. **New Business:**
  - a. **June 2021 Service Changes:** Mr. Davenport announced service changes effective June 13. Routes 27, 30, 54, 72, and 101 will have added trips. Hourly service on nights and



weekends will be restored on Route 40. Route 70 will be realigned to serve Manzanita Park & Ride and most Sausalito service will move to an expanded Route 30, and late evening service will be reduced in conjunction with expanded service on Marin Transit Route 71. In addition, Route 72 will be realigned in Petaluma to serve the Fairgrounds Park & Ride. Mohamed Osman further explained Marin Transit service changes, such as the expansion of Route 71, and Dan Bell noted that SMART train service will be expanded starting May 24.

- b. San Rafael Transit Center – BPAC Preferred Alternative: Mr. Davenport explained the four alternatives under consideration, and told the group that the District’s Board of Directors must identify a preferred alternative before releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Release of the DEIR is expected in June, and the public comment period will be at least 45 days. The Board will adopt a preferred alternative at the end of the public process, which does not necessarily have to be the same as the preferred alternative identified upon release of the DEIR. Mr. Bell and Mr. Kempf stated that they were in favor of the Move Whistlestop Alternative. Mr. Bell explained that moving the building addresses issues with the street alignment and sight lines, and provides more open space. He requested that BPAC provide a letter of support specifically for this alternative. Mr. Kempf, Brian Bailey-Gates, Ms. Sasser, and Ms. Bloom agreed with this assessment. Ms. Bloom asked if Tamalpais Avenue would be closed to car traffic in this alternative, and Mr. Davenport confirmed that it would be open only to transit vehicles. Mr. Bailey-Gates suggested they keep the letter short, as time is of the essence. After discussing the language of the letter, the committee agreed unanimously to submit a letter in favor of the Move Whistlestop Alternative.
  - c. Emerging Bay Area Transit Coordination and Integration Efforts: Mr. Davenport reported that several transit coordination and integration efforts are underway in the Bay Area. He noted that MTC is leading a fare integration study, and the Blue Ribbon Task Force has hired a consultant to study “network manager” concepts to improve regional transit service. Lastly, he reported that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority recently produced a Transit Integration and Efficiency Study (TIES) with a consultant, and the report examined coordination and integration possibilities between local transit operators within Sonoma County.
6. **Announcements**: Win Archibald announced her retirement from BPAC after serving on the committee for 20 years. In response to an inquiry at the previous meeting, Mr. Davenport reported that Golden Gate Transit (GGT) plans to move towards a zero-emission bus fleet, and components of the plan will be shared at this month’s Transportation Committee meeting. Lastly, Mr. Osman announced that Clipper released an iPhone app last month and just released an Android app this month.
  7. **Members’ Forum**: Jon Horinek inquired about progress on the Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project. Mr. Davenport replied that bus lanes should be constructed by the end of this year, and service should be live in early 2022. Mr. Bell observed that buses tend not to use the new Mission Street bus lanes. Mr. Davenport noted that this might change when the permanent lane configuration is installed and traffic increases.



- 8. Public Comment:** David Pilpel spoke on three items. First, he asked for a one-sentence update on Angel Island ferry service. Second, Mr. Pilpel requested the restoration of bus service on Geary Boulevard and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue since Muni is not currently providing service to the Golden Gate Bridge. Third, he indicated his support for GGT's new "open door" policy that allows local bus rides in San Francisco. In response to Mr. Pilpel's first question, Mr. Davenport that Angel Island ferry service plans are not yet set and that he should check either with the Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee or stay tuned for information at a future Board meeting.
- 9. Adjournment:** Mr. Kempf adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m., in honor of retiring member Win Archibald.

Members were advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday, September 1, 2021, via Zoom.

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