

November 1, 2021

AUDIO CONFERENCE ONLY



PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED FARES FOR GOLDEN GATE FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN THE SAN FRANCISCO FERRY TERMINAL AND ANGEL ISLAND

Friday, November 5, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Teleconference Number: (415) 569-6446
Public Overflow Numbers: (415) 636-8761

Public Comment Note: Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, this public hearing will be conducted via teleconference only (no physical location). Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely via the teleconference numbers listed above and on the public hearing notice. During the public hearing comment period, your name will be called in the order received. Each individual will be allotted up to three (3) minutes for public comments concerning the item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Public Hearing. Public comments may also be submitted by e-mail to publichearing@goldengate.org or by mail to the District Secretary. All comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Background

In December 2020, Blue & Gold Fleet notified the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) of its intent to end its contract for ferry service between San Francisco and Angel Island. Blue & Gold's application with the California Public Utilities Commission to be relieved of its obligation to provide this service is still pending.

In anticipation that Blue & Gold will cease its operations in the near future, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) voted on October 22, 2021 to establish a new Golden Gate Ferry route between San Francisco and Angel Island, to be initially implemented as a one-year demonstration project. An additional fundamental step for the San Francisco-Angel Island ferry service is to establish the fares for the demonstration service.

Board policy stipulates that establishing a new fare requires a public engagement process that includes a formal public hearing. The public hearing on November 5, 2021 to receive public comment on the proposed fares meets that requirement.

Discussion

The District is initiating the service as a one-year demonstration project, which could begin as soon as late November 2021. The proposed single ride fares would be set at the same fare levels as the Tiburon service (currently \$14.00 for a single ride adult fare each way, or \$7.50 each way using a stored value Clipper Card), plus the pass-thru State Park Entrance Fee, and will be available exclusively through the Clipper system. Fares for youths, seniors, Medicare recipients, people with disabilities and groups would be set at \$7.00 (50% of the adult single ride fare), plus half of the State Park Entrance Fee. At the public hearing, members of the public are invited to comment on the proposed fares for the Angel Island ferry service.

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Public Comment Process

Public comments on this proposal to establish a fare for San Francisco-Angel Island ferry service could be submitted in several different ways:

1. Attend the teleconference public hearing;
2. E-mail publichearing@goldengate.org; and/or,
3. Send written comments to the District Secretary.

All comments are considered equally without regard to the manner in which the comments are submitted. Therefore, individuals do not have to attend the public hearing if they have commented through email or other written forms. All comments received through the above methods will be considered in the final recommendation. Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021

Title VI Equity Analysis

This proposal creates a new fare for the demonstration project. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Title VI guidelines specifically address demonstration projects, and give transit agencies the latitude to introduce a demonstration project for up to one year before a Title VI equity analysis is required. One of the cornerstones of the Title VI Equity Analysis is that demographic data be used to demonstrate how the service would address the transportation needs of disadvantaged communities. The demonstration period would allow the District to collect and analyze demographic data on the riders of the new service to fully inform the Equity Analysis.

Public Notification

Outreach on the proposal to create the new San Francisco-Angel Island ferry service fare began after the Board authorization to hold this public hearing on October 22, 2021 and continued into early-November prior to the public hearing.

Public notification activities included:

- Posters displayed on board buses and ferries;
- Advertisements in local publications (*Marin Independent Journal* and *La Voz*);
- Press releases to local media;
- Social media postings on Facebook and Twitter; and,
- Email blast to customers and community-based organizations.

The full staff report is available in other languages including Spanish, Chinese and Japanese as per the District's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan.

Next Steps

Following the public hearing, staff will evaluate all comments received and determine whether changes or modifications need to be made to the proposal to establish fares for San Francisco-Angel Island ferry service. A final recommendation to adopt the fares will be brought back to the November 18, 2021, Transportation Committee meeting and to the full Board on the following day.