

November 18, 2021



**MINUTES OF THE BUILDING AND OPERATING COMMITTEE/
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Assembly Bill 361, signed by the Governor of the State of California on September 16, 2021, amends the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow Board members, staff and the public to participate remotely in meetings, without complying with traditional teleconference meeting rules.

**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 Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole (Committee) of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) was held via audio conferencing on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 9:53 a.m., Chair Theriault presiding.

(1) Call to Order: 9:53 a.m.

(2) Roll Call: Secretary of the District Amorette M. Ko-Wong.

Committee Members Present (7): Chair Theriault; Vice-Chair Garbarino; Directors Cochran, Fredericks, Mastin and Rabbitt; President Pahre.

Committee Members Absent (1): Director Hernández.

Other Directors Present (4): Directors Grosboll, Hill, Rodoni and Snyder.

Committee of the Whole Members Present (11): Directors Fredericks, Garbarino, Grosboll, Hill, Mastin, Rabbitt, Rodoni and Snyder; Second Vice President Cochran; First Vice President Theriault; President Pahre.

Committee of the Whole Members Absent (6): Directors Arnold, Conroy, Giudice, Hernández, Melgar and Stefani.

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

Staff Present: General Manager Denis Mulligan; Auditor-Controller Joseph Wire; District Engineer Ewa Bauer-Furbush; Secretary of the District Amorette Ko-Wong; Attorney Kimon Manolius; Deputy General Manager/Bridge Division Steve Miller; Deputy General Manager/Bus Transit Division Mona Babauta; Deputy General Manager/Ferry Division

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James Swindler; Deputy General Manager/Administration and Development Kellee Hopper; Executive Administrator to the General Manager Justine Bock; Senior Board Analyst Elizabeth Eells.

Copies of all reports 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.

[Director Fredericks arrived.]

(3) Approve Actions Relative to the Adoption of Bicycle Safety Recommendations, and Amend the Master Ordinance Accordingly [02:11 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

Deputy General Manager/Bridge Division Steve Miller presented the staff report. He reviewed the staff recommendation and stated that it was the result of a long planning and public outreach process. He also reviewed additional items that do not require formal Board action, but are included in a recommended slate of improved safety conditions for the Bridge sidewalks. He noted the Bridge has constraints and is heavily utilized. He provided additional details about the public outreach process, and the constraints that limit the District's ability to make additional changes. He expressed appreciation for the public's involvement in the process.

Chair Theriault, Directors Hill, Cochran, Grosboll and Mastin commented and inquired about the staff report. Chair Theriault expressed appreciation for the public's participation in the process. He stated that the District could consider some more of the public's recommendations in the future.

Director Hill inquired about how the speed limits are enforced and rules that apply to bicyclists. He commented that the analysis was the most thorough analysis of bicycling that he had ever seen. He also commented that the Study had received very thorough comments, and encouraged staff to respond to the comments. He endorsed the creation of a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and requested statistics on the personal mobility devices. He noted the Brooklyn Bridge had recently converted a traffic lane to a two-way bicycle lane, and suggested the District consider something similar after the major Bridge projects had been completed. He also suggested the District consider implementing bicycle charging stations.

Director Cochran expressed appreciation for the thoroughness of the report. He inquired about the wind speed that would cause staff to shut down the sidewalks on the west side of the Bridge, and divert bicycle traffic to the east side of the Bridge.

Director Grosboll inquired who would issue speeding tickets and he commented that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) would have to stop on the Bridge, get out and issue the tickets. He said he had seen a letter with a suggestion to pad hard surfaces on the Bridge and he asked if this could be done. He requested staff return to the Board and provide progress reports about the changes that are implemented.

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Chair Theriault commented that he appreciated that the proposed Ordinance gave bicyclists the discretion to stay on the west side of the Bridge even during times of high wind events. He commented he thought the proposed Ordinance was very specific about where bicycles could be at certain times of the day and week, and he asked if this specificity gave staff sufficient flexibility. He said that he would appreciate having staff and the attorneys look at the language to see if a modification might be appropriate. He inquired about Section 2.12.c. of the Master Ordinance, and he suggested the Section could be clearer if it were to further distinguish between the different types of vehicles.

Director Hill suggested Section 1.5.e. could be more clearly written, and he suggested that a changeable sign could be turned on and off to notify people as they walk onto the Bridge during high wind events.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Mulligan responded to the Directors' inquiries. Mr. Miller said that the California Highway Patrol had the authority to issue tickets on the Bridge. Mr. Mulligan stated that the new Advisory Committee would continue to consider many of the issues raised in the public outreach process regarding the Safety Recommendations.

The following individual spoke under public comment: **[49:30 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident

(a) Action by the Committee

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole recommends that the Board of Directors approve actions relative to the adoption of bicycle safety policies as follows:

- (i.) Establish a maximum speed limit of 15 mph for bicycles on the Bridge sidewalks along with a maximum speed limit of 5 mph for bicycles on the sidewalk areas around the Bridge towers, subject to the requirement that, under all circumstances, bicycles shall be operated at a speed no greater than what is reasonable for safe operation, and in a manner that does not endanger the safety of others;
- (ii.) Allow pedal assisted electric bicycles (Ebikes) of Classes 1, 2, and 3 to use the Bridge sidewalks;
- (iii.) Clarify the list of devices prohibited on the Bridge sidewalks to include other pedestrian-type rolling conveyances;
- (iv.) Establish a District Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to ensure continued and ongoing engagement with bicycle and pedestrian users groups of the Bridge and the District's Bus and Ferry systems; and,
- (v.) Amend the District's Master Ordinance accordingly.

Action by the Board at its meeting of November 19, 2021 – Ordinance

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

NOES (0): None.

ABSENT (6): Directors Arnold, Conroy, Giudice, Hernández, Melgar and Stefani.

**(4) Status Report from Board Appointee(s) on Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit Board
[54:28 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Director Garbarino provided a Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) status report, which was for informational purposes only and no action was taken. Director Rabbitt added to the report.

(5) Status Report on Engineering Projects [58:33 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

District Engineer Ewa Bauer-Furbush presented a status report, which was for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

(6) Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

(7) Adjournment [59:26 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

All business having been concluded, **Directors COCHRAN/GARBARINO** moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Theriault, Chair
Building and Operating Committee

MT:AMK:EIE:tnm