

April 22, 2022



MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION 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 Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee (Committee)/Committee of the Whole of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) was held via audio conferencing on Friday, April 22, 2021, at 9:01 a.m., Chair Cochran presiding.

- (1) **Call to Order:** 9:01 a.m.
- (2) **Roll Call:** Secretary of the District Amorette M. Ko-Wong.

Committee Members Present (8): Chair Cochran; Vice Chair Snyder; Directors Garbarino, Giudice, Hernández, Hill and Rodoni; President Theriault.

Committee Members Absent (1): Director Stefani.

Other Directors Present (5): Directors Conroy, Mastin, Pahre, Rabbitt and Thier.

Committee of the Whole Members Present (13): Directors Conroy, Garbarino, Giudice, Hernández, Mastin, Pahre, Rabbitt, Rodoni, Snyder and Thier; Second Vice President Hill; First Vice President Cochran; President Theriault.

Committee of the Whole Members Absent (4): Directors Arnold, Grosboll, Melgar and Stefani.

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

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Staff Present: General Manager Denis Mulligan; Auditor-Controller Joseph Wire; Secretary of the District Amorette Ko-Wong; Attorney Kimon Manolius; Deputy General Manager/Bridge Division David Rivera; Deputy General Manager/Bus Transit Division Mona Babauta; Deputy General Manager/Ferry Division James Swindler; Deputy General Manager/Administration and Development Kellee Hopper; Executive Administrator to the General Manager Justine Bock; Senior Board Analyst Elizabeth Eells.

A copy of the report is 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 Conroy arrived.]

(3) **State Update from the District's Legislative Advocates, Platinum Advisors, LLC**
[02:51 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

Beau Biller of Platinum Advisors, LLC presented the State Legislative Update. Mr. Biller outlined some changes at the State Capitol. He spoke about the Gann Limit and the restrictions it imposes on revenue. He expressed his view that the District is well positioned to get \$300 million of funding for the Bridge Seismic Retrofit project. He said that he believes that the legislators in Sacramento could be available for in person visits this year.

[21:56 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

Chair Cochran expressed interest in resuming in person meetings with legislators.

The following individual spoke under public comment: **[25:08 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident

(4) **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the District's Committee and Board Meetings** **[22:23 and 27:31 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Secretary of the District Amorette Ko-Wong presented the staff report.

[28:06 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

President Theriault stated that he understands the Board is able to meet remotely because there is an emergency order in place. This emergency order could be rescinded, and under the current law, the Board would be obligated to meet in person. He also pointed out that a video teleconference meeting would facilitate a budget discussion.

Chair Cochran commented that the budget is very important, and staff's presentation of the budget as well as other topics would be facilitated by video teleconference.

Director Hill requested that the Board take into consideration that some people are reliant on public transportation, and he encouraged the Board to hold any meetings within the vicinity of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) line.

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Director Rodoni reported that the Marin County Board of Supervisors has been holding hybrid meetings with some people attending in person and some by video teleconference since November 2021 and shared his Board's experience.

Chair Cochran stated that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) had an interesting presentation about AB 1944, which would amend the Brown Act.

Director Snyder encouraged the Board to consider hybrid meetings and expressed support for meeting in person from time to time.

Director Mastin expressed support for Director Snyder's comments. He noted that the telephone meetings have the least amount of technical issues of any remote meeting method and indicated there could be technical and connection challenges with hybrid meetings.

Director Giudice said he looks forward to the Board holding hybrid meetings and he would welcome in-person meetings.

Director Hernández stated that she has felt the loss of in-person meetings, sees the value of hybrid meetings, and encouraged staff to continue looking for reasonable options for hybrid meetings.

Director Garbarino restated her offer of a classroom available at her organization.

Chair Cochran asked for a status update about the Administration Building elevator. He said he likes being able to attend meetings remotely by video teleconference but also expressed support for seeing each other in-person.

President Theriault said, after hearing the Directors' comments, that he has a number of suggestions. He stated the Board could instruct staff to prepare for the Committee a solid proposal on establishing a hybrid meeting location and procedures by the next Committee meeting, or the Board could direct staff to arrange for a video format for the meetings concerning the budget.

Directors HILL/HERNÁNDEZ moved and seconded to direct staff to arrange for a video format for the meetings concerning the budget.

Director Pahre said that she thought video teleconference would be helpful for certain types of presentations. She asked if staff could set up a video teleconference meeting by next month.

President Theriault confirmed that he had talked to Ms. Ko-Wong about a possible video teleconference meeting before he made his suggestion.

Ms. Ko-Wong responded to the inquiries.

The following individual spoke under public comment: [43:17 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident
- (a) Action by the Committee [46:44 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

RECOMMENDATION

The Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee/Committee of the Whole recommends that the Board of Directors direct staff to arrange for a video format for the meetings concerning the budget.

Action by the Board at its meeting of April 22, 2022 – Resolution

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

NOES (0): None.

ABSENT (6): Directors Arnold, Conroy, Grosboll, Melgar, Stefani and Thier.

President Theriault suggested that in the event of an end to the emergency order that obliges the Board to hold in person meetings and the effective date of this order occurs prior to the next subsequent scheduled meeting of the Board and/ or its Committees, the President and Vice Presidents are authorized to decide on an interim location in consultation with staff and under the guidance of previous Board discussions that emphasize: the need to ensure accessibility to the meeting location by all; that the location can be reached by public transits, and that the location allows for a hybrid format for the meeting if that is legally permissible and possible.

Directors HERNÁNDEZ/GIUDICE moved and seconded the recommendation outlined by President Theriault.

President Theriault explained that this action assigns certain Board members to make interim decisions about meeting in person if necessary.

Director Rabbitt stated that this assumes that options are available, and these options have changed during the pandemic.

President Theriault responded that he and Ms. Ko-Wong had discussed various meeting options based on different circumstances. He clarified that the motion is to allow the three officers of the Board to make a decision about a meeting location on an interim basis if the emergency order is rescinded suddenly.

Chair Cochran asked how many legislative bodies are meeting by audio, video and in person.

Director Rabbitt stated that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors have approached the meetings in a couple of ways. He outlined Sonoma's varied approaches, and expressed his view that the Board functions more effectively when its members meet in-person.

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President Theriault made a point of order that the Committee should take public comment and then call the question.

Director Garbarino requested the motion be restated.

President Theriault restated the motion.

Ms. Ko-Wong responded to the inquiries.

(b) Action by the Committee [59:02 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

RECOMMENDATION

The Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee/Committee of the Whole recommends that in the event of an end to the emergency order that obliges the Board to hold in person meetings and the effective date of this order occurs prior to the next subsequent scheduled meeting of the Board, the President and Vice Presidents are authorized to decide on an interim location in cooperation with staff and under the guidance of previous Board discussions, including that the meeting be at an accessible location, be reachable by public transit, and allow for a hybrid meeting format if legally permissible and possible.

Action by the Board at its meeting of April 22, 2022 – Resolution

AYES (13): Directors Conroy, Garbarino, Giudice, Hernández, Mastin, Pahre, Rabbitt, Rodoni, Snyder and Thier; Second Vice President Hill; First Vice President Cochran; President Theriault.

NOES (0): None.

ABSENT (4): Directors Arnold, Grosboll, Melgar and Stefani.

(5) Public Comment [23:27 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

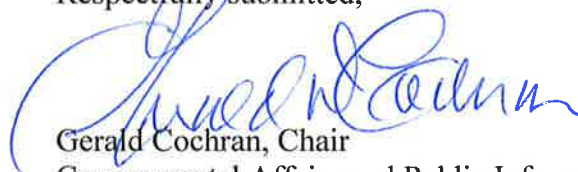
There was no Public Comment.

(6) Adjournment [23:39 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]

All business having been concluded, Directors HILL/HERNANDEZ moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Cochran, Chair

Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee

