



Agenda Item No. (3)

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of June 23, 2022

From: Norma Jellison, Manager of Real Estate Services and Property Development
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR THE COOPERATIVE IMPROVEMENT OF VISITOR EXPERIENCES, FACILITIES, SERVICES AND INTERPRETATION AT THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE AND ADJACENT NATIONAL PARK LANDS, WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVANCY**

Recommendation

The Building and Operating Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a General Agreement for the Cooperative Improvement of Visitor Experiences, Facilities, Services and Interpretation at the Golden Gate Bridge and Adjacent National Park Lands (General Agreement), with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to support and enhance visitor programs at the Golden Gate Bridge. The General Agreement replaces the expired Memorandum of Understanding between the parties that had been developed in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its June 24, 2022, meeting for appropriate action.

Background

The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) does not own any land at the Golden Gate Bridge. The land where the Bridge and the District’s operations, maintenance and administrative facilities are located is owned by the federal government and is currently under the control of the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The District has a permit, with the federal government that governs its use of this land. The original permit was with the Department of War, and it has been amended 21 times. The permit, and amendments, (Permit) govern the District’s use of the site.

In 2011, the Board authorized entering into a ten year Memorandum of Understanding with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Conservancy) and the GGNRA, in order to plan for the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. The associated activities and improvements were outside the uses contemplated in the Permit.

This was a successful collaboration that resulted in the construction of the Welcome Center and Visitor Plaza at the south end of the Bridge, the renovation of the Roundhouse, the construction of trail improvements, and the development of visitor programs about the Golden Gate Bridge, and several 75th Anniversary special events. At that time, the parties also agreed to collaborate on long-term projects, such as the development of a Golden Gate Bridge visitor and history/museum center. Over the past decade, the cooperative relationship that the District has enjoyed with GGNRA and the Conservancy has led to enhanced visitor programs and greater coordination between visitor enhancements occurring within the District's permit area and those occurring on general National Park property.

Summary

As the 2011 MOU has expired, the NPS has proposed that the three parties enter into a new General Agreement, which is the typical format for NPS cooperative arrangements. The General Agreement replicates the broad goals, objectives and responsibilities of the 2011 MOU, whereby the parties will develop future plans, programs and services for enhanced visitor enjoyment of the Golden Gate Bridge and the surrounding parklands, provide for the interpretation and stewardship of these public assets, and also serve as a foundation for future projects such as a permanent home for the archives of the history of the Golden Gate Bridge. It provides for a ten-year term, and contemplates that the parties will execute subsequent project agreements to implement specific initiatives that will describe the project scope, roles and responsibilities, schedule, cost, and funding sources, among other pertinent terms.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with entering into the General Agreement at this time. When a specific project is identified for implementation, the costs and funding sources will be identified for further consideration by the parties, including the District.