

December 15, 2022



**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 video recording that is posted online at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/goldengatedistrict>.**

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) met in regular session held virtually/remotely on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 9:52 a.m., Chair Garbarino presiding.

- (1) Call to Order: 9:52 a.m. [00:32 Minutes Mark on the Video Recording]**
- (2) Roll Call: Secretary of the District Amorette M. Ko-Wong. [01:16 Minutes Mark on the Video Recording]**

**Committee Members Present (9):** Chair Garbarino; Vice-Chair Mastin; Directors Cochran, Conroy, Hernández, Pahre, Rabbitt and Thier; President Theriault.

**Committee Members Absent (0):** None.

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

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

**Committee of the Whole Members Absent (3):** Directors Arnold, Giudice, and Stefani.

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

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**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 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; Director of Planning Ron Downing; Manager of Traffic Engineering and Transit Facilities Ray Santiago; 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.

**(3) Approve the San Rafael Transit Center Replacement Project; Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project; Approval of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program [04:10 Minutes Mark on the Video Recording]**

Director of Planning Ron Downing introduced the staff report. He introduced and expressed appreciation for a number of key contributors including Manager of Traffic Engineering and Transit Facilities Ray Santiago, Vice President and Project Manager Adam Dankberg of Kimley Horn, Vice President Maggie Townsley and Senior Environmental Planner Shilpa Trisal of ICF, President Lisbet Sunshine of Civic Edge Consulting, and President Eileen Goodwin of Apex Strategies. The team members reviewed the presentation that is included in the staff report.

Mr. Downing confirmed that the project team believes the Final EIR meets all requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**[Directors Conroy and Rabbitt Departed.]**

**[32:12 Minutes Mark on the Video Recording]**

Chair Garbarino expressed appreciation for the presentation and commended the team for their hard work.

Director Grosboll stated he supports the preferred alternative, which appears to be the safest. He expressed appreciation for the team's work on the project and especially the outreach.

Director Thier expressed support for the project and commended the team for their efforts. She said that the San Rafael Transit Center (SRTC) project is critical, and operations have outgrown the site. She encouraged a strong community design effort and continued collaboration between the District and City of San Rafael. She spoke about the SRTC becoming a landmark in the area, and offered her assistance.

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Director Hernández stated she has been involved in the project for many years. She spoke about outreach to stakeholders, and expressed appreciation for the collaboration between the District, City of San Rafael and other stakeholders such as those in the Canal area. She thanked those who gave her the opportunity to get involved in the project. She said she believes the SRTC will provide a very large benefit to the community, and expressed support for continued input.

Chair Garbarino echoed Director Hernández's comments.

Director Rodoni echoed Director Thier's comment to offer assistance with the project. He expressed appreciation for the project team's efforts and the collaboration with the City of San Rafael. He also expressed his belief that the partners are aligned, and the project will create a new SRTC that is a really beautiful part of San Rafael.

Director Pahre expressed appreciation for Director Hernández's efforts on the project, spoke about the pivotal role she played, and how she helped the key stakeholders have more of a voice. She thanked Director Hernández for her contributions. She commended the project team's work with the City of San Rafael, and said the team had developed the right solution.

Director Hill stated that he has been assured that he does not have a conflict of interest and can participate in this item. He asked if the Marin County Bicycle Coalition had expressed support for the project.

Director Snyder echoed the other Directors' comments, and expressed his enthusiasm for the project. He said that the new SRTC will be beneficial, serve as a bridge between Marin and Sonoma counties, and be a place where he is comfortable bringing his family. He noted that Director Hernández has been an inspiration to many people on the project.

Chair Garbarino expressed appreciation for Director Snyder's comments about his family. She acknowledged the contributions of the Canal Alliance staff including its Chief Executive Officer Omar Carrera.

Mr. Mulligan confirmed that the Marin County Bicycle Coalition supports the preferred alternative.

The following individuals spoke under public comment: **[45:37 Minutes Mark on the Video Recording]**

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident
- Aaron Burnett, Canal Alliance
- Anne Grey, Vivalon
- Kevin Hagerty, League of Women Voters of Marin County

**[52:50 Minutes Mark on the Video Recording]**

Chair Garbarino expressed appreciation for the SRTC project and positive comments made about the Final EIR.

**(a) Action by the Committee**

Staff recommended and the Committee concurred by motion made and seconded by **Directors PAHRE/THIER** 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 the San Rafael Transit Center Replacement Project (Project) and take actions relative to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project. These actions include:

- adopting the Final EIR;
- approving findings and approving a mitigation monitoring and reporting program;
- certifying that the document meets all the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and then,
- approving the Project and selecting the Move Whistlestop Alternative as the preferred Project alternative.

**Action by the Board at its meeting of December 16, 2022 – Resolution**

**AYES (11):** Directors Garbarino, Grosboll, Hernández, Mastin, Pahre, Rodoni, Snyder and Thier; Second Vice President Hill; First Vice President Cochran; President Theriault.  
**NOES (0):** None.  
**ABSENT (5):** Directors Arnold, Conroy, Giudice, Rabbitt and Stefani.

**(4) Status Report from Board Appointee(s) on Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit Board  
**[54:32 Minutes Mark on the Video Recording]****

Chair Garbarino provided a Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Board status report, which was for informational purposes only and no action was taken. Director Pahre added to her report.

**[1:00:51 Hour Mark on the Video Recording]**

Director Thier expressed appreciation for the Directors' contributions to SMART.

**(5) Status Report on Engineering Projects **[1:01:37 Hour Mark on the Video Recording]****

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

**[1:02:01 Hour Mark on the Video Recording]**

Director Mastin inquired about the number of contractors who attended the pre-bid meeting for the Suicide Deterrent System Rescue Training Net that is referenced on page 16 of the Report (page 46 of the meeting packet).

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Director Hernández commented about the Bridge inspections and expressed appreciation for staff's efforts to complete the work. She inquired about the status of the elevator project.

President Theriault stated that although Ms. Ko-Wong and her team are doing most of the work related to securing a location for future off-site meetings, he also has some work to do.

Ms. Bauer-Furbush responded to the Director's inquiry. She said that the District did not receive any bids for the Suicide Deterrent System Rescue Training Net, staff followed up and asked why bids were not submitted, and learned many contractors are very busy. She indicated that staff will give contractors advance warning and reissue the Notice Inviting Bids.

Ms. Bauer-Furbush indicated that the control system of the elevator at the Toll Plaza Administration Building has been delayed at least about a month, and as a result, the best case scenario is that the elevator will be completed and inspected by the end of March. She added that the Board and staff should plan to have at least one and possibly two meetings off of District premises.

**(6) Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**(7) Adjournment [1:07:49 Hour Mark on the Video Recording]**

All business having been concluded, Directors PAHRE/MASTIN moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

**Carried**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patricia Garbarino, Chair  
Building and Operating Committee