



Agenda Item No. (10)(A)
Special Order of Business

To: Board of Directors
Meeting of February 23, 2024

From: Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **ACTION TO DELEGATE TO THE GENERAL MANAGER THE
AUTHORITY TO MAKE TRANSIT SERVICE LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS
THROUGH MARCH 1, 2025**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Directors (Board) approve the following actions:

1. Temporarily waive Board Procedural Rules and Policies that would otherwise apply to transit service level adjustments, through March 1, 2025; and,
2. Delegate to the General Manager authority to make transit service level adjustments as necessary and appropriate to address shifting ridership demand and community needs, consistent with federal and state laws, and the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District's (District) approved annual budget.

Background

The COVID-19 global pandemic upended travel in the Golden Gate Corridor. In response, Resolution No. 2020-017 authorized the temporary suspension of all Board procedural rules and policies to allow the timely execution of emergency actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with federal, state, regional and local public health mandates. Resolution No. 2020-017 provided that the Board would review and consider at each subsequent regularly scheduled meeting, whether to terminate the suspension of Board procedural rules and policies through March 1, 2023.

On February 24, 2023, the Board approved Resolution No. 2023-012 which delegated to the General Manager the authority to make transit service level adjustments as necessary and appropriate to address shifting ridership demand and community needs, consistent with federal and state laws, and the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District's (District) approved annual budget. This delegation was through March 1, 2024. This proposed action would extend this delegation for one additional year, through March 1, 2025.

The return of travel in the Golden Gate Corridor continues to evolve as businesses and community activities unfold in different ways compared to pre-pandemic travel patterns. Weekday commute

travel by all modes continues to be well below historic and pre-pandemic levels, yet weekend travel for social and recreational trips has increased.

The District must respond on a daily basis to changing conditions and modify its operations as circumstances warrant. It is crucial for the District to remain nimble and responsive to ever-changing needs during this period yet be prudent with its resources. For example, during the past year, the District has responded by restoring a limited amount of commute bus service to Petaluma, Novato and South Central Marin, and has added Larkspur Ferry trips and special event ferry service as demand increased.

In order to respond quickly to ridership demand and shifting community needs, it is therefore recommended that the Board extend to the General Manager its delegation of authority to make transit service level adjustments as necessary and appropriate to address shifting ridership demand and community needs, consistent with federal and state laws, including Federal Transit Administration requirements and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the District's approved annual budget; and temporarily waive Board Procedural Rules and Policies to effect such delegation of authority.

The General Manager will provide periodic reports to the Board of Directors, at each regularly scheduled Board meeting, regarding any transit service level adjustments.