



Agenda Item No. (6)(A)

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2024**

The Honorable Board of Directors
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

Honorable Members:

UPDATE ON TRAVEL IN THE GOLDEN GATE CORRIDOR

Travel in the Golden Gate Corridor by Bridge, bus and ferry remains well below pre-pandemic levels. Bridge tolls are the District’s largest funding source, so Bridge traffic levels are particularly important to the District’s financial health.

Recently, commute Bridge traffic (weekdays from 5:00 – 9:00 a.m. southbound) continues to average about 25 percent below 2019 commute traffic, which contributes greatly to the District’s financial challenges.

APTA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Hitham Hamdon, Director of Business Operations in the Bus Division, recently graduated from the America Public Transportation Association (APTA) Leadership Program Class of 2024, achieving an important milestone in his professional development. Throughout the program, he gained valuable experience through executive sessions, workshops, and conferences focused on critical leadership skills in the transit industry. His participation included workshops on navigating political and legislative landscapes, such as the APTA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., where he engaged in discussions with industry leaders and policymakers. He also took part in practical sessions covering strategic stakeholder engagement, diversity and inclusion initiatives, labor negotiations, and business ethics. Additionally, Mr. Hamdon contributed to a team-based capstone project addressing workforce retention and other industry challenges, conducting extensive research and interviews with transit CEOs and other industry experts. This collaborative effort allowed him and his cohort to apply best practices and insights directly from top professionals. Congratulations to Mr. Hamdon on this achievement and for advancing his leadership in the transit sector.”

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) GRANTS AT RISK

On October 24, 2024, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a mandate, putting into effect its July 29 judgment, which remanded *ATU International v. USDOL* to the United States District Court for the Eastern District with direction to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.

It is expected that the District Court will process the Appellate Court's mandate in a matter of days, which, upon completion, will vacate the District Court's injunction. As a reminder, this injunction protected the flow of federal transit grants to California transit agencies subject to California's Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). As such, California transit agencies may again see their federal transit grants withheld prospectively, if subject to PEPRA-based objections by the unions representing its transit employees.

Staff is working with the California Transit Association (CTA) to respond to the threat to federal funds for California transit agencies. I will continue to update the Board on this situation as it potentially affects our access to federal transit grants.

UPDATE ON THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT AMALGAMATED RETIREMENT PLAN (GGTARP)

District employees participate in one of four different pension plans based on their collective bargaining agreement. Current and retired District bus operators are participants in the Golden Gate Transit Amalgamated Retirement Plan (GGTARP). GGTARP is unique in many ways, including its current funding status and its governance.

Among other things, a fiscally sound approach to pensions necessitates that a retiree's ultimate pension payments are reasonably correlated to the contributions made on behalf of the participant taking into account the accompanying investment returns. Not surprisingly considering GGTARP's woefully underfunded status, GGTARP has not historically followed this approach. It has been and continues today to be an outlier among pension plans in its funding status, in its response to being woefully underfunded and in its governance.

For example, the trustees of other pension plans have established a strong correlation between the age at retirement and the monthly pension payment paid to a retiree. In other pension plans, a participant who retires early receives a lower monthly amount than they would receive with a regular pension. The monthly amount is reduced to account for the fact that the early retiree's payments begin earlier and are expected to be paid for a longer period. This is a fiscally sound approach. Please note, GGTARP does not do this.

Fortunately, some progress has been made within the last five years, including: increased contributions, replacing the Plan professionals (e.g., the attorney and plan administrator) with firms with pension experience, replacing the investment advisor who consistently underperformed both rising and falling markets, and correlating a year of pension credit to contributions received on behalf of a participant. Then on February 15, 2024, the GGTARP Trustees voted to eliminate the spousal subsidy; however, at that meeting they did not adopt the requisite tables to implement the change.

UPDATE ON THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT AMALGAMATED RETIREMENT PLAN (GGTARP)

On May 16, 2024 the GGTARP met and approved a Plan amendment that revised Table D-1 factors to finalize the elimination of the spousal subsidy. Although the Plan administrator posted a copy of the Plan amendment to the GGTARP participant website, the Plan administrator does not explain to members that the spousal subsidies were eliminated, and the Plan administrator did not provide a “plain language” summary of the Plan modifications to members. Because the Trust is not subject to the same ERISA disclosure requirements as the Taft-Hartley pensions plans covering other District employees, the GGTARP Trustees would need to direct the Plan administrator to send a written explanation of the changes and their effects to GGTARP members.

Most significantly, the ATU and the District have agreed to prepare a “Rehabilitation Plan”. Below is the relevant language from the MOU regarding this vital task, including the underlining as it appears in the signed Tentative Agreement:

“A pension working group composed of equal number of District GGTARP Trustees, Union GGTARP Trustees and attorneys for both sides will begin meeting immediately to discuss a rehabilitation plan to address future underfunding, akin to those required of jointly-trusted defined benefit pension plans in "endangered or critical funding status" under the Pension Protection Act. Experts will be brought in as needed for consultation and calculations of scenarios intended to bring longer term stability to the GGTARP. The District will cover the costs of any experts or consultants, and it will have the final authority to determine which expert/consultant is selected.”

The District hired an actuary, Buck, to assist the Working Group in the development of the Rehabilitation Plan. The Working Group and Buck, collectively, “the Team”, had its kick-off meeting on February 22nd. The Team discussed, among other ideas, the need to look at all possible strategies (funding AND benefit cuts) which would help the Plan get back to solvency. Working Group members and the GGTARP’s actuary have provided relevant documents and information to Buck. As requested by Buck, District staff has provided additional payroll information and other data regarding current bus operations for Buck’s projections. The Team is meeting regularly, and Buck is preparing projections for various scenarios to improve the Plan’s funded status.

PRESENTATIONS BY DISTRICT STAFF FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

District staff made the following speeches and/or presentations:

PRESENTATION TO:	DATE:	PRESENTED BY:
Working Waterfront Coalition	October 30, 2024	Deputy General Manager Ferry Division Michael Hoffman

SPECIAL EVENT/EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY REQUESTS

Below are the dates and sponsoring agencies of special events and expressive activities for which permits have been sought. The following applications were received since last reported to the Board in the October 25, 2024, Report of the General Manager:

Event Date	Event Title	Location	Type*	Expected No. Participants
November 3, 2024	Golden Gate Half Marathon	East and West Sidewalk	SE	4,000-5,000
November 23, 2024	Spartan GGTC 50 Mile & 50K Race	Under GGB @ Under GGB @ tunnel	SE	450
November 24, 2024	Spartan GGTC 21K & 10K Race	Under GGB @ Tunnel & E-Sidewalk	SE	750

*Permit Types: EX – Expressive Activity and SE – Special Event

VEHICLE TRAFFIC INCIDENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

For the month of October, there were the following vehicle traffic incidents to report:

Vehicle Traffic Incident	Vehicles	Injuries	Fatalities	Location
C - Collision	2	1	0	Bridge
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Plaza
HB – Hit Barrier	1	1	0	Bridge
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Doyle
SS – Side-Swipe	2	0	0	Bridge
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Waldo
TOTAL	8	2	0	

BICYCLE INCIDENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

For the month of October, there were the following bicycle incidents to report:

Bicycle Incidents	Bicycles	Injuries	Fatalities	Location
BB = Bicycle/Bicycle	2	1	0	Bridge
SO = Solo	1	1	0	Alexander
SO = Solo	1	1	0	Bridge
SO = Solo	1	1	0	Conzelman
BP = Bicycle/Pedestrian	1	1	0	Bridge
TOTAL	6	5	0	

FERRY BICYCLE COUNTS THROUGH THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Ferry Bicycle Counts through the month of October are as follows:

Larkspur Southbound Bicycle Counts	
2019 Annual Total	29,828
2020 Annual Total	7,422
2021 Annual Total	4,716
2022 Annual Total	13,312
2023 Annual Total	15,453
January - October	17,551

*The Larkspur October bicycle count was 2,325

Sausalito Southbound Bicycle Counts	
2019 Annual Total	95,590
2020 Annual Total	9,415
2021 Annual Total	8,845
2022 Annual Total	64,952
2023 Annual Total	64,852
January - October	49,156

*The Sausalito October bicycle count was 4,636

Tiburon Southbound Bicycle Counts	
2022 Annual Total	9,204
2023 Annual Total	9,481
January - October	8,240

*The Tiburon October bicycle count was 1,065

Angel Island Northbound Ferry Bicycle Counts	
2021 (December service start) Annual Total	39
2022 Annual Total	4,807
2023 Annual Total	4,556
January – October	3,484

*The Angel Island October bicycle count was 274

UPDATE DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORT

On May 24, 2024, the Board adopted the 2024 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan contains 39 initiatives that are focused on achieving the Board's goals and as such, also serves as a work plan for staff.

On October 24, 2024, the first annual review to the Board of Directors (Board) of the status of the 39 initiatives in the 2024 Strategic Plan (Plan) was presented to the Finance-Auditing Committee Meeting. In November, work is ongoing with partner agencies with respect to *Initiatives 8 and 9*. Work is also underway with respect to *Initiative 39*.

PRESENTATION OF TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO ANTOINE L. DAVENPORT, SUPERINTENDENT, FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT, BRIDGE DIVISION

We are pleased to announce that Superintendent, Facilities/Equipment, Antoine Davenport will celebrate twenty-five years of service with the District on November 15, 2024.

During his career with the District, Mr. Davenport was a Summer Hire for three consecutive summers. Mr. Davenport was hired permanently on November 15, 1999, as a Bus Servicer for the Bus Division. In 2010, he became a Laborer in the Bridge Division and promoted to Chief Laborer in 2014. He promoted to his current position in 2024.

Prior to permanent District service, he was attending Hogan High school in Vallejo, California.

In his free time, Mr. Davenport enjoys riding motorcycles and spending time with his family.

PRESENTATION OF TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO COLETTE SLOTTOW, OFFICE ASSISTANT, BUS DIVISION

We are pleased to announce that Office Assistant, Colette Slottow will celebrate twenty-five years of service with the District on November 29, 2024.

Ms. Slottow joined the District as a Casual Traffic Checker in 1985, promoted to regular full-time Lead Route Checker on November 29, 1999, and then to Office Assistant on February 28, 2022.

PRESENTATION OF TWENTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO DOMINIQUE GABRIEL, CHIEF OF ROADWAY SERVICES, BRIDGE DIVISION

We are pleased to announce that Chief of Roadway Services, Dominique Gabriel, celebrated twenty years of service with the District on November 4, 2024.

Mr. Gabriel joined the District on November 4, 2004, as a temporary Laneworker. From 2004 to 2022 he was promoted to fulltime Laneworker, Bridge Service Operator, Roadway Services Supervisor and to Bridge Sergeant. He was promoted to his current position on October 17, 2022.

**PRESENTATION OF TWENTY-YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO DOMINIQUE GABRIEL,
CHIEF OF ROADWAY SERVICES, BRIDGE DIVISION (continued)**

During his career with the District, Mr. Gabriel has been chosen as Employee of the Month three times and once as Employee of the Year.

Prior to District employment, Mr. Gabriel was an aviation mechanic with Ameriflight.

Mr. Gabriel enjoys camping and coaching his daughter's soccer team.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER 2024

After reviewing nominations submitted by District employees, the Employee of the Month Committee selected Bus Operator Michael Domenichelli in the Bus Division, as the Employee of the Month for November 2024.

Mr. Domenichelli is recognized for his dedication to his position and the pride he takes in his work. Mr. Domenichelli spends time with newly hired Bus Operators sharing good professional tips for their success at the District. He is known for always being willing to help his colleagues and for being a role model who also brings a sense of humor to his interactions. Specifically in support of the Bus Division, Mr. Domenichelli chose to come in on his vacation time to San Rafael and brought his pizza oven and made pizza for his colleagues. He also sent pizzas to other District bus yard locations.

Of special note, his colleagues mention that he likes to connect with his co-workers and can always be relied upon to brighten their day!

Mr. Domenichelli joined the District on April 6, 2011, as a Bus Operator. Prior to joining the District, Mr. Domenichelli worked in construction as a heavy equipment Operator for Fedco Construction.

Mr. Domenichelli was born in Santa Rosa, CA and attended Healdsburg High School. He has been a resident of Windsor, CA since 1992, and has a son, Gianni Domenichelli and is honored to be a father. In his spare time, he enjoys camping, fishing, cooking, weekly bike rides and visiting friends. He also enjoys supporting co-workers by cooking for them!

Denis J. Mulligan
General Manager

DJM:jb

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK