

# **BUS PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

*Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 15, 2023*



**Location:** Caboose Room at Vivalon, 930 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901

**Committee Members Present:** Scott Kempf, Brian Bailey-Gates, Dan Bell, Mike Combs, Dave Troup

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**District Staff Present:** Jason Cave, Schedules Analyst; Hitham Hamdon, Director of Data Analytics; Emily DelRoss, Senior Planner

**Guests Present:** Odin Palen; Jeanette Weisman, State Route 37 Corridor Program Manager, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); Ron Grassi, Director of Programs, Solano Transportation Authority (STA); Mohamed Osman, Senior Operations Analyst, Marin Transit (MT)

1. **Roll Call and Introductions:** Scott Kempf opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Five members were present, representing a quorum.
2. **BPAC Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Election:** Members voted to elect Mike Combs as Chair and Dan Bell as Vice Chair for the 2024 term.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** BPAC members approved the September 20, 2023, meeting minutes.
4. **Bus Stoppers:**
  - a. Dan Bell expressed his desire to reroute some or all GGT routes, with Route 101 being the highest priority, from the Civic Center alignment to the Fisherman's Wharf alignment. He stated that this would provide more route options in that area while avoiding some of the safety concerns around the Civic Center. Mr. Bell also requested information about GGT travel restrictions on North Point Street. Staff summarized the history of former GGT restrictions on North Point Street and explained that such restrictions are no longer applicable. Route realignment may be considered in the future once on-board survey results and guidance from the Board's Strategic Plan efforts are available.
5. **Ongoing Business:**
  - a. Customer Service Update: Presentation of this material was postponed due to staff availability and will be addressed at a future BPAC meeting.
  - b. San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Update: Emily DelRoss provided details on upcoming public meetings offering project status updates, including the second Spanish Language Facebook Live on November 30<sup>th</sup> and the second Community Open House on December 6<sup>th</sup> and invited members to attend. A preliminary design is expected to be

completed in mid-2024. More information on the project can be found at: [www.goldengate.org/srtc](http://www.goldengate.org/srtc).

- c. Tamalpais Overcrossing Project Update: Emily DelRoss reported that District staff is continuing to work with Caltrans to resolve transit issues related to proposed interchange improvements. In late September Caltrans staff presented a summary of their traffic analysis results to District staff. Staff will continue to update this committee as the project develops.

**6. New Business:**

- a. Highway 37 Traffic and Transit Improvements Update: Jeanette Weisman presented an overview of MTC's Resilient State Route 37 (SR37) Program. The project aims to mitigate traffic congestion on SR37 between Sears Point and Mare Island through implementation of near-term solutions including introduction of high occupancy vehicle lanes and tolled general purpose lanes, which would support public transit and rideshares, as well as near-term roadway resilience and ecological restoration efforts. Ron Grassi presented STA's Draft Transit and Rideshare Implementation Plan. The plan considers multiple alternatives aimed at reducing traffic congestion and improving accessibility along SR37 in Solano County including fixed-route express transit, dynamic and organized ridesharing, and first/last mile programs. More information on these projects can be found at: <https://www.resilient37.org/> and <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-projects/d4-37-corridor-projects>.
- b. January 2024 Service Changes: Emily DelRoss reviewed service changes that will go into effect on Sunday, January 14. Changes include shifting the first southbound short-line trip from a 5:45 a.m. start time to 6:45 a.m.. Four southbound a.m. trips and four northbound a.m. trips will be extended to travel through the Canal District on weekends on Route 130. This realignment was initially piloted on weekday trips in June to create a one-seat ride between the Canal District and Sausalito and San Francisco. Route 154 service will be rerouted through Novato. Service on this route will no longer operate as express service from the Atherton bus pad to Rowland Boulevard and will instead run on Redwood Boulevard through downtown Novato, along Novato Boulevard to Rowland Boulevard, then continuing on its regular routing. Rerouting of Route 172 along with the creation of a new route, named "Route 164", will work together to address recurring customer requests for faster service to and from Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park to San Francisco. Two trips in each direction on Route 172 will be converted to express service, skipping Petaluma. The new Route 164 alignment will provide more service to east Petaluma for two trips in each direction. The route will start at Lakeville Highway and Baywood Drive and run along South McDowell Boulevard past the East Side Transit Center, taking East Washington Street, then continuing on regular Route 172 routing. Jason Cave announced the addition of a short-line Route 132 trip starting at the Golden Gate Toll Plaza at 6:34 a.m. to supplement local service and help alleviate traffic congestion in San Francisco. These trips are only available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during non-holiday weeks.
- c. 2024 Meeting Schedule: The committee meets bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month, excluding the summer months or when holidays conflict. The committee elected to shift the meeting start time from 6:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. to better accommodate transit riders. Separately, the committee voted to adopt the below meeting schedule for 2024:
  - January 17, 2024

- March 20, 2024
- May 15, 2024
- September 18, 2024
- November 20, 2024

**7. Announcements:**

- a. Vice Chairperson Resignation – Thank You for Your Service, Brian!: Brian Bailey-Gates has resigned from the committee. The Committee would like to thank Brian for his seven years of service as a dedicated member.

**8. Members' Forum:** None.

**9. Public Comment:**

- a. Mohamed Osman announced MT's plans for future realignment of Route 29, due to lower than expected ridership. Details are yet to be finalized and realignment will not take place in the next service change. MT is shifting service changes to January and August to coincide with regional efforts for better regional transit network coordination. No major service changes are expected to take place in January.
- b. Odin Palen requested a schedule adjustment to MT's Route 29 to better accommodate high school bell times. He also requested that MUNI's 28R Line be extended to accommodate connections at the Golden Gate Toll Plaza.

**10. Adjournment:** Scott Kempf adjourned the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

Members were advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place in-person at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at Vivalon.