

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Agenda for Thursday, February 16, 2006
1:30 p.m.



**Conference Room (Room 109), Administration
Building
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
San Rafael, CA 94901**

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|---|------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 minutes |
| 2. Approve Agenda | 5 minutes |
| 3. Minutes of December 15, 2005 meeting (<i>copy attached</i>) | 5 minutes |
| 4. Paratransit Services Status Report | 15 minutes |
| a. Provision of Intercounty Service | |
| b. Recap of Appeals Panel Training held February 15, 2006 | |
| c. Other Paratransit Items | |
| 5. District-Related Items | 15 minutes |
| a. Notice of Public Hearing to Consider a Proposed Five-Year Fare Program to Increase Bus, Ferry and Paratransit Fares (<i>copy attached</i>) | |
| b. Additions to District Website regarding Advisory Committees (www.goldengate.org) | |
| 6. Old Business (follow-up and status reports) | 60 minutes |
| a. Release of Marin County Transit District Short-Range Transit Plan (<i>copy of notice attached</i>) | |
| b. Review of ACA Rules and Procedures | |
| c. Election of Officers | |
| d. Appoint 2005 Service Awards Nominating Subcommittee | |
| e. Ferry Division Items | |
| 1) Status of Spaulding Vessel Refurbishment | |
| 2) Larkspur Ferry Terminal and Parking Lot Access Issues | |
| f. Bus Stop Follow-up | |
| g. TransLink Status Report | |
| 7. New Business | 2 minutes |

- 8. Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council Report 2 minutes
- 9. Staff Report and Information Items 5 minutes
- 10. ACA Member Announcements/Comments; Public Open Time 5 minutes
(Members or visitors with specific comments or incidents to report are requested to call Cynthia Petersen, ACA Staff Liaison, at (415) 257-4415 at least two days prior to the meeting)

Summary of Continued Items *(Follow-up on these items remains pending. Committee members may ask for a specific item to be brought up for discussion at any time.):*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocation of Overhead Light/
Assistance Button Controls – Rear to
Center Flip Seat | GGT Bus Stops: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Update of District ADA Transition Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Novato Community Hospital |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus operator compliance with operations
in night-run mode (rear interior lights on) | <input type="checkbox"/> GG Bridge Toll Plaza Transfer Points |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Strawberry/Tiburon Area |

Phonic-ear amplification system available. Sign-language interpreters may be requested by the deaf or hearing impaired by calling (415) 257-4415 or TDD (415) 257-4554 at least one week prior to the meeting. District Administration Building is served by GGT-accessible Bus Routes 29 and 36. Consult District's website (www.goldengate.org) or call **511** for further GGT bus and ferry schedule information. Information on accessible services is also available on the web site. To schedule paratransit transportation to the meeting, call Whistlestop Wheels at (415) 454-0964 or (800) 454-0964. For further information regarding ACA, call Cynthia Petersen, ACA staff liaison, at (415) 257-4415.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY



Minutes of Thursday, December 15, 2005

Members Present: Russ Bohlke, Herschel Ferguson, Kent Hill, Jan Hummingbird, Jean Hunter

Members Excused: Rocky Birdsey, Sandra Gordon, Dell Harris, Herb Meyer, Kevin Siemens, Craig Yates

Staff Present: Cynthia Petersen, Paratransit Coordinator; Glen Woods, Customer Service Representative; Alan Zahradnik, Planning Director

Ex-officio Members: Jackie Mulroy, Director of Transportation, Whistlestop Wheels (WSW); Jon Gaffney, Assistant Director of Transportation, WSW

Visitors: Aileen Green, Hired Hands

The monthly meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA) was called to order by Vice Chairperson Craig Yates at 1:40 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members, staff and visitors introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda.** It was moved/seconded/passed (M/S/P) to approve the agenda as written.
3. **Minutes.** M/S/P to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2005, meeting as written. It was suggested that the minutes be prepared using a sans serif font that would be more readable.
4. **Paratransit Services Status Report**
 - a. Provision of Intercounty Service. Jon Gaffney distributed copies of the November 2005 WSW statistical report. There were 1,011 intercounty passengers transported during the month of November 2005, down from 1,087 passengers transported in October 2005, and up from 968 passengers transported in November 2004. There were 24 requests for Marin intercounty extended trips in November; 22 were provided and 2 were not. There continue to be no denials of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandated service. Overall revenue hours continue to be down, so passengers per revenue hour remain over 1.00 at 1.08, with WSW maintaining efficiency in this area. Ms. Hunter asked for a report in the upcoming months on how the new Redwoods van may have impacted the provision of Marin local or GGBHTD intercounty paratransit service. Individuals riding together are scheduled as separate trips so that if one cancels, the other person is still assured a ride.

- b. Intercounty Paratransit Service Agreement: Ms. Petersen announced that negotiations have been concluded between Marin County Transit District (MCTD) and the GGBHTD on a 5-year fixed route bus agreement. As a result, the recommended agreement will be submitted to each of the MCTD and GGBHTD Boards for adoption in January 2006. At the same time, a recommendation for a two-month extension of the current Intercounty Paratransit Agreement will also be submitted. This will bring the 18-month paratransit agreement in line with the fiscal year. Negotiations will begin on a FY 2007 agreement or extension, with the goal of having an annual paratransit agreement or extension to cover the same 5-year time period as the fixed route bus agreement.
- c. Other Paratransit Items. Ms. Petersen reported that the District is moving forward with a project to identify options to improve its radio communications. A paratransit element is included in this project that will address potential improvements mobile data terminals and automatic vehicle locators could provide. Mr. Woods suggested this might be able to address possible dead zones in the existing radio service. Ms. Mulroy stated that MDTs and AVLs would provide the means to more accurately estimate running times and make connections. Ms. Hummingbird stated GGT buses actually do a good job of running on time, which she finds impressive.

Ms. Mulroy reported that permits have been issued for the new WSW maintenance facility and the building is in the process of being renovated. WSW's Transportation Department staff will move in when the renovations have been completed. The nearest GGT bus stop is on Lindaro, approximately ½ mile from the maintenance facility.

- d. Inspection of New WSW Modified Van: Members of the Committee and staff adjourned to the visitors' parking lot to inspect one of the new vans. The consensus of the Committee was that the members liked it. Jean Hunter noted that greater height in the interior would allow passengers and drivers to stand up comfortably when maneuvering through the vehicle.

5. **District-Related Items** – Finance-Auditing Committee/Committee of the Whole, November 17, 2005 – Five-Year Fare Program: Al Zahradnik referred ACA members to the staff report included in the agenda packet. The District's last 5-Year fare program was established in 1998. Although the District implemented small fare increases in intervening years, subsequent 5-year programs were deferred while service changes were under consideration.

Under the 5-year program, staff is recommending an annual 5% fare increase to address the District's continued financial shortfall. The fare increase will apply to the District's regional service and not to Marin local fares. The public outreach process has begun, with presentations made to the Bus Passengers Advisory Committee, the Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee and ACA. Three public workshops are scheduled (1 in February, 2 in March) followed on the same day by a public hearing. A 5% increase is being proposed for all three modes: bus, ferry and paratransit. The program will be reviewed each year prior to the annual increase. Special event fares are not part of the

program and will be considered separately on an annual basis by the Board. Jan Hummingbird stated that with disability incomes frozen or cut back this year, the cost of transit and any fare increase would be an issue.

Mr. Zahradnik added that on December 11, 2005, the District implemented its fare restructure program. Unfortunately, a significant “loophole” was identified in the process of implementing the new program. This loophole would enable a customer (through misuse of East Bay transfer privileges) to underpay a bus fare for travel between Sonoma County and Marin County or between San Francisco and Marin County. Specifically, a customer from Sonoma County could pay for a \$3.25 trip to the East Bay and instead make a \$3.95 (Zone 5) or \$4.80 (Zone 6) trip to Marin County (Zone 3). The loophole could not be corrected before the new fare program went into effect. Therefore, staff will be scheduling a public hearing in January to consider a new regional bus fare for travel between the East Bay and San Francisco or Sonoma County. The proposed cash fare will be \$6.00 (\$3.00 for seniors and persons with disabilities). The fare between the East Bay and Marin will remain \$3.25 (\$1.60 for seniors and persons with disabilities). In 2006, the Board of Directors will also be taking a look at options to raise revenue from other sources to address the shortfall not covered by the proposed fare increase.

6. **Old Business** (follow-up and status reports)

a. Ferry Division Items.

- 1) Status of Spaulding Vessel Refurbishment: There is no new information to report.
- 2) Larkspur Ferry Terminal and Parking Lot Access Issues: Maurice Palumbo prepared a list of items identified during the site inspection with ACA members and through follow-up by him and other staff. It has undergone one round of staff review, and now Mr. Palumbo is in the process of organizing the list into categories by type of implementation or correction needed. The ACA hopes that once this updated list has been completed, the committee can further review and comment on it.

b. Review of ACA Rules and Procedures, Election of Officers. Ms. Petersen reviewed the discussion at the November meeting that led to this item being placed on the agenda, then summarized some of the history and rules of the Committee. Mr. Bohlke stated ACA should retain the roll of Chair and Vice Chair, and Jan Hummingbird noted that other Committees have co-chairs that alternate. Since a number of key members were missing from the meeting, it was decided to table discussion and carry over this item to the next regular ACA meeting.

c. Appointing 2005 Service Awards Nominating Subcommittee. Again, since a number of key ACA members were not in attendance, this matter was carried over to the next regular ACA meeting.

d. Overhead Light and Assistance Button – Orion Buses. Upon further inspection, it has been determined that the flip seats are mounted differently on the Orion buses than the flip seats in the 1200-series re-power buses. Because of the wiring involved, structural differences in the bus, and the need to stay within warranty, it appears that the controls will need to stay mounted on the third row of slip seats. Potentially, however, they can be mounted further forward. GGT bus maintenance staff is looking

into options and hopes to have a mock-up prepared for members to inspect at the January or February ACA meeting.

- e. GGT Bus Interior Light Lens Covers: In follow-up to ACA's recommendation to install colored lens covers on GGT bus interior lights, GGT has determined the problem to be operational, which would best be addressed by continued enforcement of instructions to drivers to operate in "night-run" mode. Night-run mode is when, at dusk and during periods of darkness, GGT buses are operated with the interior lights on in the back 1/3 of the bus.
 - f. Access Codes for Toll Rate for Persons with Disabilities (TRPD) Cards. Helen Haas reported that the access code problem has been corrected. Cards will now be issued with a 3-year expiration period. The outreach process for informing TRPD customers of this new change is in the process of being implemented
 - g. Bus Stop Follow-up: Ms. Petersen reported that improvements to the bus stop on Third St. west of Grand Ave. in San Rafael are almost complete. Jan Hummingbird is waiting until after the holidays to follow up with the City of Fairfax on the need for a shelter at the bus stop on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. near her home. Ms. Petersen still needs to follow up on the Strawberry Shopping Center bus stop and downtown Novato bus stop improvements. Kevin Siemens noted that at Marin City the Route 15 occasionally parks adjoining a narrow portion of sidewalk and fails to pull up before operating the lift. Committee members would like "Continued Items" to be reinstated as a list on the back of the agenda.
- 7. **New Business:** None.
 - 8. **Marin Paratransit Coordinating Council.** Nothing to report.
 - 9. **Staff Report and Information Items.** Nothing to report.
 - 10. **ACA Member Announcements/Comments, Public Open Time.**
Russ Bohlke reported that every year the Indoor Sports Club chooses one item to make available to its members. This year, a very comprehensive disaster kit is available at a nominal cost of \$69. He will bring an example to one of the upcoming ACA meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.