

Agenda Item No. 1c
For: March 9, 2006

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, February 1, 2006

**Convene at 12:00 p.m. - Adjourn by 1:15 p.m.
Embarcadero Room
Pier One, Port of San Francisco**



Approval of January 4, 2006 Minutes

1. Service Issues
Marin County Transit District Short-Range Transit Plan
Public Outreach Sessions
2. Operational Issues
MV Del Norte Drydock Schedule
BART Project Update
Larkspur A.M. Peak Ferries at Capacity
LFT Parking at Capacity
3. Five-Year Fare Program Public Workshops/Hearings
4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items
Changes to the FPAC web site information
5. Member/Visitor Comments

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Wednesday, January 4, 2006



Embarcadero Room, Port of San Francisco, Pier One

FPAC Members Present: Ken Eichstaedt, Frank Johnston, Robert Karfiol, Lee Kleinecke, Niels Legallet, Jorge Schulz, Erik Selvig

Staff Present: Pascale Soumoy, Associate Planner; Helen Haas, Customer Relations Supervisor; Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division

Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2005. The minutes were approved.

1. Service Issues

Route 97 TransLink Availability: Currently the TransLink equipment on the Route 97 buses is not working. TransLink was to be available to Route 97 passengers on December 11, 2005, in conjunction with the new sign-up. Staff investigated the problem and found both software and hardware malfunctions. Bus Maintenance is working with ERG, the TransLink contractor, to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

Day After Thanksgiving and December 26, 2005: Ferry operated a modified holiday schedule that included the Route 97 bus and early ferry trips. Both of these days had very light ridership on the early trips and Jim Swindler is not sure that running the extra service is warranted. It is likely that Ferry will return to the regular holiday service in the future.

March 2006 Sign-up: Helen Haas informed FPAC of the following cancellations planned for the March sign-up: the last northbound and southbound Route 10 trips out of San Francisco; the last eastbound and westbound Route 42 trips out of San Rafael Transit Center; and the last northbound Route 22 from Sausalito. Ms. Haas noted that Routes 8 and 9 have very low ridership and are being reviewed for reduction. Staff is working with the City of Tiburon, which prefers to keep the Route 9, since it connects to the ferry.

2. Operational Issues

MV Del Norte Drydock Schedule: Mr. Swindler stated that the bids for the drydock proposals will be opened the week of January 9th. He expects to receive two bids and that the MV Del Norte will go to drydock in February.

BART Project Update: No new developments on this subject. Ferry is still meeting and discussing with BART and the Port regarding continuation of service during seismic retrofit and construction.

Other Issues:

- Mr. Swindler reported that electrical problems are occurring on the 5:50am MV Mendocino. Mechanics discovered problems with the two generators on the vessel and are working on repairs.
- Mr. Swindler added that when temperatures drop below 40 degrees in the morning, mechanics will start the vessels early to allow them to warm up. Ferry will do this on Mondays as well.
- Member commented that the clear plastic intake vents on the MV Mendocino are still quite dirty, even though they have reportedly been cleaned.
- It was reported that the bicycle rack on the MV Mendocino is still broken.

3. Five-Year Fare Program

The public workshops/hearings are being organized for the proposed new Fare Program. Beginning in late February, the public will have three opportunities to attend workshops and present formal comments to the Board at public hearings. These workshops/hearings will be held in the evening in three different locations. Comments will also be accepted via email and letters during the public comment period. The Planning Department will read and analyze all the comments and report back to the Finance Committee. If approved by both Finance Committee and the full Board, the new Fare Program will go into effect July 1, 2006.

4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- There will be a public hearing January 12, 2006, regarding the East Bay bus fare changes. Originally the fare was set for \$3.25 for all rides and transfers. The new fare will be \$3.25 for trips between Richmond and San Rafael and \$6.00 for trips continuing on to Sonoma County or San Francisco.
- Merry Ferry 2005 attracted new passengers. The average ridership for the 10:10am departure had been 120; the Merry Ferry trips operated with 170 to 307 passengers aboard.

5. Member/Visitor Comments

- To respond to fellow ferry riders who will complain of the new fare increase, Niels Legallet asked if the bus passengers will be feeling a pinch as well. Ms. Haas responded that bus riders have faced 25% cuts in service as well as fare increases over the past two years.
- Ken Eichstaedt asked for the fuel costs/economy per passengers for 2005/2006. Last year staff provided this information and he remembers it being an average of 1.1 gallons per passenger per trip. Can staff provide this information again?

Mr. Eichstaedt also requested the latest ferry ridership figures. He is still interested in finding ways to increase ridership. Midday ferries are not running at capacity, but the parking lot is always full by then. How can alternative ways of getting to LFT, such as using bicycles and ferry feeders, be encouraged? Would

the District consider a combination of park-and-rides and feeders for ferry access? Metropolitan Transportation Commission published a study of Bay Area highways that indicates Marin County ranks as one of the worst areas. A combined park-and-ride with feeder service could benefit from HOV lanes and provide service to ferries. Is there an Air Quality Planning grant the District can look into? Mr. Eichstaedt also asked that this type of mode question be included in the upcoming passenger survey.

- Ms. Haas announced that Parsons-Brinkerhoff is the new RIDES coordinator.
- Pascale Soumoy announced that the Feb 1, 2006, FPAC meeting will be her last. She is leaving the District to travel overseas. She expressed appreciation for the all the work and dedication of the FPAC members and hopes that the strong collaborative relationship between District staff and passengers continues.