

Agenda Item No. 1c
For: April 13, 2006

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Agenda for Wednesday, March 1, 2006

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

Approval of February 1, 2006, Minutes

1. Service Issues
 - Marin County Transit District Short-Range Transit Plan Status
 - Bus Route 66 to Muir Woods Status
 - NextFerry Signage Status
2. Operational Issues
 - BART Project Update
 - Ferry Passenger Survey
 - Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
 - Shuttle Bus for Overflow Passengers
 - LFT Parking at Capacity
 - MV Del Norte Shipyard Schedule and Work Description
3. Five-Year Fare Program Public Workshops/Hearings
4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items
 - FPAC web site presence
5. Member/Visitor Comments

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Wednesday, February 1, 2006



Embarcadero Room, Port of San Francisco, Pier One

FPAC Members Present: Frances Barbour-Hayden, Ken Eichstaedt, Frank Johnston, Robert Karfiol, Lee Kleinecke, Niels Legallet, Erik Selvig, Cindy Swift, David Tollen

Staff Present: Pascale Soumoy, Associate Planner; Pete Guthlein, Marketing & Communications Specialist; Harvey Katz, Senior Planner; Jim Swindler, Ferry Division Manager

Visitors Present: Dwight Steeves, Denise Turner

Approval of Minutes of January 4, 2006. The minutes were approved.

Introduction of Harvey Katz, Senior Planner. Mr. Katz will be taking over for Pascale Soumoy as FPAC liaison upon her departure February 3.

1. Service Issues

Marin County Transit District (MCTD) Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP)

MCTD has released its first SRTP and scheduled several public outreach sessions regarding this new document. Public outreach will be held in several different locations throughout the county and will allow the public to receive information on the SRTP and offer comments as well.

MCTD is planning to implement changes described in SRTP in September 2006. The MCTD web site (<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PW/main/marintransit/whatis.html>) has more detailed information.

Route 63

Route 63, which provides seasonal service between Marin City and Stinson Beach, has been cancelled. MCTD decided that it did not want this service provided by Golden Gate Transit and may use "The Stage" to carry passengers to and from Stinson Beach.

Other Local Marin Bus Service

Route 66, also known as the Muir Woods Shuttle, is operated by GGT under a separate contract with the County of Marin (not MCTD). It is scheduled to run again starting Memorial Day weekend, with possible service from the Sausalito Ferry dock as well as Marin City and the Manzanita Park & Ride lot en route to Muir Woods and back.

2. Operational Issues

MV Del Norte Drydock Schedule: Mr. Swindler stated that the bids received for the drydock proposal were rejected because of errors. The call for bids will be reissued soon, and Mr. Swindler expects the vessel to go to the shipyard in early to mid March.

MV Mendocino Inspection Schedule

MV Mendocino will be undergoing inspections on February 7 and 14 between 9:45 am and 2:15 pm. A Spaulding vessel will be substituted for the 10:10 and 11:40 am trips. Marketing and Communications provided a seat drop, posted a notice on the District web site and sent an e-blast informing customers of this minor schedule change.

BART Project Update: A verbal agreement has been reached with BART to provide Golden Gate Ferry with a temporary docking facility as well as a new permanent facility to allow Ferry to continue service during seismic retrofit. BART plans to begin construction late in 2007. Engineering is currently drafting a Request for Proposal for engineering and architecture firms for the design and construction of new temporary and new permanent ferry facilities.

Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity: Three morning peak departures, 7:10, 7:50 and 8:20 am, are running at capacity and turning away passengers. Ridership began increasing just before Christmas, and since the end of the holiday season, morning trips have been overloading. The 7:50 am boat leaves early since it fills up right away. Although staff estimates 5 to 14 riders are turned away per trip, the total number of passengers left behind is inaccurate because it does not take into account passengers who may still be in the parking lot.

Wondering why this might be happening, staff asked FPAC members if they had any ideas or suggestions. One commented that changing the 6:40 departure to 6:35 am prompted some passengers to switch to the 7:10 am trip.

Staff has several possible solutions:

- a) Bring back a Spaulding as part of the morning commute – If a Spaulding is substituted for one of the fast ferries, Mr. Swindler fears that passengers will complain of longer trips and later arrival in San Francisco. Members pointed out that this may be true, but passengers are also arriving earlier to be able to board, so their commute time has actually become longer. Adding a Spaulding to the existing schedule is possible but expensive since it would require an additional crew.
- b) Add backup buses – Ferry is working with the Bus Division to see how much this would cost and if buses and drivers are available.
- c) Use van cabs that carry 8 to 10 passengers to shuttle riders to the Financial District.
- d) Status quo.

Mr. Swindler does not want to continue with status quo and is hoping to have a solution in place by next week.

Ken Eichstaedt noted that, unless something is done about the parking situation, Ferry shouldn't offer more service. If Ferry continues to attract additional riders, the parking lot will be packed and there will be no space for the mid-day patrons.

LFT Parking Lot at Capacity. As mentioned, once again the LFT parking lot is full by 10:30 am. A staff meeting has been scheduled for February 6 to discuss the parking problem and solutions. LFT lot was restriped in 2002, adding 210 parking spaces to the lot. The Cal Park Tunnel will likely open in 2007, limiting the quantity of Marin Airporter overflow parking along the railroad right of way.

3. Five-Year Fare Program

Three informational open houses/public hearings will be held for the proposed new Five-Year Fare Program on February 16th in Rohnert Park, March 8th in San Francisco, and March 9th in San Rafael. Comments will also be accepted via email and mail during the public comment period. The Planning Department has already received emails commenting on the proposal.

4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- Changes to the FPAC web site presence
Effective February 1, 2006, minutes and agendas of the three passenger advisory committees are being posted directly to the Board Meeting section of the District web site. The agenda is posted in advance of the meeting, with meeting minutes to follow. This meeting's agenda was the first to be posted.
- NextFerry
The NextFerry Signage Project is under way. Water Transit Authority is sponsoring the placement and maintenance of the LED signs that will announce arrival/departure of ferries in Larkspur, San Francisco and Sausalito. In Larkspur, the sign will be installed atop the LFT sign facing East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and in Sausalito, the LED sign will be atop the schedule sign at the Sausalito Ferry dock.
- Mr. Swindler reported that the vents and seals on the MV Mendocino will be repaired and cleaned. The Cummins Engine was installed without breather kits, which could be the reason the vents were often dirty.
- Member commented that the MV Del Norte upstairs toilets leak and are dripping downstairs. The toilets need to be replaced; their design makes for awkward flushing, and as a result, few people do. Can the leaking be stopped and floor repaired?
- Holiday Schedule will be followed on February 20th, Presidents Day.
- Giants ferry schedule has been posted on Ferry's website. A Giants ferry pocket schedule will be printed. Tickets will be available for sale later this month.

5. Member/Visitor Comments

Since it was Pascale's last meeting as District liaison with FPAC, committee members and staff saluted her dedication and excellent work and celebrated with a tiramisu cake and best wishes for a wonderful future.