

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

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Agenda for Wednesday, October 4, 2006



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

Approval of September 6, 2006, Minutes

1. Service Issues
 - NextFerry Signage Status

2. Operational Issues
 - Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
 - Ballpark Service Update

3. Other Items/Future Agenda Items
 - Spaulding Refurbishment
 - Signs to indicate bicycle parking in paid area
 - New Committee Members
 - Promoting Bicycling to the Ferry

4. Member/Visitor Comments

- Attachments: 1. Minutes of September 6, 2006
2. Ferry Patronage Tables for August 2006
Larkspur Ferry Terminal
Sausalito Ferry Terminal
AT&T Ferry Service

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



Minutes of Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Embarcadero Room, Port of San Francisco, Pier One

FPAC Members Present: Frances Barbour Hayden; Frank Johnston; Robert Karfiol
Staff Present: Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division; Harvey Katz, Senior Planner; Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner
Visitors Present: Dwight Steeves; Denise Turner

Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2006. The minutes were approved.

1. Service Issues

NextFerry Signage Status

The Water Transit Authority notified GGF that Sausalito plans to approve the sign permit in September. The LFT sign is currently being fabricated. There are no new developments in the permit from the Port of San Francisco. Jim Swindler passed out photos of the SSFT ticket office showing where the signs will be. Sample messages might be "Next Larkspur Ferry 4:05 PM" and "Ferry delayed, mechanical problems".

2. Operational Issues

Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity

Harvey Katz passed out a statistical sheet containing Ferry Overloads During Morning Commute, August Ferry Ballpark Trips, and Cars Parked in the Overflow Parking Area. There were nine days in August when ferries left LFT at capacity, leaving passengers at the dock. Usually, if the 7:50 a.m. ferry was overloaded, so was the 8:20. Mr. Swindler explained that many of those left behind were purchasing tickets.

Regarding the LFT sheet compiling patrons and crossings for July, a member asked why so many more people ride on commute day afternoons than in the mornings (average 1,654 in AM vs. 3,021 in PM.). Mr. Swindler said that some people ride-share or take the bus in the morning and return home via ferry. Daytime travelers may be counted twice for PM figures if they board the 12:40 PM southbound ferry and return later that afternoon.

Ballpark Service Update

On 13 days in August, ferries provided service to AT&T Park for baseball games. Southbound trips averaged 509 passengers; northbound trips averaged 573. For 10 days this season, the overflow parking lot on the railroad property above the Marin Airpporter has been used. Average utilization has been 174 cars a day (never less than 125). The lot reached capacity of 231 vehicles on July 19, and some ballpark passengers had to find parking on their own.

3. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- Spaulding Refurbishment. Mr. Swindler explained that the District has been in contact with at least one shipyard that was expected to bid but didn't because of conflict with bidding on larger projects that did not come through. He will inform FPAC of any progress at next month's meeting.

- Signs to Indicate Bike Parking in Paid Area. In response to Ken Eichstaedt's request at last month's meeting to see a sign such as "Secured Bike Parking Inside", Planner Maurice Palumbo is designing some signs according to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices that will be tall enough to be seen from afar. Mr. Swindler noted that other ferry terminal signage will be changed, and this sign will be incorporated into that project to conform with the new style.
- New Committee Members. Mr. Katz gave Dwight Steeves an FPAC application form to fill out and will notify him next month if he will become the newest member.
- Ideas to Improve and Promote Bicycling to the Ferry. Frances Barbour Hayden led the discussion, as a member of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC). She is leading four workshops to teach Marinites bicycle street skills, including taking transit, and wants support from the District, such as seat drops or handouts with, for instance, "10 Reasons to Bike to the Ferry" on one side and promotion of the workshops on the other side. Mr. Swindler will check to make sure it is permissible to distribute these sheets. Ms. Barbour Hayden also suggested providing incentives to cyclists, such as guaranteed boarding and discount prices. Mr. Swindler indicated the District would not pay for free rides, but recommended that MCBC solicit MTC or another local agency for "Bike to Transit" funds. Advertising "bicycling" by wearing special lapel pins was suggested. Discussion ensued about promoting a "Bike to Ferry" day with bikes to be left in the terminal, not taken on-board. Member suggested presenting a biking workshop in a designated location on board certain vessels, and Mr. Swindler thought this might be possible some weekend on a Spaulding ferry; it might help encourage more passengers to use bicycles.

4. Member/Visitor Comments

- Member asked about increasing parking lot traffic control, and Mr. Swindler said he had no staff to assist by being in the lot or marking rows as "Full", but he did indicate that the new sign plan may address the issue.
- Ms. Barbour Hayden wanted rough pavement smoothed out for bikers, and requested a ramp in the drop-off area for bikes. This has already been designed, and several other features are in the works to assist the disabled passengers.
- Dwight Steeves noted that the reconfiguration of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. has eased traffic leaving the lot now that two lanes feed to Hwy. 101. This greatly increases the capacity of the intersection by maybe 20 cars per light.
- Mr. Katz noted that the Sir Francis Drake traffic light timing study was not done by Memorial Day, but now that school is in session, it will be done in the next few months. Mr. Swindler and Planner Maurice Palumbo will request from the traffic engineering consultant additional "green time" (4 to 7 p.m.) for the light at the LFT exit to reduce wait time.
- Denise Turner of the San Francisco Port administration mentioned that bicycle storage plans at SFFT fell apart with the news of BART's impending construction, but she wants to be sure the issue is discussed again.
- The District is not responsible for bicycles parked at our facilities, and a sign is needed at bike racks saying something like "Store bike at your own risk".
- Member mentioned having US government threat level code (yellow, orange, etc.) stated on the changeable southbound sign at LFT. Mr. Swindler would look into this.
- Karyn Paulson brought up the fact that District passenger advisory committees represent the public, and communications between members should be in the public eye. Sending emails from member to member(s) is discouraged, while emailing District staff to pass along messages is encouraged, as is sharing comments at meetings.