



## **FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)**

*Agenda for Wednesday, January 3, 2006*

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

### Approval of December 6, 2006, Notes

1. Committee Issues

- Membership Guidelines
- Meeting Schedule
- Consideration of Membership Application(s)
- Promotion of FPAC Membership at Sausalito Ferry

2. Service Issues

- NextFerry Signage Status

3. Operational Issues

- Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
- Fuel Consumption per Mile Report

4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- Spaulding Refurbishment Update
- Bicycle-Ferry Coordination Issues: Bicycle Parking Signs in Paid Area, Promoting Bicycling to the Ferry, Marin County Bicycle Route Map
- East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Signal Timing Project

5. Member/Visitor Comments

- Attachments:
1. Notes from meeting of December 6, 2006
  2. Ferry Route Performance Report for November 2006
    - Larkspur Ferry Terminal-San Francisco Ferry Terminal
    - Sausalito Ferry Terminal-San Francisco Ferry Terminal

# FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

*Notes from Meeting of Wednesday, December 6, 2006*



## **Embarcadero Room, Port of San Francisco, Pier One**

FPAC Members Present: Ken Eichstaedt, Robert Karfiol, Jorge Schulz, Dwight Steeves, Cindy Swift  
Staff Present: Helen Haas, Customer Relations Supervisor; Harvey Katz, Senior Planner; Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant; Jim Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry Division; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner  
Visitors Present: Dwight Steeves began as a visitor but was voted into membership during the meeting

Approval of Notes from Meeting of October 4, 2006. The notes were approved.

### **1. Committee Issues**

#### Membership Guidelines

Harvey Katz explained that the primary criteria for FPAC membership determined by the District Board of Directors when creating the committee was “frequent use of Golden Gate ferry service” and “experience as a user of transit and ferry system in particular”. Geographic guidelines were also specified (1 member from southern Marin, 1 from northern Marin, 3 from central Marin, 2 from San Francisco, and 1 from Sonoma County). This distribution has not been adhered to, one reason being the mid-day San Francisco meetings, so geographic location is less important than ferry usage. Other guidelines include a mix of peak-period commuters to San Francisco, early or late commuters, recreational passengers, transit-dependent passengers, and bicycle commuters. Cindy Swift encourages diversity in ridership patterns and commute schedules.

Mr. Katz reported on members’ meeting attendance for 2006. Because only three or four members have attended recent meetings, he asked the Committee to think about establishing attendance guidelines, such as missing no more than three meetings per year to remain a member. Mr. Katz also asked if the Committee wanted to appoint a Chairperson (as other advisory committees have) to keep meetings moving along. Members David Tollen and Lee Kleinecke have resigned, and the General Manager will send letters acknowledging their Committee service.

Frequent visitor Dwight Steeves was voted onto the Committee. He says he frequently talks to riders from Novato and Sonoma County so can bring their input to meetings. Further FPAC membership recruitment has begun, and because Messrs. Tollen and Kleinecke were the only members using the Sausalito ferry, it is now important that replacements be found. The Committee will be given applicants’ forms at upcoming meetings to select new members.

#### Meeting Schedule

Attendees expressed a desire for monthly meetings when Mr. Katz suggested meeting bi-monthly beginning in January, with interim meetings added when important/urgent issues

come up. Ms. Swift wanted to be sure that issues could be raised as they happened, and the other members agreed, saying they didn't want to wait two months. Mr. Katz felt meetings would be more productive if held less frequently and more people attended to give a variety of comments on the issues. Jim Swindler assured the group that there are several upcoming Ferry projects that will need input from FPAC members, and he believes about eight meetings would be necessary in 2007. Further discussion was tabled until the January 3, 2007, meeting. Members were reminded that the Brown Act prohibits them from discussing FPAC business among themselves out of the public arena, but they can communicate their ideas via email to District staff, and staff will disperse the information via email or USPS.

## 2. Service Issues

### NextFerry Signage Status

The NextFerry signs have been installed at the SF Ferry Terminal, although the 5:20 p.m. SFFT-LFT sign is not yet operable, as is one morning sign. The LFFT large sign cannot be erected for two to three months because electrical power lines need to be installed. WTA funds will pay for the installation.

## 3. Operational Issues

### Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity

Passengers had to be turned away 14 days in November, 15 days in October and 6 days in September. The 6:35 a.m. ferry is filling up but does not reach maximum capacity. Mr. Steeves recommended using a Spaulding vessel at 6:35 a.m.

### Fuel Consumption Report

Systemwide, Golden Gate Ferry is growing more fuel efficient. Fiscal Year 2005/06 (FY06) fuel consumption per passenger improved 6.7% over the previous year. Ferries carried 6.7% more passengers, but consumed 0.4% less fuel. Fuel consumption per passenger for the first three months of FY07 improved 12% over the same period last year, with 13.7% more passengers riding and vessels using 0.2% less fuel. Average gallons per passenger in FY06 improved to 0.823, while in the first 3 months of the current fiscal year, the gallons per passenger rate is 0.633, a 12.2% reduction. Mr. Swindler will determine the fuel consumption per mile and inform FPAC.

## 4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

Spaulding Refurbishment. The MV Marin is currently at the shipyard, gutted and cocooned for asbestos removal. Once completed, the interior will be brand new; no engine work will be involved. Seat delivery is slated for March 15, and the vessel should return to service April 1. Alternative baseball game service is under discussion in case the MV Marin does not arrive in time.

Signs to Indicate Bicycle Parking in Paid Area. Standard MUTCD bike parking signs will be installed at LFT.

Promoting Bicycling to the Ferry. The Marin County Bicycle Coalition has scheduled a biking commute class and placed posters on the ferries and at the terminals.

East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Signal Timing Project. Caltrans is just starting to coordinate signals from Larkspur Landing Circle westward to past College Avenue. District staff encouraged Caltrans to program the lights to get more people out of LFT quicker, but

initial changes may not function appropriately. Members should email Harvey Katz at the District regarding observed impacts of the signal changes.

- Sale of Golden Gate Bridge Christmas Ornaments. Several ornaments were purchased by Committee members.

## **5. Member/Visitor Comments**

- Mr. Katz distributed invitations to the December 13 Ferry Division Holiday Party.
- He also distributed District's "Bike to Transit" brochures, "Luggage Bay Bike Racks" reference guides, and the most recent issue of the Golden Gate Gazette. Members were asked to review and provide comments on the brochures. Ms. Haas mentioned a request to bring bicycles inside Route 70 and 80 buses, which may necessitate changes to the brochures, so additional changes could be made at that time.
- Ms. Haas explained that certain bus stops have been designated as "preferred bike boarding locations" for the long buses with the new luggage bay bike racks.
- Mr. Swindler noted that wireless internet access might be installed on all boats and in waiting areas next year.
- Ms. Swift mentioned that the LFT ticket booth used to open at 5:20 a.m. but now she has to wait outside until later. This is because the sole attendant must secure the entire area, which takes an extended time period.
- Ms. Haas informed members that the Route 97 bus from LFT to San Francisco is having TransLink problems with dead areas in San Francisco. Before TransLink Pre-Launch on November 17, six TransLink cards were used per day, but now about 70 are used. She ascertained that all FPAC members do have and are using the TransLink cards.



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*Agenda for Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

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Embarcadero Room  
Pier One, Port of San Francisco**

### Approval of October 4, 2006, Minutes

1. Committee Issues

- Membership Guidelines
- Meeting Schedule

2. Service Issues

- NextFerry Signage Status

3. Operational Issues

- Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity
- Fuel Consumption Report

4. Other Items/Future Agenda Items

- Spaulding Refurbishment Details
- Signs to Indicate Bicycle Parking in Paid Area
- Promoting Bicycling to the Ferry
- East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Signal Timing Project
- Sale of Golden Gate Bridge Christmas Ornaments at Employee Price (\$13)

5. Member/Visitor Comments

- Attachments:
1. Minutes of October 4, 2006
  2. Ferry Patronage Tables for September and October 2006
    - Larkspur Ferry Terminal
    - Sausalito Ferry Terminal
    - AT&T Park Special Events
  3. Quarterly Ferry Patronage Analysis

# FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)



*Minutes of Wednesday, October 4, 2006*

## **Embarcadero Room, Port of San Francisco, Pier One**

FPAC Members Present: Frank Johnston; Niels Legallet, Erik Selvig  
Staff Present: Harvey Katz, Senior Planner; Karyn Paulson, Administrative Assistant;  
Rebecca Wessling, Terminal Operations Superintendent, Ferry  
Division; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner  
Visitors Present: Dwight Steeves

Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2006. The minutes were approved.

### **1. Service Issues**

#### NextFerry Signage Status

The necessary inter-agency agreement has been signed (WTA, GGT, Blue & Gold, NextBus, etc.), and members should have already noticed the system live at Bay Crossings in the Ferry Building. The LFT and perhaps SFFT signs are expected later this month. Discussion of the signage is on the Sausalito Town Council agenda for October.

### **2. Operational Issues**

#### Larkspur AM Peak Ferries at Capacity

Harvey Katz noted that during September, passengers had to be turned away from southbound LFT morning ferries on 6 days. There appears to be no reason why the vessels are overcrowded one day and roomy the next. Bad traffic since school has resumed has contributed to late arrivals at LFT. Guest asked why ferry waiting area doesn't open earlier. Rebecca Wessling replied that only one Terminal Assistant is on hand to watch the entire area and perform a security sweep between trips.

#### Ballpark Service Update

Ferry special-event service to AT&T Park just completed the 2006 season, with a total of 80,000 riders. Average patronage was 480 passengers per trip. Guest noted that when Giants ferry riders exit the parking lot after games, they appear considerably more confused than regular commuters. He requested painting better lines in the lot, and Ms. Wessling assured him the Bridge painters are scheduled to do that soon.

### **3. Other Items/Future Agenda Items**

- Spaulding Refurbishment. Bids from interested shipyards are to be opened on Oct. 10. This second round of bidding has generated more interest than the earlier request. Assuming a shipyard bid is approved by the Board of Directors in time, the M.V. Marin will begin rehabilitation Nov. 1 and return to the District March 2007. The interior of the vessel will be redone.
- Signs to Indicate Bike Parking in Paid Area. All ferry terminal signage is being changed, and this sign will be incorporated into that project. It will probably be a symbol of a bike and the word "Parking". Staff will make sure that this bicycle parking area is mentioned in the "Bike to Transit" booklet currently in production.

- New Committee Members. Mr. Katz reminded attendees that membership guidelines for FPAC dictate a mix of people representing different geographic areas. Dwight Steeve's membership approval may be delayed because he, like several others, resides in San Rafael. Further membership issues will be discussed at the next meeting. The fact that only 3 members are currently in attendance (same as last month's attendance) contributed to staff mentioning that FPAC may move to bimonthly meetings, with the option of interim meetings when important/urgent issues come up. Staff needs to know how many members plan to attend each meeting so they can order the appropriate quantity of sandwiches. It's likely that when future agendas are emailed, District may request an "Accept" or "Decline" response from every member to project attendance. Ms. Wessling noted that the Sausalito boats currently have advertising requesting applicants for all District Passenger Advisory Committees.
- Promoting Bicycling to the Ferry. Ms. Wessling reported that Jim Swindler met last week with Frances Barbour, Mary Currie [Public Affairs Director], and General Manager Celia Kupersmith to discuss this issue, but no plans are yet final. A "Bike to Transit" brochure is being produced for distribution by the end of October. Members brought up other bicycle issues: (1) The bike rack on the Del Norte port side needs repair; and (2) Deckhands deserve recognition for helping accommodate more bikes than racks on the ferries. Mr. Katz explained that a sidewalk for bike access over Corte Madera Creek has been closed by Caltrans for the past month. The Marin County Bicycle Coalition has been talking to Caltrans about re-opening this path, but Caltrans won't do so until a wooden barrier can be replaced by a more solid barrier. No construction is yet apparent; the path will remain closed until at least Dec. 31, 2006.

#### **4. Member/Visitor Comments**

- Member was pleased to see the newly resurfaced floors in the Del Norte's bathrooms.
- The issue of the M.V. Mendocino's vessel floor plan being in plain sight was brought up. Ms. Wessling explained that government agencies are struggling with providing safe exit diagrams vs. avoiding the security threat of a detailed boat diagram. Rear Admiral Johnston suggested enclosing the vessel floor plan in a tube with a screw top for easy access. There are Coast Guard regulations regarding posting escape details.
- Members approved of replacing a woman's voice on the public address system with a man's voice; he is much easier to hear.
- Rear Admiral Johnston expressed a desire to see flags flown on vessels in additional places, but Ms. Wessling explained that on the fast ferries, the flags get torn up and must be replaced regularly, hence the small number of flags.
- Member requested two armrests on each seat to avoid leaning against unknown seat neighbors.
- Ms. Wessling explained that FPAC comments and recommendations about changing Spare the Air procedures in 2007 have been incorporated into the District's official recommendations to MTC, the organizing agency.
- She also noted that smokers have requested a special smoking area on the ferries. District is not certain whether setting up such a spot is legal.
- Member requested a fuel efficiency study. Mr. Katz said he would review stats of fuel consumption per passenger per trip. Ms. Wessling indicated that overall fuel efficiency has improved.