Two public hearings remain to receive public comment on a proposal to establish a Five-Year Transit Fare Increase Program to increase Golden Gate Transit (GGT) regional bus fares, Golden Gate Ferry fares, and intercounty paratransit fares by 5% annually beginning July 1, 2006. The annual increases are proposed to assist in meeting operating expenses by generating about $9 million in additional revenue over the five-year period and to help address the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District’s (District) current projected $79 million five-year shortfall. Increases will be reviewed yearly during the annual budget process. Each public hearing will be immediately preceded by a two-hour Informational Open House to provide the public with background and context for the proposal. Customers are encouraged to come any time during the open house period to learn more about the District’s financial situation and details of the proposed regional fare increase proposal.

The Five-Year Transit Fare Increase Program will assist the District in continuing to provide its public transit services by setting targets for transit fares to cover 25% of the operating costs of bus and paratransit services and for ferry fares to cover 40% of ferry operating costs. Not included in this proposal are local Marin County bus fares set by Marin County Transit District (MCTD) and special event fares such as 49ers bus service and baseball ferry service.

CUSTOMER OPEN HOUSES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT BUS AND FERRY REGIONAL FARE INCREASE PROGRAM

The 2006 baseball season is poised to be one of the most exciting in history. Watch the historic home run chase in person as Barry Bonds tries to slug his way past Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron. Leave the getting there to us. The Larkspur Ferry Baseball Express serves every Giants’ home game at AT&T Park. Sit back, relax and enjoy a scenic one-hour trip from Larkspur. The ferry docks just a few steps away from the ballpark, right outside the center field entrance.

For most evening games, the ferry departs from Larkspur at 5:45 pm. For most day games, the ferry departs at 11:30 am. The ferry will leave the ballpark promptly 30 minutes after the final out. Visit www.goldengate.org for exact times or pick up the special Giants Ferry schedule at the Larkspur and San Francisco Ferry Terminals (available in early March).

Parking for weekday day games is extremely limited. Fans are encouraged to arrive at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal at least 45 minutes prior to departure. If the parking lot is full, please follow signs to off-site parking.

Giants Ferry Tickets
Sales Locations
Larkspur Ferry Terminal
Weekdays 7 am - 5:35 pm
Weekends/Holidays 9:15 am - 5:30 pm
San Francisco Ferry Terminal
Weekdays 7 am - 6 pm
Weekends/Holidays 10:30 am - 5:30 pm
Call toll-free 511 (say “Golden Gate Transit” then “Operator”) to verify ticket office hours.

www.tickets.com*
Giants Dugout Store – AT&T Park*
*Service fees apply

Go Giants!

TICKET PRICES
$7.00 each way (no discounts)
Children five and under FREE
(limit two children per adult – pick up a free child ticket at the Ferry Terminal Ticket Office)
Space is limited. Due to the popularity of the Baseball Express Ferry, purchasing tickets in advance is strongly recommended.

© 2005 S.F. Giants
The first of three public hearing was held on February 16, in Rohnert Park. Details for the two remaining hearings are below.

Discount fare programs for commuters using ticket books will remain in effect based on the new fares, as will the 50% discount off the adult cash fare for youth (age 6 to 18), seniors and persons with disabilities.

The District Board of Directors is currently working on additional strategies to balance the $79 million five-year shortfall that include revenue generation and cost-cutting measures. More information will be forthcoming as these strategies are advanced for public input. Since 2002, the five-year shortfall has been reduced from $454 million to the remaining $79 million. The District has just four revenue sources to draw from to provide bus and ferry services and operate the Golden Gate Bridge: Bridge tolls, transit fares, limited government grants and concessions/advertising. Bridge tolls are key to keeping transit services on the road with 46% of tolls used to help run transit.

Visit www.goldengate.org for more details.

Wednesday, March 8, 2006
Open House from 4 pm to 6 pm
Public Hearing at 6 pm
Board Room, Administration Building
Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, San Francisco

Thursday, March 9, 2006
Open House from 4 pm to 6 pm
Public Hearing at 6 pm
Activities Room, The Whistlestop
930 Tamalpais Avenue, San Rafael

MUIR WOODS SHUTTLE

Back by popular demand, beginning Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 27), the Muir Woods Shuttle will operate from Marin City/Manzanita to Muir Woods. The shuttle will operate every weekend and holiday through Labor Day weekend. Route 66 allows visitors to enjoy the majesty of Muir Woods without fighting traffic and adding congestion to the park’s parking facility and surrounding roads. Last summer, over 10,000 passengers rode the shuttle.

For more information, call toll-free 511 (say “Golden Gate Transit” then “operator”) or 711 (TDD), or visit www.goldengate.org. For information about visiting Muir Woods, call 415/388-2595.
PROPOSED PLAN For Local Marin Transit

The Marin County Transit District (MCTD) released its first Draft Short-Range Transit Plan (SRTP) January 31. You may have noticed signs on Golden Gate Transit (GGT) vehicles, or perhaps you already attended one of the eight public meetings being held throughout Marin County to explain the plan, introduce proposed changes and get feedback from Marin County residents. If not, there is still time to learn more about the plan and provide feedback to MCTD.

The Draft SRTP is the first plan entirely focused on local transit within Marin County and was made possible by the passage of Measure A in 2004. The Draft SRTP proposes financial and operating plans for local bus service, paratransit services and supplemental school services for Marin residents.

The Draft SRTP is available at all Marin Public Libraries and at www.marintransit.org.

MCTD developed goals for the plan based on public input that include:

- Increasing frequencies in key corridors
- Enhancing connectivity throughout the County while limiting transfers
- Introducing smaller buses on local routes where the number of riders is not expected to exceed seating capacity
- Adjusting routes to better match where people want to travel
- Enhancing school service
- Providing a system that balances routes that carry the greatest number of passengers with routes covering the most areas

Based on a new five-year contract with MCTD, GGT will continue to operate local bus service in Marin County. After the MCTD Board and the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) approve a revised plan in March, MCTD and GGT will work together to implement service changes on local bus routes.

MCTD would like to hear from you! There is still time to learn more about the plan and give feedback. You can get more information at www.marintransit.org.

Submit written comments on the plan through March 3:

Marin County Transit District
SRTP Comments
P.O. Box 4186
San Rafael, CA 94913
or email:
info@marintransit.org

Attend a MTCD Board hearing:
March 20 at 9:00 am
Marin Civic Center

Where Will They All Park?

Avoid the rush. Take the Larkspur Ferry to the Bay to Breakers Race on Sunday, May 21.

One-way fare is $6.45. Children five and under ride FREE.

For more information, call TOLL-FREE 511 (Say “Golden Gate Transit”), TDD 711 or visit www.goldengate.org
Bus Service Adjustments
Effective Sunday, March 12, 2006

Golden Gate Transit schedules are adjusted quarterly to ensure system efficiency.

Routes 10, 21, 54, 56, 58, 70, 71, 80: Schedules adjusted one to five minutes to improve connections and running times.

Route 10: Southbound 7:42 pm weekday and 7:39 pm weekend trips canceled due to low ridership. Northbound 8:27 pm weekday and 8:45 pm weekend trips canceled due to low ridership. See Route 80 for alternate service.

Route 21: The Village at Corte Madera will no longer be served.

Route 22: Northbound 11:50 pm weekday and 11:56 pm weekend trips canceled due to low ridership.

Route 27: Southbound 8:45 am trip from San Anselmo will now start at San Rafael Transit Center at 9:22 am.

Route 42: Westbound 12:34 am weekday and 12:05 am weekend trips canceled due to low ridership. Eastbound 11:25 pm weekday and 11:12 pm weekend trips canceled.

Route 44: Northbound 4:14 pm trip adjusted to depart at 4:07 pm.

Route 63: Seasonal service to Stinson Beach has been canceled at the request of the Marin County Transit District (MCTD). For more information, contact MCTD at 415/499-6099 or 415/499-6142 (TDD) or visit www.marintransit.org.

Route 66: Seasonal weekend/holiday service will resume between Marin City/Manzanita and Muir Woods on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 27). For more information, call toll-free 511 or 711 (TDD).

Route 70/80: Late night service to Manzanita, Mill Valley and Strawberry Village has been canceled. Sausalito will be served by southbound 5:37 pm weekday and 5:41 pm weekend trips and northbound 8:31 pm weekday and 8:33 pm weekend trips.

FAQ’s

A fellow passenger’s cell phone use is bothering a lot of us on the bus or ferry. What can I do?

The District continually encourages better cell phone etiquette by asking customers to use the “vibrate” function on their phones, keep conversations to a minimum, keep their voices low and generally be considerate of other passengers. Unfortunately, not everyone demonstrates good cell phone etiquette. As cell phone use increases, so do the complaints we receive. We ask our customers to respect fellow riders, not use profanity or racial slurs and not be loud or disrespectful to other riders.

Signage will be posted on all buses and ferries advising our customers to minimize cell phone use and be considerate of other passengers. Please respect this request as a means to continue to allow cell phone use on our system. If someone persistently bothers other passengers with his/her cell phone use and ignores polite requests to stop, please notify the bus operator or ferry deckhand. If complaints continue, our policies allowing the use of cell phones may be modified.

What is the equipment being installed next to the bus driver’s seat?

The new equipment appearing on many buses is TransLink card readers. TransLink will allow customers to use a “smart” fare card to ride all Bay Area transit systems instead of having to carry multiple tickets or cash. The card acts like a debit card allowing riders to add value to their card throughout the Bay Area, including the San Rafael Transit Center and the Larkspur and San Francisco Ferry Terminals. Official launch of this innovative fare-paying system is scheduled on Golden Gate Transit in late 2006. Since GGT has a distance-based fare structure, customers will “tag on” when they board and “tag off” as they get off the bus. By passing the card (“tagging”) next to the reader, the correct fare will be automatically deducted. TransLink customers will receive the Ride Value fare for their trip. Not only will the “smart” card be convenient for customers, it will speed up the boarding process.

We will provide TransLink updates in future issues of the Gazette. Or visit www.translink.org for more information.

HOLIDAY SERVICE CALENDAR

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<th>Holiday</th>
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<th>Bus</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Friday, March 31</td>
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<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>Weekend Service</td>
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<td>Memorial Day</td>
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Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, April 2. Don’t forget to “spring” your clocks forward.

Order your bus and ferry tickets online at www.goldengate.org.