No more fumbling for cash to pay your toll and no more stopping at the Toll Plaza when you cross the Golden Gate Bridge. All electronic tolling, a cashless payment system, is now in the functionality testing phase, leading up to the full conversion when the official “cut-over” to all electronic tolling is made, now planned to occur in late March 2013 (subject to change).

During the testing phase, the toll collectors will remain in the toll lanes and you can still pay cash at the Toll Plaza. At this time, if motorists haven’t already made the move to FasTrak®, they can also try one of the three new Pay-By-Plate toll payment options: License Plate Account, One-Time Payment, or Toll Invoice. At the Golden Gate Bridge, drivers using FasTrak pay discounted toll rates while non-discounted toll rates apply with the Pay-By-Plate options. For example, when using FasTrak, a 2-axle vehicle pays $5 toll while motorists using a Pay-By-Plate option pay a $6 toll.

FasTrak is likely the most convenient and seamless toll payment choice if you cross the Golden Gate or any of the Bay Area toll bridges, or use the Express Lanes in the East Bay at least ONCE a year. FasTrak saves you money on the Golden Gate and requires a prepaid toll balance. Open a FasTrak Account now at www.bayareafastrak.org or pick up a toll tag at select Walgreens, Costco, Safeway, and other retail locations listed online. Call ahead to check on availability.

If FasTrak is not for you, then the Pay-By-Plate options (License Plate Account, One-Time Payment, or Toll Invoice) may better suit your needs. These options are all tied to your license plate number that is scanned while driving through the Toll Plaza. A License Plate Account, when opened using a credit card, is similar to FasTrak, but you “pay as you go” (rather than maintaining a prepaid toll balance with FasTrak). Your credit card is charged ONLY when you cross the Golden Gate Bridge. Making a One-Time Payment is ideal for those who want to continue to pay using cash at one of many Cash Payment Locations around the Bay Area where you can use cash to pay your toll as early as 30 days before or 48 hours after your crossing. And, if you take no action to use FasTrak or the Pay-By-Plate options, the registered owner of the vehicle is mailed a Toll Invoice (with no added penalties).

To learn more, visit www.goldengate.org/tolls.

CONVERSION TO ALL ELECTRONIC TOLLING AT THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

The 2013 San Rafael baseball season promises to be an exciting one, with the Pacifics set to play 42 home games at Albert Park, which will also host the League Championship series on August 26 through August 28, 2013. Having ended the 2012 inaugural season with a division championship, the Pacifics are poised to entertain fans with another thrilling season.

The Pacific Association of Professional Baseball Clubs’ season will open in Arizona in late May as part of the League’s inter-league play against the Freedom Professional Baseball League. The team will return to Albert Park to host the first-year Vallejo Admirals in the home opener on June 11. The Pacifics will feature a number of inter-league games during the season, including a series against the East Bay Lumberjacks (July 7 – 25), the Freedom League (July 30 – August 4), and the Santa Rosa Rose Buds (August 6 – 8). The Pacifics will host both Hawaii teams for the first time starting June 25.

“Our home schedule promises to be exciting in a number of ways,” said Pacifics President and General Manager Mike Shapiro. “With the new seating options at the ballpark, and the excitement of adding inter-league opponents, this season will provide our fans with even more fun at Albert Park, all summer long.” New seating options include the “Hanson Bridgett Dugout Club”, “Williamson’s Living Room” where fans can enjoy the game from recliner chairs and couches.

Season ticket plans are on sale now and are available for purchase at pacificsbaseball.com. To get to the game, take any Golden Gate Transit bus to the San Rafael Transit Center. Walk three blocks west to A Street and make a left. The ballpark will be on your right.
Good news for commuters—a benefits program allowing workers to pay for transit costs with pre-tax dollars has been increased to $240 per month for 2013. Even better, the provision is retroactive to 2012 and through 2013, can offer a substantial savings to individuals who fully utilize their transit accounts for public transportation travel between home and work. The increase allows transit passengers to exempt up to $1,500 of their annual commute costs from taxes. The change is the result of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, a deal signed to avoid the fiscal cliff.

The program wasn’t renewed last year, resulting in the benefit being reduced to $125 a month in 2012. While the Act is retroactive to January 2012 and remains in effect through December 2013, Congress would still need to act in order to guarantee the program in the future.

Golden Gate Transit and Golden Gate Ferry customers who participate in the program use the benefit money toward the purchase of bus and ferry fare media (Clipper or Value Cards). Employers can deduct funds from an employee’s pre-tax salary and can also claim a business expense deduction. Purchase restrictions apply. If you don’t already participate, talk to your employer for information on commuter benefits, such as WageWorks and Commuter Checks.

On Friday, December 14, 2012, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors (Board) elected James C. Eddie as Board President. The position carries a two-year term.

President Eddie, a Potter Valley rancher, was appointed to the Board in 1995, representing the County of Mendocino. Prior to joining the Board, he spent 20 years representing Mendocino County’s 3rd District on its Board of Supervisors.

In accepting the position, Eddie stated, “As we move forward from the Golden Gate Bridge’s 75th anniversary year, I will continue the effort to reduce our 5-year $66 million shortfall, while continuing to enhance our services when possible. I am very proud to be serving as Board President as the District continues to provide excellent service to our more than 50 million bridge, bus, and ferry customers each year.”

Before his Presidency, Director Eddie served as Chair of the Building and Operating Committee, as a member of the Finance Auditing Committee, and as member of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Retirement Investment Trust Board. He is currently one of the two District representatives on the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District Board. He previously served as the Chair of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Authority.

The Board consists of 19 members from the District’s six member counties—San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Del Norte. Board members earn $50 per meeting day, not to exceed $5,000 per year, with the exception of the President who can earn up to $7,500.
GIANTS FERRY TICKETS

On Friday, March 8, the District’s Board of Directors approved a plan that will allow special event Golden Gate Ferry tickets to AT&T Park to be sold through the San Francisco Giants website and their ticket vendor (tickets.com). The change will improve customer convenience, allowing a streamlined, one-step process that enables customers to purchase their game tickets and ferry tickets at the same time. Customers who already have their Giants game tickets will be able to purchase their ferry tickets through this service as well. Once implemented, the new system will allow customers to purchase Giants Ferry tickets online, over the phone, and in-person. Once purchased, the ferry tickets can be printed by the customer, sent to a smart phone, or mailed. One-way tickets will cost $9 plus a $2 service charge.

For more information, visit www.goldengate.org or call toll-free 511.

NEW RIDE-SHARING PROGRAM FOR LARKSPUR FERRY CUSTOMERS

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) invites Marin residents to participate in a real-time ridesharing program aimed at increasing carpools, improving air quality, and reducing congestion in Marin County.

Real-time ridesharing offers all the benefits of carpooling without a daily commitment. You can share the cost of the ride, drive in the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or “carpool”) lane on Highway 101, and park at the premium HOV spaces at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal while keeping a flexible schedule and without a commitment beyond a single shared ride.

With real-time ridesharing, you can easily use your smart phone or computer to find and share rides. After setting up an account, a rider or driver enters their start point, destination, and start time (which could be immediately or next week) and checks the list of people going their way. To set up the ride, simply call or text anyone on the list.

TAM has introduced this program at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, the Civic Center, and Autodesk, but anyone can participate. Plus, every ride shared through April 15 will be entered in a weekly drawing for up to $100 in gift cards.

Sign up at www.wegomarin.com using your smart phone.

Take the Giants Ferry to see the World Series Champs!

For ticket and schedule information, call toll-free 511 (TDD 711) or visit www.goldengate.org

BAY to BREAKERS

Take Golden Gate Larkspur Ferry to Bay to Breakers on Sunday, May 19th, 2013

For ticket and schedule information, call toll-free 511 (TDD 711) or visit www.goldengate.org

New Bike Racks Installed at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal!

Just in time for the springtime weather, we have installed 56 secure bike racks inside the Larkspur Ferry Terminal. The new racks complement the existing two racks that can each accommodate twelve bikes. Funding for the project came from a Federal Highway Administration grant under the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program. Ride your bike to the ferry and avoid the hassle of parking!

All Electronic Tolling is coming to the Golden Gate Bridge. Find out more at www.goldengate.org/tolls.
NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS
Bus Service Adjustments
Effective
March 10, 2013
Golden Gate Transit schedules are adjusted

Routes 2, 4, 8, 10, 18, 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 38, 44, 56, 58, 70, 72, 74, 76, 80, 92, 97, 101, and 127:
Schedules adjusted up to seven minutes to improve connections and running times.

All northbound commute trips from San Francisco: to improve schedule accuracy, time has been added to most trips. Check timetables carefully as departure times may now be earlier.

Route 17: Northbound trips realigned in Strawberry and will now serve northbound Tiburon Wye bus pad, following Strawberry Village. All existing stops continue to be served. Schedule revisions.

Route 19: Schedule revisions.

Route 22: Northbound trips realigned in Strawberry and will now serve northbound Tiburon Wye bus pad, following Strawberry Village.

Route 49/49K: Route no longer serves San Marin. Route now ends at Novato (Redwood & Olive). See Route 51 for San Marin service.

Route 51: Route will serve the San Carlos loop in San Marin.

Route 54: Northbound trip departing Civic Center (McAllister & Polk) at 5:10 pm has been added for a six-month demonstration period.

Route 70: Northbound weekday trips added departing 7th & Market at 8:06 am, 8:36 am, 9:11 am, 9:41 am, and 10:11 am to San Rafael only. Northbound weekend trips added departing 7th & Market at 10:10 am and 5:40 pm to San Rafael only. Southbound Saturday trip departing Novato (Redwood & Olive) at 7:28 am replaced by Route 101 trip at 7:23 am. Southbound weekend trip departing the San Rafael Transit Center at 4:15 pm added.

Route 72: Northbound 2:32 pm trip added.

Route 74: Northbound 3:03 pm trip added.

Route 80: Northbound weekday 7:37 pm trip replaced with a Route 70 trip.

Route 93: Northbound 5:05 pm trip canceled. Service replaced by Route 54 for a six-month demonstration period.

Route 101: Southbound weekend trip departing Novato (Redwood & Olive) at 7:23 am added.

For new schedules, pick up the Spring 2013 Transit Guide on your bus or ferry, visit www.goldengate.org or call toll-free 511 or 711 (TDD) &.

Important Notice about Golden Gate Transit Change Cards
If you are paying your bus fare with cash and are due change, you MUST inform the driver BEFORE putting money into the farebox. The driver will then program the farebox to issue a change card.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Change cards given only if change exceeds $1.

CARRYIN’ A HEAVY LOAD?
All items must be stored only in the overhead luggage racks, underneath the seat, or on your lap.

BIKE TO WORK
Thursday, May 9, 2013
For more information, visit www.511.org

NO SMOKING
In compliance with City of San Rafael Ordinance No. 1908, smoking is prohibited at the San Rafael Transit Center.

Follow Us On Facebook and Twitter!