

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY (ACA)

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 11, 2024



Location: Conference Room (Room 109), Administration Building, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District, 1011 Andersen Drive. San Rafael, CA 94901

Committee Members Present: Patti Mangels, Terry Scussel, Marcela Vargas, Craig Yates

Committee Members Absent: Jamie Faurot

District Staff Present: Jon Gaffney, ADA Compliance and Program Manager; Raymond Santiago, Principal Planner; Roberta Regan, Administrative Assistant, Planning Department

Visitors Present: Mohamed Osman, Marin Transit

1. **Roll Call and Introductions.** Patty Mangels called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. Members, staff and visitors introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Meeting minutes were approved as written.
3. **Ongoing Business.**

A. Marin County Local Bus and Mobility Management. Mohamed Osman announced that Marin Transit is recruiting participants to take part in a focus group to provide feedback on transit services in Marin County for their Short Range Transit Plan.

Mr. Osman went on to discuss Marin Transit's efforts to streamline the paratransit eligibility process. He explained that this work is being done along with staff at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to standardize the eligibility processes for all paratransit operators in the nine Bay Area Counties. Jon Gaffney stated that some of the changes include an extension of permanent eligibility for a five-year period, and the inclusion of paratransit eligibility as an eligibility category for the Regional Transit Connection (RTC) card.

Mr. Osman also announced that Marin Transit is working on a new brochure for their Marin Access programs. The brochure will be available within the week following the meeting.

B. Marin Access/Paratransit Service (Regional and Local). Jon Gaffney provided Paratransit statistics for the month of March 2024. He stated that on-time performance for the paratransit program remains above 90%. He mentioned that ridership is returning to paratransit slowly since the pandemic, with ridership currently at around 55% of pre-pandemic ridership. Mr. Gaffney also announced that Transdev recently promoted Varuna Faasavalu to Operations Manager for the Marin Access contract.

C. District's ADA Transition Plan. Mr. Gaffney gave the committee an update on the status of the District's ADA Transition Plan. He announced that staff will be taking the Draft

ADA Transition Plan to the Board of Directors in May to set a public hearing for feedback on the plan to take place in June.

4. **New Business.**

A. San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Project Presentation. Raymond Santiago explained that environmental approval for the project had progressed through the state process and was awaiting federal approval. He gave an update on the project history and extensive outreach related to the project, then walked the group through diagrams and elevation drawings for the proposed project site. The project completion date is planned for late 2027 or early 2028.

Marcela Vargas asked where people will park at the new transit center. Mr. Santiago explained that the current Park-and-Ride lots would remain in place for commuters.

Ms. Vargas also asked about the proposed path of travel for individuals with disabilities. Mr. Santiago discussed the three proposed options for path of travel for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. Terry Scussel stressed the dangers to pedestrians that bicycle traffic can pose and suggested eliminating the need for pedestrians to cross the bicycle path of travel. Craig Yates brought up electric bikes and scooters and urged the District to consider safety surrounding these vehicles when planning the new Transit Center. Mr. Yates asked if the ACA could meet with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) to discuss interaction between riders with disabilities and bicyclists. Mr. Gaffney agreed to discuss a meeting between the groups if that was the direction given by the committee in the future.

Mr. Santiago explained that the project is currently in its preliminary design phase and promised to come back to the committee once the project is closer to final design.

5. **ACA Member Announcements.** None.

6. **Public Comment.** None.

7. **Adjournment.** Patti Mangles adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Members were advised that the next meeting would take place on July 18, 2024.