



Agenda Item No. (6)(A)

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2021**

The Honorable Board of Directors  
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

Honorable Members:

**FUNDING FOR ONGOING BUS AND FERRY SERVICE IS AT RISK**

Before the District can receive money from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) the FTA sends a grant application to the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) for certification that the transit agency has not infringed upon the collective bargaining rights of its employees. This is known as a 13(c) certification.

Of note, all of the federal COVID relief funding that Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has allocated to the District is administered by FTA and must receive a 13(c) certification before FTA provides the money to the District.

Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding provided about half of the revenue that the District used to pay its bus and ferry operating expenses for the 2020/21 fiscal year, and the District is relying upon federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) money to pay a significant portion of its bus and ferry expenses in the current 2021/22 fiscal year.

On October 28, 2021, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) released a letter formally nullifying their prior determination (issued in 2019) on the impact of the California Public Employees Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) on collective bargaining rights and returning to “*its original superior position*” that asserted that implementation of PEPRA by California transit agencies precludes certification under Section 13(c) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. More specifically, the letter argues that “*...PEPRA effectively precludes certification under Section 13(c) for those transit agencies subject to its reforms,...*” noting “*...PEPRA’s impact on transit workers’ collective bargaining rights is material and significant even if it does not eliminate collective bargaining over pension benefits altogether or alter collective bargaining procedures.*”

While additional details are still forthcoming, we believe the practical impact of this determination is that California transit agencies, including the District, will likely again see federal transit grants withheld prospectively, if subject to PEPRA-based objections by transit labor. In addition to affecting funding for upcoming bus and ferry capital projects, due to the ongoing pandemic, this will affect funding for ongoing bus and ferry service.

### **FUNDING FOR ONGOING BUS AND FERRY SERVICE IS AT RISK (continued)**

On July 28, 2021 the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) allocated \$57.7 million of American Rescue Plan (ARP) federal funds (first tranche of ARP funding) to the District. Fortunately, this grant was certified by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and the grant was awarded to the District by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The District is spending that money on bus and ferry operations.

On October 27, 2021 MTC allocated \$43.9 million of additional ARP funds (second tranche of ARP funding) to the District. However, the District's grant application submittal is occurring after the USDOL's October 28<sup>th</sup> change in position regarding PEPRA. Preliminarily, it appears that this money may not be forthcoming.

The District currently has a projected budget shortfall for FY21/22 and has anticipated spending all of its first tranche of its ARP money and approximately \$24 million of its second tranche of ARP money to balance its budget. While the grant associated with the first tranche has been certified and awarded, the second tranche money is at risk, with associated impacts to the District's Adopted Budget and its ability to fund its bus and ferry service.

### **UPDATE ON IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

Travel still remains well below pre-pandemic levels in the Golden Gate Corridor, whether by Bridge bus or ferry. During the week of October 31<sup>st</sup>, ridership was down on our buses by about 70 percent (we only carried 30 percent of our normal bus ridership) and our ferry ridership was down 84 percent (we are only carried 16 percent of our normal ferry ridership). Bridge traffic was down about 18 percent when compared to the same week, pre-COVID.

The District will continue to restore bus and ferry service incrementally and in a measured way as we see the return of our customers travelling in the Golden Gate Corridor.

### **REVENUES**

The District's revenues for the week of October 31<sup>st</sup> were down approximately \$1.1 million, highlighting the District's need for and usage of the federal COVID relief funding allocated by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The District collected about 82 percent of our pre-COVID amount of tolls, so tolls for transit were about 64 percent  $[(82-50) / 50 = 64\%]$  of our usual amount, or tolls for transit were down about 36 percent last week.

**REVENUES (continued)**

**Week of October 31, 2021**

	Bridge	% change	Bus	% change	Ferry	% change
	Oct 31-Nov 5		Oct 31-Nov 5		Oct 31-Nov 5	
Weekly Ridership/Traffic	302,753	-18.12%	18,477	-70.39%	6,974	-84.40%
Weekly Revenue	\$ 2,472,357	-18.12%	\$ 88,251	-73.29%	\$ 38,720	-89.28%
Weekly Revenue Loss	\$ (547,310)	-18.12%	\$ (242,216)	-73.29%	\$ (322,315)	-89.28%
2019 Weekly Ridership/Traffic	369,774		62,395		44,714	

Notes:

\*State Shelter in place started 3/17/2020

\*\*Percentage changes are based on Year over year equivalents (current year vs 2019)

\*\*\* Weekly Revenue loss uses traffic compared to 2019 and using present toll rate (present value)

\*\*\*\*Ferry numbers do not currently include Giants service

**RESEARCH EFFORTS CONTINUE TO COLLECT WORKPLACE REOPENING DATA**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has partnered with the Bay Area Council to conduct research with employers regarding their plans for reopening workplaces and bringing non-essential workers back. They have been surveying these employers for seven months to monitor developments in workplace reopening plans. The survey results reflect information on Bay Area employers' return to work plans to assist transit agencies in planning for the future. See the October results at <https://public.flourish.studio/story/1014976/>. The Bay Area Council will continue surveying the Employer Network for the remainder of the year and we will continue to share their findings each month.

**TOLL COLLECTION**

In the June 2021 General Manager's Report, we reported that the District became aware of a FasTrak tolling system issue wherein a number of customers in two-axle vehicles representing less than one percent of all transactions were overcharged at the multi-axle toll rate (e.g. a car towing a trailer or a semi-trailer truck).

In September we reported that FasTrak customers that make up 85% of the erroneous transactions have all had their accounts corrected. We have submitted additional adjustments for invoice customers and by the end of November it should result in 90% of customers corrected. The remaining transactions are those that are from other California toll agencies or in violation status. Each of these transactions are being re-billed, or adjusted manually. District staff is actively working with our contractor to finish making all of these adjustments. Any customer who has called in about this issue has already been corrected.

**PRESENTATIONS BY DISTRICT STAFF FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

For the month of October, District staff made no speeches and/or presentations.

**SPECIAL EVENT/EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY REQUESTS**

Below are the dates and sponsoring agencies of special events and expressive activities for which permits have been sought. The following applications were received since last reported to the Board in the October 22, 2021, Report of the General Manager:

Event Date	Event Title	Location	Type*	Expected No. Participants
November 19-21, 2021 <i>(revised dates)</i>	Spartan Trail World Championship	E-Sidewalk, bridge tunnel, Dillingham Lot	SE	3,000/day

\*Permit Types: EX – Expressive Activity and SE – Special Event

**VEHICLE TRAFFIC INCIDENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

For the month of October, there were the following vehicle traffic incidents to report:

Vehicle Traffic Incident	Vehicles	Injuries	Fatalities	Location
O - Other	2	0	0	Waldo
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Plaza
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Bridge
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Waldo
RE – Rear Ender	2	0	0	Waldo
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**BICYCLE INCIDENTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

For the month of October, there were no bicycle incidents to report:

**FERRY – TRANSPORT BICYCLE COUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

For the month of October, the following were the Bicycle Counts for the Sausalito Ferry service:

Sausalito Southbound Bike Counts	
2016 Annual Total	169,685
2017 Annual Total	144,064
2018 Annual Total	116,248
2019 Annual Total	95,590
2020 Annual Total	9,415
*January – October 2021	6,814

\*The Sausalito October bicycle count was 1,163 (101 for weekday and 1,062 for weekend)

**FERRY – TRANSPORT BICYCLE COUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER  
(continued)**

For the month of October, the following were the Bicycle Counts for the Larkspur Ferry service:

Larkspur Southbound Bike Counts	
2016 Annual Total	35,769
2017 Annual Total	30,990
2018 Annual Total	29,747
2019 Annual Total	29,828
2020 Annual Total	7,422
*January – October 2021	3,829

\*The Larkspur October bicycle count was 505

**PRESENTATION OF THIRTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO DONALD LARRABURE,  
BUS MECHANIC, BUS DIVISION**

We are pleased to announce that Bus Mechanic, Donald Larrabure, celebrated thirty years of service with the District on November 4, 2021.

Mr. Larrabure joined the District as Probationary Bus Mechanic on November 4, 1991 and was promoted to fulltime Bus Mechanic in February 1992.

**PRESENTATION OF THIRTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO ANTOINE CHATMAN,  
BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION**

We are pleased to announce that Bus Operator, Antoine Chatman, celebrated thirty years of service with the District on November 18, 2021.

Mr. Chatman joined the District on November 18, 1991.

**PRESENTATION OF THIRTY YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO FRANCIS VASQUEZ, BUS  
OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION**

We are pleased to announce that Bus Operator, Antoine Chatman, celebrated thirty years of service with the District on November 18, 2021.

Mr. Vasquez joined the District on November 18, 1991.

**PRESENTATION OF TWENTY-FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD TO MEREDYTH KNOTT, SCHEDULES ANALYST, BUS DIVISION**

We are pleased to announce that Schedules Analyst, Meredyth Knott, celebrated twenty-five years of service with the District on November 18, 2021.

Ms. Knott joined the District as a Scheduling Coordinator on November 18, 1996.

Prior to District service, Ms. Knott worked as a Traffic Management Specialist (GS-11); Assistant Chief of Operations; Management Division for the Department of the Army; Military Traffic Management Command Western Area, Oakland Army Base.

Ms. Knott was named Employee of the Month, October 2002.

In her free time, Ms. Knott enjoys spending time with her husband David and their three children: David II, Courtney and Kristen. She also enjoys crocheting, playing violin/flute and solving Cryptoquip puzzles.

**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER 2021**

After reviewing nominations submitted by District employees, the Employee of the Month Committee selected Electronic Technician Mechanics, Daniel Knutson and Peter Pomies, as the Employees of the Month for November 2021.

Mr. Knutson and Mr. Pomies are recognized for their professionalism along with their can do approach towards problem solving and for their dedicated work ethic. In particular, their work as part of the Farebox team, helping to resolve issues related to equipment on the District's buses is very much appreciated by their peers. Both of them are known for their willingness to help where needed. By solving a bus equipment issue in short period of time, the bus can be placed back in to service quickly in order to serve the District's customers.

Two important projects that Mr. Knutson and Mr. Pomies have worked on and are recognized for are the Automatic Passenger Count (APC) equipment as well as the bus audio announcements on District buses. Mr. Knutson and Mr. Pomies work on any reported issues right away and the result is better equipment quality which produces better quality data for the District, especially for the planning and scheduling departments, as they use APC data to run reports. The District received feedback that bus announcements were not working properly, especially from customers with disabilities as well as from bus operators. Mr. Knutson and Mr. Pomies jumped in with technical support to get these issues corrected in order for everything to run smoothly, along with staff in the information systems department. The District's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA), which is made up of riders who work on access issues at the District, elected to give an award to the group of employees who they felt went above and beyond to assist the disabled community, Mr. Knutson and Mr. Pomies are recognized as part of this group award.

**EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER 2021 (continued)**

Mr. Knutson joined the District as an Electronic Technician Mechanic, Provisional on May 21, 2018 and was hired as permanent on July 30, 2018. Prior to joining the District Mr. Knutson held several positions, a Warehouse worker at Menzies Aviation, a Services Delivery Manager at IBM and a Project Manager at IBM.

Mr. Knutson was born in San Francisco and has been resident of Richmond since 1983, where he lives with his wife Debbie, they have two children Angela and Melissa. He attended St. Cecelia Elementary School and Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco. Mr. Knutson attended City College of San Francisco, receiving an Electrical Electronic Engineering Tech degree. He enjoys the theatre both watching shows as well as working backstage and international travel. He is a member of Artists in Motion Bay Area which supports the performing arts as well as artists. He spends much of his free time with his granddaughters Audrey and Sophia.

Mr. Pomies joined the District as an Electronic Technician II, on March 21, 2016 and promoted to his current position on June 5, 2017. Prior to joining the District, Mr. Pomies held several positions, an Electronic Technician, a Sound and Communication Apprentice at Cupertino Electric and an Electronic Technician for United Airlines.

Mr. Pomies was born in San Francisco and has remained a resident since 1967. He attended Saint Ignatius College Prep and received his B.A. from San Francisco State. He enjoys reading, walking and exercising.

**SPECIAL COMMENDATION**

On Wednesday morning, October 27, 2021, employees from Shimmick/Danny's Joint Venture, Mr. Aaron Bianchi, Mr. Raymond Chatman, Mr. Ernesto Ardenas, who are working on the construction of the Suicide Deterrent System Project, notified the Sergeant's office of a person in distress near bridge Light Pole#111 on the East Sidewalk. They intervened by engaging the person in conversation prior to the arrival of the Bridge Patrol officers.

We would like to commend and thank them for taking action with immediate intervention after recognizing that the person was in distress and for notifying the Sergeant's office. Their actions provided the District's Bridge Patrol enough time to get on scene and to prevent the person from possibly causing harm to themselves. The District publically acknowledges and thanks them for their care and courage.

Denis J. Mulligan  
General Manager

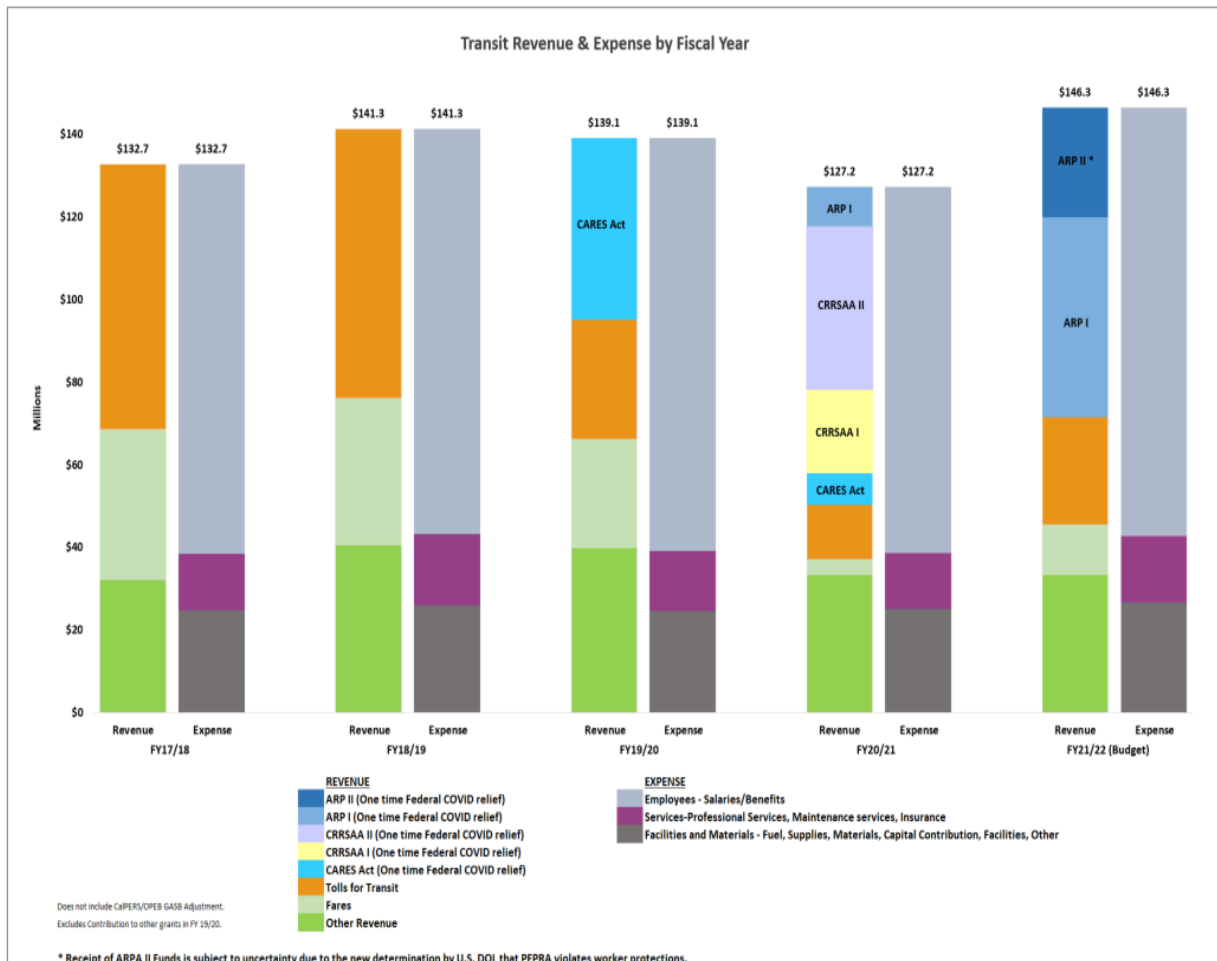
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Attachment: A. 2021-1021-FinanceComm-No9-Attachment C – Transit Funding & Expense Comparison

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2021-1118-FinanceComm-No9-Attachment C – Transit Funding & Expense Comparison



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