



Agenda Item No. (6)(A)

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING OF JULY 26, 2024**

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

Honorable Members:

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SUICIDE DETERRENT COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

On July 15, 2024 Elected officials, community leaders, advocates, and public agencies came together to commemorate that a continuous physical suicide barrier has been installed along the entire length of the Golden Gate Bridge. The event recognized the years of advocacy and bold leadership that led to the completion of this life saving project. The purpose of the net is to reduce the number of deaths associated with individuals jumping off the Bridge, and the net is already working to save lives. The net is a proven design that deters people from jumping, serves as a symbol of care and hope to despondent individuals, and if necessary, offers people a second chance.

UPDATE ON DISTRICT OPERATIONS POST-PANDEMIC

Overall travel in the Golden Gate Corridor - by Bridge, Bus and Ferry - remains well below pre-pandemic levels, especially commute travel. That having been said, travel in the Golden Gate Corridor continues to trend upward.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/24 which ended on June 30th, southbound Bridge traffic was 2.4 percent above FY 2023/24 traffic, Bus ridership was 9.5 percent above FY 2023/24, and Ferry ridership was 23 percent above FY 2023/24 ridership. The District continues to add back bus and ferry service incrementally as we see a return of our customers travelling in the Golden Gate Corridor.

UPDATE ON MARIN/SONOMA TRANSIT COORDINATION

Marin and Sonoma Counties Transit Agencies have a long history of coordination and collaboration. While for decades our staffs have been meeting monthly, in January, the General Managers and Executive Directors launched in-person monthly meetings of the agency heads to rethink service coordination, prompted by changes in travel patterns, funding and planning efforts.

Among other things, we agreed to develop a comprehensive service plan focused on the 101 corridor, dubbed MASCOTS. Efforts are underway and are expected to be completed in the next

UPDATE ON MARIN/SONOMA TRANSIT COORDINATION (continued)

12-18 months. This will greatly benefit customers in the corridor. The District, Marin Transit, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Petaluma Transit, Santa Rosa City Transit, Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Sonoma County Transit, Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit, and Transportation Authority of Marin have made great strides in support of these efforts. Recent activities include:

- June kick-off of MASCOTS service planning effort with goal of optimizing transit service on the 101 corridor
 - MASCOTS multi-operator planning group leading effort with consultant support
 - \$100,000 in joint funding from MTC and transit operators
- Monthly meetings of GM's & ED's continue
 - Recent discussions of Transit Priority, Bus Bridge Service, and Transit 2050+
- Finance Subcommittee meeting monthly to discuss funding distribution scenarios.

UPDATE ON THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT AMALGAMATED RETIREMENT PLAN (GGTARP)

District employees participate in one of four different pension plans based on their collective bargaining agreement. Current and retired District bus operators are participants in the Golden Gate Transit Amalgamated Retirement Plan (GGTARP). GGTARP is unique in many ways, including its current funding status and its governance.

Among other things, a fiscally sound approach to pensions necessitates that a retiree's ultimate pension payments are reasonably correlated to the contributions made on behalf of the participant taking into account the accompanying investment returns. Not surprisingly considering GGTARP's woefully underfunded status, GGTARP has not historically followed this approach. It has been and continues today to be an outlier among pension plans in its funding status, in its response to being woefully underfunded and in its governance.

For example, the trustees of other pension plans have established a strong correlation between the age at retirement and the monthly pension payment paid to a retiree. In other pension plans, a participant who retires early receives a lower monthly amount than they would receive with a regular pension. The monthly amount is reduced to account for the fact that the early retiree's payments begin earlier and are expected to be paid for a longer period. This is a fiscally sound approach. Please note, GGTARP does not do this.

Fortunately, some progress has been made within the last five years, including: increased contributions, replacing the Plan professionals (e.g., the attorney and plan administrator) with firms with pension experience, replacing the investment advisor who consistently underperformed both rising and falling markets, and correlating a year of pension credit to contributions received on behalf of a participant. Then on February 15, 2024, the GGTARP Trustees voted to eliminate the spousal subsidy; however, at that meeting they did not adopt the requisite tables to implement the change. On May 16, 2024 the GGTARP met; the agenda included a draft Plan amendment that revises Table D-1 factors to finalize the elimination of the spousal subsidy.

UPDATE ON THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT AMALGAMATED RETIREMENT PLAN (GGTARP) (continued)

Most significantly, the ATU and the District have agreed to prepare a “Rehabilitation Plan”. Below is the relevant language from the MOU regarding this vital task, including the underlining as it appears in the signed Tentative Agreement:

“A pension working group composed of equal number of District GGTARP Trustees, Union GGTARP Trustees and attorneys for both sides will begin meeting immediately to discuss a rehabilitation plan to address future underfunding, akin to those required of jointly-trusted defined benefit pension plans in "endangered or critical funding status" under the Pension Protection Act. Experts will be brought in as needed for consultation and calculations of scenarios intended to bring longer term stability to the GGTARP. The District will cover the costs of any experts or consultants, and it will have the final authority to determine which expert/consultant is selected.”

The District hired an actuary, Buck, to assist the Working Group in the development of the Rehabilitation Plan. The Working Group and Buck, collectively, “the Team”, had its kick-off meeting on February 22nd. The Team discussed, among other ideas, the need to look at all possible strategies (funding AND benefit cuts) which would help the Plan get back to solvency. Working Group members and the GGTARP’s actuary have provided relevant documents and information to Buck, and the Team is meeting regularly.

DISTRICT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE SEPARATIONS APRIL 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2024

Between April 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024, the District processed 6 full-time employee separations, exclusive of retirement, termination, death, and casual/temporary assignment. This represents about .92% percent of the District’s typical workforce. Out of the 6 full-time employee separations, 1 employee resignation was a result of new employment (approximately .15% of our workforce).

The Human Resources Department reviewed the separation document of the employee who resigned as a result of new employment, and the following chart depicts the impact by division:

Division	Total Resignations Due to New Employment	Moving to Other Governmental or Transit Agency	Moving to Non-Governmental Business	Did Not Disclose
Bridge	0			
Bus	1	1		
Ferry	0			
District	0			
TOTAL	1	0	0	0

PRESENTATIONS BY DISTRICT STAFF FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

District staff made the following speeches and/or presentations:

PRESENTATION TO:	DATE:	PRESENTED BY:
Barcelona Students, Dominican University	June 13, 2024	Deputy General Manager, Bridge Division David Rivera, Facilities and Equipment Maintenance Superintendent Antoine Davenport
Barcelona Students, Dominican University	June 20, 2024	Deputy General Manager, Bridge Division David Rivera, Paint Superintendent Fred Mixon

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 June 28, 2024, Report of the General Manager:

Event Date	Event Title	Location	Type*	Expected No. Participants
July 28, 2024	The San Francisco Marathon	East & West Sidewalks	SE	TBD

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

VEHICLE TRAFFIC INCIDENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

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

Vehicle Traffic Incident	Vehicles	Injuries	Fatalities	Location
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Bridge
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Waldo
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Plaza
HB – Hit Barrier	1	1	0	Plaza
C - Collision	1	0	0	Plaza
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Plaza
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Bridge
HB – Hit Barrier	1	0	0	Plaza
SS – Side Swipe	4	1	0	Waldo
TOTAL	12	2	0	

BICYCLE INCIDENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

For the month of June, there were the following bicycle incidents to report:

Bicycle Incidents	Bicycles	Injuries	Fatalities	Location
BB – Bicycle/Bicycle	2	1	0	Bridge
SO - Solo	1	1	0	Bridge
TOTAL	3	2	0	

FERRY BICYCLE COUNTS THROUGH THE MONTH OF JUNE

Ferry Bicycle Counts through the month of June are as follows:

Larkspur Southbound Bicycle Counts	
2019 Annual Total	29,828
2020 Annual Total	7,422
2021 Annual Total	4,716
2022 Annual Total	13,312
2023 Annual Total	15,453
January - June	9,177

*The Larkspur June bicycle count was 1,893

Sausalito Southbound Bicycle Counts	
2019 Annual Total	95,590
2020 Annual Total	9,415
2021 Annual Total	8,845
2022 Annual Total	64,952
2023 Annual Total	64,852
January - June	20,070

*The Sausalito June bicycle count was 5,063

Tiburon Southbound Bicycle Counts	
2022 Annual Total	9,204
2023 Annual Total	9,481
January - June	4,198

*The Tiburon June bicycle count was 886

Angel Island Northbound Ferry Bicycle Counts	
2021 (December service start) Annual Total	39
2022 Annual Total	4,807
2023 Annual Total	4,556
January – June	1,784

*The Angel Island June bicycle count was 494

RETIREMENT OF EWA BAUER-FURBUSH, DISTRICT ENGINEER, DISTRICT DIVISION

It is my privilege to announce that District Engineer, Ewa Bauer-Furbush, retired on July 8, 2024, after 29 years 26 days of service with the District.

Ms. Bauer-Furbush joined the District on January 12, 1995, as Deputy Chief Engineer and was appointed to the Chief Engineer position by the District's Board of Directors in November 2010. She is the first woman to hold the position of Chief Engineer for the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District.

During her career with the District, Ms. Bauer-Furbush has managed design and construction of major projects that transformed and improved the Golden Gate Bridge and the District transit facilities. Among such projects are the Bridge Seismic and Wind Retrofit Project, Moveable Median Barrier Project, and the ongoing construction of the Physical Suicide Deterrent Project. To date completed phases 2 and 3A of the Bridge Seismic Retrofit construction which ended under budget with over \$9 million of unspent federal funding that has been transferred to finance the seismic retrofit of the Suspension Bridge. Phases 2 and 3A of the Bridge Seismic Retrofit received numerous awards. One prominent award is the 2007 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement OCEA award by the American Society of Civil Engineers, ASCE's highest recognition, for Phase 2 of the Project.

The installation of the moveable median barrier on the Bridge during the weekend of January 10 and 11, 2015, was completed ahead of schedule, allowing the Bridge to reopen to traffic six hours early.

Ms. Bauer-Furbush was Employee of the month for February 2009. She also received the 2018 Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award for Management by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Ms. Bauer-Furbush is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, The Moles – Association of Heavy Construction Professionals, and the National Academy of Construction. Prior to District service, Ms. Bauer-Furbush worked for the California Department of Transportation and for private consulting engineering firms in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ms. Bauer-Furbush was born and educated in Poland where she received her Master's Degree in Civil Engineering, cum laude, from Swietokrzyska Polytechnic University. In her free time, Ms. Bauer-Furbush enjoys hiking in the Marin Headlands, gardening, watching movies and learning about world affairs.

We wish Ms. Bauer-Furbush a long and happy retirement.

RETIREMENT OF NORMA JELLISON, MANAGER, REAL ESTATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT, DISTRICT DIVISION

It is my privilege to announce that Manager of Real Estate Services and Property Development, Norma Jellison, retired on July 5, 2024 after 22 years, 4 months, 1 day of service with the District.

Ms. Jellison joined the District as a Real Estate Specialist on March 4, 2002.

During her service at the District, Ms. Jellison was the Employee of the Month for November 2015. She negotiated and managed leases, licenses and permits for all 3 divisions, including negotiating a joint powers agreement for Angel Island Ferry service and leases for the Tiburon Ferry Landing, the San Francisco Mid-Day Bus Lots at 8th and Harrison and Perry (under the elevated freeway) and the Salesforce Transit Center Bus Plaza Platform. She also managed the District's railroad right of way in Marin and Sonoma Counties and transfer of same to Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART).

Prior to District service, Ms. Jellison was a Senior Real Estate Specialist and Contracting Officer for the US Postal Service. She worked in the Pacific Facilities Service Office for over 10 years and was responsible for land acquisition and leasing in the eleven Western States. She was also a Senior Associate with EIP Associates, environmental and land use planning consultants, and was Councilmember and Mayor of the City of El Cerrito in Contra Costa County.

In her free time, Ms. Jellison is the Whale Watch Program Coordinator and a Docent for Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods at Bodega Head and a Coastal Advocate.

We wish Ms. Jellison a long and happy retirement.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLES HARRIS, SENIOR ENGINEERING CONTRACTS ASSISTANT, DISTRICT DIVISION

It is my privilege to announce that Senior Engineering Contracts Assistant, Charles (Charlie) Harris, retired on July 5, 2024, after 22 years, 3 months 22 days of service with the District.

Mr. Harris joined the District on March 14, 2002 as an Engineering Office Specialist, and then promoted to Engineering Office Manager in May 2006. In January 2015, he promoted to Engineering Document Contract Assistant and in June 2016 was promoted to his current position of Engineering Contracts Assistant. Mr. Harris was the Employee of the Month for July 2021.

Mr. Harris is a resident of Petaluma, CA where he lives with his spouse Olga, and children Stacy, Katy and Johnny. Mr. Harris enjoys music and plays the electric bass guitar in various bands, currently in a band called Grateful Tuna. He also enjoys gardening and vacationing in Sierra County with his family. He is a member of the Marin Rod and Gun Club and Wetlands Restoration.

We wish Mr. Harris a long and happy retirement.

RETIREMENT OF JOHNNY WINATA, BUS OPERATOR, BUS DIVISION

It is my privilege to announce that Bus Operator, Johnny Winata, retired on July 1, 2024, after 22 years 3 months of service with the District.

Mr. Winata joined the District as a Bus Operator on April 1, 2002.

We wish Mr. Winata a long and happy retirement.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – JULY 2024

After reviewing nominations submitted by District employees, the Employee of the Month Committee selected Deckhand Vyrone Alvarez, in the Ferry Division, as the Employee of the Month for July 2024.

Mr. Alvarez is recognized for his dedication to his position and the pride he takes in his work, along with his positive outlook, always performing his tasks with a smile. He is known as the “King of customer service” whether helping ferry riders with questions or directions. He is most especially attentive to riders who may have bicycles or wheelchairs that need to be brought on to the vessel. Mr. Alvarez is always right where he is needed most in order to assist with the safe operation of the vessel, whether as a lookout while backing away from the terminal or while crossing the bay in the fog. He is a consummate professional sailor who handles every task with safety, speed, and textbook precision. In addition, Mr. Alvarez is always applying himself in order to improve upon processes and this positive attitude inspires all who come in to contact with him.

Of special note, Mr. Alvarez’s colleagues share that his dedication has not gone unnoticed and that passenger safety and comfort on the vessel is Mr. Alvarez’s first priority. His good nature and professional demeanor make for a more enjoyable voyage across the bay!

Mr. Alvarez joined the District on April 17, 2015 as a Terminal Assistant, Casual and then on July 24, 2015 became a Deckhand with Casual Seniority, until becoming a permanent District employee as a Deckhand on February 1, 2018

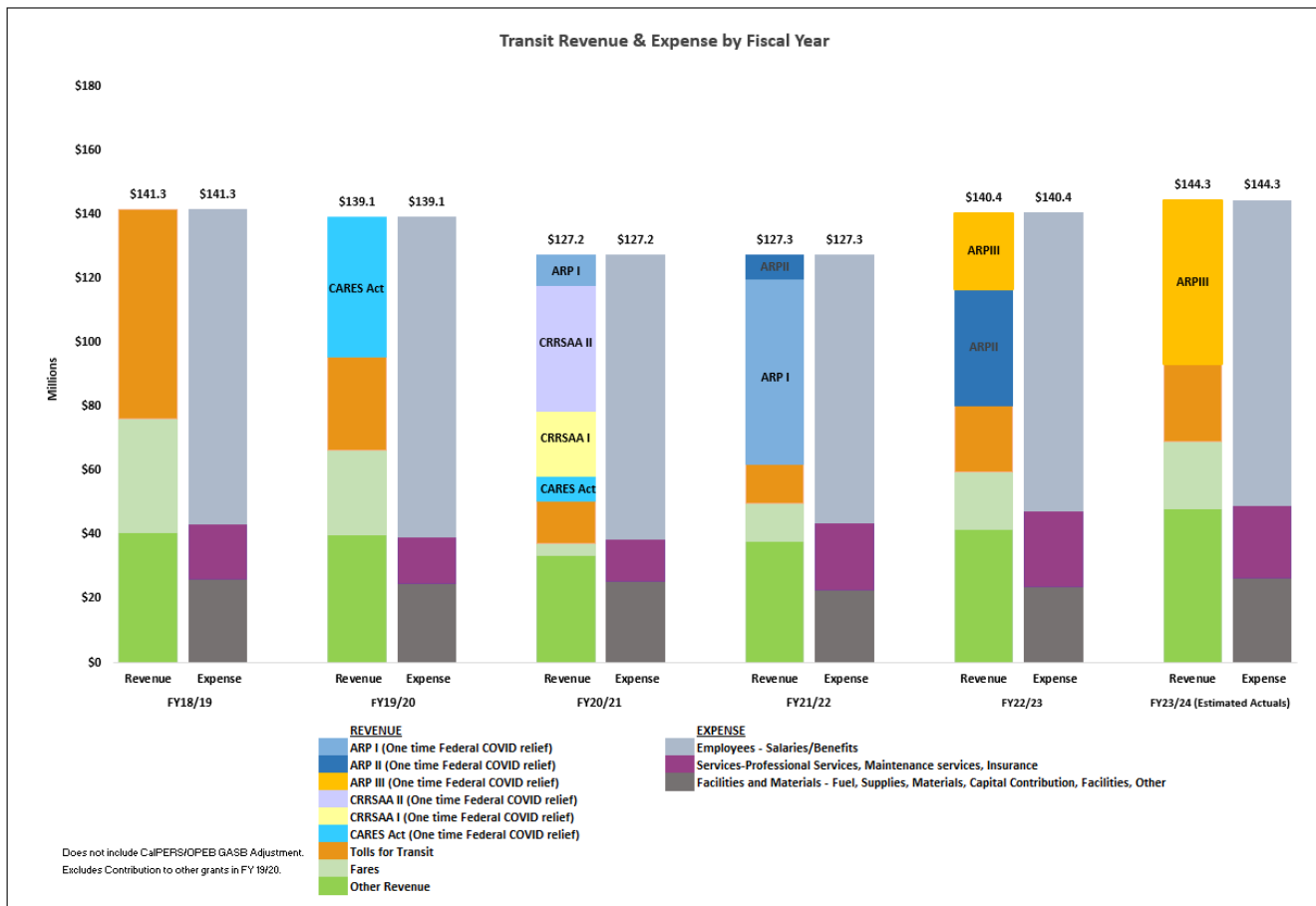
Mr. Alvarez was born in Commonwealth Quezon City, in the Philippines and attended Placer High School going on to attend Sierra College. Mr. Alvarez has been a resident of Richmond, CA since 2015. In his spare time he enjoys photography, hiking, cooking, painting, playing a musical instrument, DIY projects, volunteering, camping, and basketball.

Denis J. Mulligan
General Manager

DJM:jb

Attachment: 2024-0725-FinanceComm-No7-Attachment C – Transit Funding & Expense Comparison

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