

FERRY PASSENGERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FPAC)

Minutes of Meeting of Monday, February 1, 2024



FPAC Members Present: Chuck Hornbrook, Jordan Jaffe, Carlin Long, Chris Snell, Michael Stryker

FPAC Members Not Present: Eric Selvig

Guests Present: Zachary Adami, Port of San Francisco; Mike Ghaffary, Prospective Member; Nathan Lozier, Prospective Member

Staff Present: Christopher Bearden, Director of Ferry Operations; John Gray, Director of Ferry Engineering and Maintenance; Collette Martinez, Manager of Ferry Operations; Josh Widmann, Associate Planner

- A. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.
- B. Roll Call.** A roll call was taken. Two new prospective members were in attendance.
- C. Election of Officers.** As per the Bylaws, the annual election of officers took place. Chuck Hornbrook was elected Chair and Jordan Jaffe was elected Vice Chair.
- D. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2023.** Minutes were reviewed and approved with no edits.
- E. Other Business**

1. Operational Issues

- a. Ridership Updates. Josh Widmann reported ridership for October, November, and December 2023. In October 2023, the combined monthly ridership on all routes compared to 2022 increased by 20 percent. Tiburon ridership dropped slightly due to cancelations from dock work. When comparing November 2023 with November 2022, ridership on all routes increased by 23 percent. Tiburon was down slightly due to the reduction of weekend trips with the new signup. December 2023 ridership compared with December 2022 increased by 33 percent. Overall ridership is still down approximately 50 percent, when compared with pre-pandemic levels. Commute ridership is still noticeably light on Mondays and Fridays compared with the Tuesday through Thursday. Michael Stryker inquired about day-of-week schedule variability to provide reduced schedules on Mondays and Fridays. Jordan Jaffe suggested more crossings on the weekends as a cost-savings tradeoff with reduced schedules on Mondays and Fridays.

- b. Service Updates. As of January 15, the new ferry schedules have been in effect, resulting in six new weekday Larkspur trips and two new weekend Tiburon trips.

2. Updates and Other Items

- a. Recent Ferry Division Board Items Summary. The October 27 Board action resulted in a move towards an all-high speed fleet for new vessel builds. The resulting shorter headways will allow demand to be met during peak summer season periods. The committee was informed that Spaulding vessels will be very difficult to keep CARB-compliant in the future. It was also noted that catamarans create less wake. The first Spaulding is set to retire at the end of 2027, based on current estimates. The M.V. *Del Norte* is set to retire roughly December 2026 according to the best current estimate. John Gray noted the inner San Francisco berth will receive new hydraulics soon, and the outer berth repairs will occur later in the summer. Lastly, some brief updates were provided on the Larkspur Ferry Service and Parking Expansion Study, presented to the Board in December 2023. The study projects ferry ridership will return to 2019 levels by 2031 and will continue to grow in the forecast, which went out to the year 2040. Various parking structure configurations were considered. Stakeholder outreach will continue in 2024 and 2025. By the second quarter of this year, 30 percent design plans and cost estimates will be available. By the third quarter of 2024 a draft environmental document will be prepared.
- b. Vessel Updates. No major vessel updates were provided. The M.V. *Golden Gate* has been out since April 2023 and is set to return soon.
- c. Terminal Updates. No other terminal updates were provided beyond what was stated earlier in the meeting.
Return to Office Timeline Discussion. Prospective member Mike Ghaffary stated that he observed an uptick in in-office days per week commuting due to the new A.I. boom in San Francisco.

F. Committee Business

1. FPAC Initiatives.

- a. Sonoma-Marin Bike Share. Mr. Widmann reported that Drop Mobility has been selected as the new vendor, with a target implementation date of June/July 2023.

2. Membership Recruitment.

- a. Updates on Recent Outreach. In addition to new members Chris Snell and Carlin Long, Mr. Widmann noted that prospective members Mike Ghaffary and Nathan Lozier were at this meeting. They introduced themselves. Nathan Lozier grew up in Marin and has lived in San Francisco for 20 years. He bikes on the Mill Valley bike path and takes the Larkspur and Tiburon routes. Mike Ghaffary grew up in the Bay Area and lives in Tiburon. He was in San Francisco for 15 years and has ridden all the ferries. He is interested in micro-mobility and works in the technology field.

- 3. **Update Bylaws with New Meeting Dates.** The Bylaws were updated with the new FPAC meeting dates, which will now be selected months on the first Thursday.

G. Public Comments

An email comment was received regarding Tiburon a.m. schedules. There were no in-person comments.

H. Adjournment. Next Meeting: April 4, 2024. The committee agreed to reconvene on Thursday, April 4, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.