

May 2007

Advisory Committee Members



Jim Rutherford – Chair
Morning – 7:45 am
Afternoon – 4:30 pm



Kim Trotter – Liaison
Morning – 7:45 am
Afternoon – 5:15 pm



Paula Wade - Secretary
Morning – 6:30am
Afternoon – 5:15 pm



Dale Knight - Membership
Morning – 7:00 am
Afternoon – 4:30 pm



Kathy Beistel
Morning – 7:45 am
Afternoon – 6:00 pm



Robert Boyce
Morning – 7:00 am
Afternoon – 5:15 pm



Jeff Hobbs
Morning – 6:30 am
Afternoon – 4:30 pm



Rhonda Schor
Morning – 5:30 am
Afternoon – 4:30 pm



Mohsen Sultan
Morning – 7:00 am
Afternoon – 5:15/6:00 pm

Cindy Skinner – VBAC Founder
Morning – 7:45 am
Afternoon – 5:15 pm

Contact VBAC at

VallejoBaylinkAdvisoryCommittee@yahoo.com

Vallejo Baylink Advisory Committee (VBAC)

Who are we....How did we start?

VBAC is a volunteer based group that works as the “voice” of the ridership to the City of Vallejo. Our goal is to communicate the concerns and suggestions to the City, as well as from the City back to the ridership.

The Vallejo Ferry first started in September 1986 operated by Red & White Fleet. With little to no experience in a commuter service, there were many problems in their operations and business plan.

In February 1988, Red and White was ready to stop the Ferry service; they filed the abandonment paperwork with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). That same evening, the first Ridership Committee was formed; North Bay Water Commuters (NBWC). NBWC stood up and fought to save the Vallejo Ferry Service.

Two sub-committees were formed; Marketing and Legal. With creative marketing programs, such as a dedicated phone number (64-FERRY), creating ferry schedules and distributing them at every town event (all self funded by the committee members), by the time the hearing date came around, ridership had risen by 38%. Members also wrote letters to the city and encouraged the riders to do so (at the rate of approx. 100 per week).

They stood up for what they believed was right and kept our beloved Ferry alive, to grow and thrive; from one tiny little boat, to the 4 beautiful ferries that we have today (yes, this includes the Vallejo). We have a lot to thank those original members for...Thank you NBWC!!!

What this shows us, is that every voice, every effort does matter!

Fast forward to today...2007, 21-years later. The committee is no longer called NBWC, we are now VBAC. Our name may have changed, but our goals are the same.

To the left you will see the names, photo's, and commute times of the Committee members. Feel free to approach any one of us if you have suggestions, concerns, or questions.

VBAC meets monthly to discuss various Ferry related issues, including ideas and suggestions for Vallejo Baylink on ways to improve the service and better meet the needs of their riders. Quarterly we meet with Vallejo Baylink; these meetings are open to the public (see Vallejo Baylink website for dates, times and locations;

www.Baylinkferry.com). Although we only meet with Vallejo Baylink quarterly, there is constant communication with Vallejo Baylink. We are always looking for new members, the only requirements are that you attend the meetings regularly and bring an open and productive attitude. For more information about membership or if you have questions about our charter, you can ask any of the members of the committee or you can send an email to:

VallejoBaylinkAdvisoryCommittee@yahoo.com.

As you may have heard, the City is suggesting another fare increase. We are diligently working with the City on other options to another fare increase. For more information on the proposal from the City, meeting times and our suggestions to the city, please see page 2 of the Newsletter.

Please see future issues of the Newsletter for more on the history of the Vallejo Ferry and our Committee.

Lost & Found

Passengers may inquire about Lost and Found items by calling the Vallejo Baylink Ticket Office at 707-648-4349. If your call is not answered, leave a message including your name, telephone number, a description and any additional information that will assist Vallejo Baylink staff in locating you're your lost item, and we will get back with you. Please note that items unclaimed after 30-days are donated to a local charity.

Vallejo Baylink values your patronage, comments and suggestions. We strive to provide safe, reliable, comfortable, and efficient transit between Vallejo and San Francisco.

Contact Vallejo Baylink at:

e-Mail: info@Baylinkferry.com / Phone: 877-64-FERRY / Fax: 707-562-3141



Subscribe to the mailing list at:

[www. Baylinkferry.com/information/mailling-list.php](http://www.Baylinkferry.com/information/mailling-list.php)

Reminder about Ferry Security

Vallejo Baylink is operated under an approved Security Plan as administered by the United States Coast Guard; and in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. Passengers are reminded that they should report suspicious persons, activities, or objects to a Crew Member as soon as possible. The Captains and Crews have been specifically trained to take appropriate actions. This applies not only onboard the ferries, but also to the public areas adjacent to ferry loading facilities. Trust your instincts. If something doesn't look right to you, please bring it to our attention immediately.

Fare Increase – What does it mean?

As many of you may remember, last September there was a proposal for a 30% fare increase (you may have been requested to fill out a survey with your thoughts on the matter). VBAC tallied the results of the survey and presented them to the City Council. The overall response was that the riders agreed that a fare increase was reasonable, especially in light of the recent fuel price increases. However, 30% was not. The majority of the riders thought that a 10% increase, with annual 5% increases were fair. The City 'compromised' at a 15% increase (\$215/month to 247.25/month). Now, only 8-months later, they are proposing another 9% increase (originally set at 15%).

VBAC has met with the City to discuss alternatives to such a drastic increase (to the core ridership, the "Faithful 1400"). One of our suggestions to the City was the dissolution of the "Reduced Day Pass". If they simply make the day pass the equivalent of 2 one-ways, this would be an additional \$532,492 in revenue annually. This was just one of the suggestions, and one that had the least amount of effort to implement. The City has taken this under advisement and has adjusted the (proposed) Napa & Solano Daily Pass prices accordingly.

There have been 3 open-forum meetings with the City to try and explain what is happening and why. Although the City held these meetings, there has been little to no turn-out. What we are hearing is that people feel this increase is inevitable...**IT ISN'T!!!** We cannot stress enough how important it is to stand up and be heard. Please, send an e-mail and/or attend the City Council meeting on June 5. Every person, every voice, every opinion matters!!! But please, try to keep comments constructive and professional; this adds validity to your stance.

Ferry Fact

Reliability of the ferry service over the years is tracked so that adverse trends can be identified.

Reliability equals trips completed divided by total trips scheduled.

- FY 2001 = 99.50%
- FY 2002 = 99.36%
- FY 2003 = 99.36%
- FY 2004 = 97.66%
- FY 2005 = 99.57%
- FY 2006 = 98.49%

And for FY 2007 to date reliability = **99.28%**

Taken over the entire period, reliability = **99.01%**

Fare Increase Proposal from the City of Vallejo

Please visit www.BaylinkFerry.Com for complete details

Ticket Type	Current Price	Proposed New Price	Projected FY'08 Revenue	Fare Hike
One-Way Tickets (Ferry Only)				
Adult	\$11.50	\$12.50	578,916	9%
Reduced (Youth/Senior/Disabled)	\$5.75	\$6.25	99,528	9%
Child	Free	Free		0%
Group	\$8.25	\$9.50	1,186	15%
Reduced Group	\$4.75	\$5.25	2,948	11%
Day Pass (Ferry and Bus)				
Vallejo Baylink (Ferry, Vallejo Local Buses and Route 80)	\$19.25	\$23.00	2,425,201	19%
Napa (Ferry plus bus to/from Napa)	\$20.75	\$25.00	2,808	20%
Solano (Ferry, Vallejo Local Buses and Routes 80, 85, 90 and 91)	\$20.75	\$25.00	11,544	20%
Reduced - Baylink (Ferry, Vallejo Local Buses and Route 80)	\$11.50	\$12.50	427,284	9%
Group (Ferry only)	\$16.25	\$19.00	46,001	17%
Reduced Group (Ferry only)	\$9.25	\$10.50	15,201	14%
10 Ride Punch Cards (One way trip on the Ferry)				
10 Ride	\$89.75	\$98.00	1,213,256	9%
Reduced 10 Ride	\$57.50	\$62.50	67,860	9%
Monthly Passes				
Baylink Monthly	\$247.25	\$270.00	2,992,205	9%
Fairfield/Vacaville	\$300.00	\$325.00	60,840	8%
SF MUNI Sticker	\$40.00	\$40.00	76,378	0%

The proposed new fares will generate an additional 12% in annual revenue.