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New racks mean more space for bicycles on buses

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Bus-riding bicyclists will have more area to store their bikes as the Golden Gate Transit adds new, expanded racks to half of its fleet.

All 204 Golden Gates buses were equipped with racks that can hold two bikes. Now half are being fitted with ones that can hold three bikes as part of a \$153,000 project funded by a Bay Area Air Quality Management District grant through the Transportation Authority of Marin.

"It's a 50 percent increase in capacity," said Charles McGlashan, Marin County Supervisor and Golden Gate Bridge Board member. "It's huge."

Transit rules prohibit bikes from being taken on buses in most cases. When racks are full, people can't board a bus if they have bikes. The problem is particularly acute for buses crossing



Supervisor Charles McGlashan lifts a bike off one of the new bike racks, capable of holding three bikes, on a Golden Gate transit bus, during a press conference in San Rafael on Wednesday. Golden Gate Transit is installing the new bike racks, capable of holding three bikes, on some of the buses in their fleet to increase capacity for bike riders using the buses. (IJ photo/Jeff Vendsel)



the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and at the Transit Center in San Rafael.

"There have been people who have been bumped off the buses because there has not been the space," said Kim Baenisch, executive director of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition.

Kim Baenisch, executive director of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, tries out one of the new bike racks, capable of holding three bikes, on one of the Golden Gate transit buses at bus yard in San Rafael on Wednesday. (IJ photo/Jeff Vendsel)

Golden Gate Transit reports roughly 200 bikes are transported each day, or 6,000 a month. Officials estimate up to a 40 percent increase is those numbers with the larger capacity racks.

Bike racks have been on buses for the last decade. The new racks should be all fitted by mid August. About 100 buses won't be able to take the new racks because they block headlights or make it hard to maneuver on some smaller streets.

"We are proud of the fact that on any bus route in Marin you can take

your bike from home to work or to an errand you might be running," said David Rzepinski, head of Marin County Transit. "We need this extra capacity. It helps with connectivity."

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Three bicycles sit on the new front bicycle rack on a Golden Gate Transit District bus at the bus yard in San Rafael on Wednesday. (D photo/Jeff Vendsel)

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