

# SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

## Draft Minutes

April 26, 2012

### 1. Self-Introductions of Members

**Members present:** Janet Abelson; Jan Armigo Brown; Peter Crockwell; Mary Fowler; Randall Glock; Jim Gonsalves; Herb Hastings; David Jackson; Jane Lewis; Katrina McCurdy; Gerry Newell; Don Queen; Roland Wong; Hale Zukas

**Members not present:** Linda Drattell; Carmen Rivera-Hendrickson.

**Guests of the Public:** Alan Smith; Larry Bun; Sheela Gunn-Cushman; Chris Mullins; Lieutenant Tyrone Forte

**Staff:** Ike Nnaji

**Guest Speaker(s) and Guest Staff:** Aaron Weinstein; Joe Speaks; Robert Raburn; Kevin Hagerty; Carter Mau; Robert Umbreit; Jason McLean; Shirley Ng; Zach Amare; Yvette Ortiz; Harry Chin; Mark Vilczek

### 2. Public Comments

Sheela would like for there to be better discussion and communication held with the disabled community whenever BART does construction. She would also like more discussion on the RTC card eligibility, and hopes to be able to add more qualifications in order for one to be eligible.

Alan smith wanted to thank BART for the improvement they have made at Civic Center in regards to the big yellow stripe on the first step at the upward escalator.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2012 Meeting

Alan feels that the minutes should reflect all decisions and agreements made between staff and the members.

No opposition to Janet's motion to approve minutes of the March 22, 2012 meeting, (second by Mary). Motion carries unanimously.

### 4. FY13 BART Preliminary Budget Overview (Information)

After the presentation, the floor was opened up for questions and concerns from members.

### 5. Fleet of the Future – New Car Train Design Update (Information)

A full report on this item can be found on [www.bart.gov/cars](http://www.bart.gov/cars)

Comments for Aaron to follow up on:

- More visible car numbers (e.g. for riders to make reports)
- Some cars have stanchions positioned farther away from door (which can be especially harder to get to)

- BART should test if wheelchair users are able to get on and off trains with other riders on it, not just test when it's empty (overcrowding)
- Not enough leg room where seat meets in an "L" shape (see image 2 on update)
- Location of intercom
- Details of actual height of placement of phone

## **6. Earthquake Safety Contract at the El Cerrito Station (Information)**

Project staff is looking to generate a list of community groups where information can be distributed.

Director Raburn mentioned two aspects to this project; one being adequate signage during construction, and the other being consistency throughout the path of travel.

Roland suggested that the group relay information to Ike, the staff liaison for BATF, who can then pass information on to members.

Gerry suggested that the project staff do a Google search on disability agencies in the Bay Area. He also suggested letting the station agents know that if they notice a visually impaired person having trouble, they should then ask that person if they need assistance. He then suggested also requesting that taxicab drivers be a little more helpful, if necessary, to guide people through construction.

Janet would like, when signage is being developed, that project staff get an actual user of the station to test and see if the signs actually work. She also found that some detour paths of travel are not always accessible.

Sheela suggested the use of talking construction cones, and large-print signage. She added that when people call the hotline, that they should be able to speak with a live person, not just an automated message or voicemail.

David said that communication is very important during this whole process, since construction zones can vary from day to day.

Don stated that talking cones may not do any good because with construction comes noise.

Hale suggests that a recording be provided in the station information.

Randall added that putting a sign up in the station agent booth would also be very helpful.

## **7. Report on the Hale Zukas Plaque 4/8/12 Ceremony (Information)**

This item has been well-received and the group has gotten a lot of good feedback. Hale has also received recognition from a number of officials.

**8. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports (Information)**

**A. Police Communication** - May 7 general awareness meeting

**B. Oakland Airport Connector Project** – final decision to be made by May so that project can move forward

**C. Stair Tread Policy** – ad-hoc committee to meet on a date to be determined

**9. Chairperson Announcements (Information)**

[No chairperson announcements made at this meeting]

**10. Staff Announcements (Information)**

Kevin mentioned that the district is interested in trying out a program wherein bicycles would be allowed on the train, with no restrictions, on four Fridays in July. Staff would like to get comments as to whether the program is working well or not.

**11. Member Announcements**

[No member announcements made at this meeting]

**12. Future Agenda Topics (Information)**

Alan had two suggestions for future agenda topics. The first would be Kevin's report back on stair issues, and the other is to get an answer on how long trains are required to stay at the transfer station.

- Staff report/update on stair issues
- Answer to how long trains are required to wait at transfer stations

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.