

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Draft Minutes

June 27, 2013

1. Self-Introductions of Members

Members present: Janet Abelson; Randall Glock; Peter Crockwell; Mary Fowler; Jim Gonsalves; Hale Zukas; Clarence Fischer; Gerry Newell; Herb Hastings; David Jackson, Jane Lewis; Katrina McCurdy; Alan Smith

Members not present: Janice Armigo Brown; Don Queen; Roland Wong; Larry Bunn

Staff: Ike Nnaji

Directors, Speaker(s), Guest Staff, and Guests of the Public: Director Robert Raburn; Crystal Raine; Armando Sandoval; Jeff Garcia; Scott Van Dussen; Amelia Sanchez; Tim Chan; Frank Welte; Marina Villena

2. Public Comments

Marina Villena asked a question regarding how soon the announcement goes out for when an elevator is back in service. She noticed that people were using an elevator at Richmond, even though the sign still showed that it was out of service.

Ike Nnaji replied that the person who is repairing or maintaining the elevator is supposed to report that the elevator is back in service as soon as they have completed their work.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 23, 2013 Meeting

No opposition to Herb Hastings' motion to approve minutes of the May 23, 2013 meeting, (second by Janet Abelson). Motion carries unanimously.

4. Lighthouse for the Blind Braille Map

Frank Welte gave a status update on the Lighthouse for the Blind Braille Map. Following the presentation, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Janet Abelson suggested that BART should, on its website and at station agent booths, put out information on how interested persons can get a copy of the Braille map.

Gerry asked if this strip map is going to be made accessible to Smartphone users through a phone application.

5. Future Berryessa Station Access Issues

Staff is requesting for a list of questions from BATF before coming in for a presentation.

Alan Smith suggested asking the same questions that the BATF asked related to Warm Springs. Alan Smith and Randall Glock will work on getting a list of questions together.

6. Detectible Path of Travel

After Jeff Garcia's presentation, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Clarence Fischer mentioned that the detectible path of travel was not entirely useful at El Cerrito Del Norte while the earthquake retrofit project was going on. He added that a temporary path of travel should have been put in place while there was other work going on.

Gerry Newell shared that Pittsburg is his home station, and yet he does not know where the detectible path of travel is at that station.

David Jackson stated that he hopes to see more consistency with path of travel and hopes that BART comes up with a final determination as to what color or contrast is to be used for all detectible paths of travel. He added that the low-vision community seems to prefer the federal yellow as it is high in contrast.

Alan Smith said that it sounds like as if two types of products are going to be used for the detectible paths of travel, even though he has been told that ceramic tile is going to be used at the Oakland Airport Connector. He then asked for more consistency in BART's detectible paths of travel.

Janet Abelson shared that if one were to use the detectible paths of travel at her home station at El Cerrito Plaza as well as at El Cerrito Del Norte, they would eventually run into a bench. She added that the paths seem to zigzag. With the zigzagging, there is no way for a wheelchair user to get around the path without going over the bumpy tile, which can be rather painful and uncomfortable.

Gerry Newell made a motion to have continuing examination of path of travel issue, (second by Clarence Fischer).

Randall Glock made a friendly amendment to the motion to say "continuing examination of wheelchair path of travel issues."

Motion passes unanimously.

7. Balboa Station Access Project Update

After giving members an update, Tim Chan stated that he would like to return to the next meeting to give a full presentation, get input from members, and also answer any questions that he was not able to at this meeting, as there was not enough time to do so.

8. BATF Meeting Time

Herb Hastings made a motion to change the BATF meetings time to be held from 2:00pm to 4:30pm (**effective July 2013**), (second by Gerry Newell).

Motion carries with abstentions by Randall Glock and Clarence Fischer.

9. Travel Reimbursement Update

Members shared their concerns and questions regarding having to fill out W-9 forms.

Some of the concerns/questions:

-Will BART notify us if we need to report the income?

-Can't we fill it out in if and when we reach the \$600 limit?

-What mechanism does BART have to NOT report a W-9 if the \$600 limit has not been reached?

-We have never been asked to do this before. Why now?

Peter Crockwell shared his concern regarding those who are unemployed but yet fill out a W-9 form.

Members feel that they should only fill out a W-9 if the \$600 limit has been reached.

Herb Hastings stated that he is on several different committees while receiving a higher reimbursement per month and has never been asked to fill out a W-9. He shared a concern of how this might affect other parts of his life that are income-based, like receiving Social Security or low-income benefits.

Clarence Fischer made a motion stating that a W-9 should only be filled out when the \$600 limit has been reached, (no second). Motion dies.

Robert Raburn stated that he does not see a problem for members to wait until the next meeting to get their questions answered and concerns heard before deciding to fill out a W-9.

No opposition to Herb Hastings' motion to request the attendance of a staff person with technical background, knowledge, and expertise in filling out W-9s in order for members to ask questions and share concerns, (second by Clarence Fischer). Motion carries with abstentions from Gerry Newell and Randall Glock.

10. Proposed Sound at Fare Gates

[No presentation at this time.]

11. Oakland Airport Connector Project

After Scott Van Dussen's presentation, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Randall Glock made an official request of staff, stating that the BATF would like to see the station before it opens.

Hale Zukas commented that there is not much benefit in adding a second elevator panel.

Gerry Newell made a motion to approve the second elevator panel, (second by Alan Smith). Motion passes with one “no” from Hale Zukas.

12. Project Status Reports

General Disabilities Awareness Booklet Preparation:

Crystal Raine said that they are currently working on condensing the booklet. They are considering using laminated index cards, hole punched and attached to a silver key ring, so that information on additional cards can always be added on later.

Oakland Airport Connector Project

[See Agenda Item No. 11]

Stair Tread Color Contrast Project

[No update at this time.]

Warm Springs Project

Warm Springs Update, excerpt from BATF meeting 5-23-2013. During and after the Warm Springs update, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Roland Wong asked if the design would allow for dual accessible fare gates. Molly McArthur answered that there will be an accessible fare gate at each bank of fare gates.

MOLLY'S RESPONSE WAS CORRECT.

Clarence Fischer suggested using two different sounding tones for each of the two elevators as it would be helpful to the blind and/or low-vision community to identify which elevator to enter.

THE ELEVATORS WILL BE CAPABLE OF DIFFERENT TONES.

David Jackson asked if sound can be built into the fare gate system, as it would be helpful for the blind and/or low-vision community. He also asked whether there will be a change in the surface texture of the floor when approaching an elevator (i.e.; brushed concrete or raised bumps).

NO SPECIAL SOUND BUILT INTO FARE GATES, BUT WE WILL INTRODUCE

A "GROOVED" TEXTURED FLOOR SURFACE BETWEEN EACH PAIR OF ELEVATORS (SIMILAR TO GROOVES AT SIDEWALK CURBCUT APPROACHES).

Alan Smith asked what material is being used for the path of travel He commented that stair striping that is sand in color is not acceptable and that it should be yellow instead. He also asked whether there is yellow striping on each escalator step.

PATH OF TRAVEL IS DENOTED WITH DETECTABLE DIRECTIONAL TILE (12" WIDE) AND IS CONSTRUCTED OF A VITRIFIED POLYMER COMPOSITE (CONSISTENCY IS SIMILAR TO HARD PLASTIC); A 3" YELLOW STAIR NOSING STRIP WILL BE PROVIDED; EACH ESCALATOR STEP TREAT HAVE A PAINTED YELLOW STRIP AT NOSING AND AT BACK (WHERE ADJOINS NEXT STEP TREAD).

Hale Zukas commented that the elevators should have been built as pass-through elevators, with two sets of doors. He added that there should be two elevator button panels, and that the panels should be positioned at least 24 inches from the doors.

UNFORTUNATELY IT IS TOO LATE IN THE PROCESS TO CHANGE THE ELEVATOR CONFIGURATION ON THE BASIS OF THESE NEW COMMENTS. WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY 14" BETWEEN THE PANEL CENTERLINE AND THE NEAREST WALL.

Janice Armigo Brown asked if the station is being designed to include a hearing loop system."

NO HEARING LOOP IS INCLUDED.

eBART Project [No update at this time.]

Richmond Garage and Intermodal Project

The Richmond Garage is now open.

Janet Abelson shared that people are afraid to use this station as they think it is unsafe.

Crystal Raine stated that BART Police community officers are aware of the issues and are talking to patrons.

13. Chairperson Announcements

Randall Glock said that BART will be bringing a full-sized mock-up for people to walk through and provide feedback. The mock-up will be a demonstration of what the cars may look like in the future.

All members are interested in attending the mock-up.

In the event of a BART strike, he advised members to monitor sites like www.511.org to get information on the best alternative transportation.

14. Staff Announcements

Ike Nnaji announced that there is a \$10 fee for replacement of BATF ID badges.

15. Member Announcements

[No member announcements.]

16. Future Agenda Topics

- **Request for a presentation from staff regarding lack of adequate lighting at Montgomery Street Station**
- **Request for a presentation from staff regarding reduced number in availability of seating for disabled seniors**
- **Discussion on revamping Clipper Card to have larger symbol in order for disabled users to identify themselves better while using senior/disabled seating**
- **Lack of station agents at 12th Street and 19th Street stations**
- **Proposed sound at fare gates**
- **Travel reimbursement update; request for “technical expert”**
- **Balboa Station Access Project Update; Tim Chan to give full presentation and get input and lay out a schedule**

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of **Thursday, July 25, 2013, 2:00 p.m.** (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)