

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT  
BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE**

Minutes  
August 27, 2020

**1. Self-Introduction of Members, Staff, and Guests:**

Members:

Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)  
Anita Ortega  
Catherine Callahan  
Chris Mullin  
Clarence Fischer  
Don Queen  
Emily Witkin  
Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair) - ABSENT  
Hale Zukas  
Herb Hastings  
Janet Abelson  
Janice Armigo Brown  
Marjorie (Marji) McWee  
Mussie Gebre - ABSENT  
Randall Glock (Chair)  
Roland Wong  
Valerie Buell

**BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:**

Elena Van Loo  
Laura Timothy  
Bob Franklin

**Director(s), Speakers, Staff, and Guests of the Public:**

Robert Raburn (BART Board Director)  
Sadie Graham (Staff)  
Camille Tsao (Staff)  
Patrick Quinn (Staff)  
Helise Cohn (Staff)  
Danielle Stephens (Captioner)  
Heather Urzua (Captioner)

Peter Lim (Guest)  
Helen Walsh (Guest)  
Hong Mei (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **3. Approval of June 25, 2020 and July 23, 2020 Draft Minutes**

Alan Smith moved the approval of the amended June 25, 2020 meeting minutes. Janet Abelson seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with twelve (12) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention

Herb Hastings moved the approval of the amended July 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Emily Witkin seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eight (8) in favor, two (2) against, two (2) abstentions

## **4. BART Transbay Rail Crossing Program – Updates**

Sadie Graham and Camille Tsao gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Sadie Graham and Camille Tsao presented on the New Transbay Rail Crossing Program. The New Transbay Rail Crossing Program will include a new connection between Oakland and San Francisco, which will make rail and transit the mode of choice for trips throughout Northern California, including the greater Bay Area, Monterey Bay Area, Sacramento Area, and parts of the Central Valley, also known as the Megaregion. Sadie Graham added the funding will go through the Capital Funding program.

Goals and objectives for the New Transbay Rail Crossing Program:

- Transform the passenger experience
  - Provide better service
  - Improve reliability and system performance
  - Build ridership

- Enhance the community and livability of the region
  - Connect people and places
  - Improve safety, health, and air quality
  - Advance equity
- Support economics growth and global competitiveness
  - Improve access to opportunity and employment
  - Connect major economic, research and educational centers
  - Enable transit-supportive land use
- Advance environmental stewardship and protection
  - Increase climate change resilience
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Conserve resources

Camille Tsao shared the New Transbay Rail Crossing Program will go through phases starting at 0 (zero) phase to 3 (three) phases that started in 2019 and will go until around 2028.

Herb Hastings asked if other transit agencies will be involved with the Transbay Rail Crossing Program. Camille Tsao stated that other transit agencies like AC Transit, VTA, SF Muni, Caltrain, etc. will be part of this project.

Sadie Graham stated that she or staff in the Planning and Development Department will share with BATF members up-to-date New Transbay Rail Crossing Program progress as we move forward.

Roland Wong requested the PowerPoint presentation to be emailed to BATF members.

Randall Glock thanked Sadie Graham and Camille Tsao for their presentation.

## **5. New Embarcadero BART Station Elevator**

Patrick Quinn gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Patrick Quinn shared that the Embarcadero BART Station will have an additional elevator that will go between the concourse level and the BART platform level. The goal is to install a new concourse elevator and make sure this elevator will be more reliable.

Patrick Quinn shared the benefits:

- Add redundancy
- Improve customer access
- Have more options to go down to the platform
- Reduce travel time to the platform

Patrick Quinn added that he anticipates the new elevator at Embarcadero BART Station will be completed by August 2023 on the north end of the station.

Patrick Quinn clarified that BART will be able to program the elevator to travel directly between the concourse level and the BART platform level, bypassing the Muni platform level, which will reduce travel time in the elevator.

Patrick Quinn described the new elevator as a glass elevator with glass doors, so passengers can see through the doors.

Roland Wong requested for the PowerPoint presentation to be emailed to BATF members.

## **6. Clipper® Start – Means-Based Fare Discount Program Pilot**

Helise Cohn gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Helise Cohn introduced herself and mentioned she works for Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) that is in charge of the Clipper® Card programs. She shared that the Clipper® Start, Means-Based Fare Discount Program is a pilot and expressed there is a growing need for discounted transit fares for low-income adults.

Helise Cohn shared goals for the pilot program:

- Awareness
- Positive experience
- Financial viability
- Administrative feasibility
- Affordability
- Increased access

Helise Cohn mentioned these are the transit agencies involved in this pilot program: BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate Transit and SFMTA. She added the program will be offered through Clipper® and the pilot is scheduled to last for eighteen (18) months.

She shared there is a comprehensive outreach plan to promote the program through social media, advertising, and community outreach, as well as promotion from participating transit agencies.

Helise Cohn shared how individuals can apply by computer or mobile phone (smart phone), or by filling out a brochure. The requirements for the Clipper® Start, Means-Based Fare Discount Program are to supply proof of identity, proof of income, a Bay Area mailing address, and to answer survey questions. She added that if you are getting unemployment checks, you will not qualify.

Helise Cohn stated that members of the public have questions that they may contact Clipper® Start Customer Service by calling 1-856-614-9149 or emailing [help@clipperstart.com](mailto:help@clipperstart.com)

Randall Glock clarified the difference between a disability or a senior discount card vs. Clipper® Start, Means-Based Fare Discount Program. People with a disability or senior discount card receive more of a discount than the Clipper® Start, Means-Based Fare Discount Program, and shared that this presentation is something you can pass on to family members or friends who may need this service.

## **7. BATF By-Laws Discussion**

Randall Glock led the agenda item to look into changing the BATF By-Laws under Article V.A.4-Termination of Membership, which requires BATF members to reside in the three counties in the BART District, to have potential members live in the BART service area, like San Mateo or Santa Clara County).

Janet Abelson voiced concerns for those who are paying taxes living within the BART District versus those who are not paying taxes because they do not live within the BART District.

Valerie Buell expressed as long as a person is able to take BART where there is BART services, she thinks it is fair for anyone who is interested to become a BATF member within or out of the BART District.

Alan Smith moved to change the BATF By-Laws under Article V.A.4-Termination of Membership, from “A member has ceased to reside in the BART District,” to “A member moves out of the BART service area.” Valerie Buell seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with twelve (12) in favor, one (1) against, zero (0) abstention

Bob Franklin stated staff will do a BATF By-Law draft for review and approval and then bring it to BART legal department for review.

## **8. Member Announcements**

No member announcements

## **9. Staff Announcements**

Elena Van Loo reminded members that nominations and elections of officers- Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair are scheduled for the next BATF meeting, September 24, 2020.

Laura Timothy let members know Jessica Kuo is no longer working for BART.

## **10. Chairperson Announcements**

No Chair announcements

## **11. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics**

- Draft of BATF By-Laws changes under Article V-Termination of Membership
- Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force
- Updates on a number of BART Station projects

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **September 24, 2020.**

[Meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm]