

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

Committee Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)
2. Anita Ortega
3. Catherine Callahan
4. Chris Mullin
5. Clarence Fischer
6. Don Queen
7. Emily Witkin
8. Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair)
9. Hale Zukas - ABSENT
10. Herb Hastings
11. Janet Abelson
12. Janice Armigo Brown
13. Marjorie (Marji) McWee - ABSENT
14. Mussie Gebre - ABSENT
15. Randall Glock (Chair)
16. Roland Wong
17. Valerie Buell
18. VACANT

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)
Hannah Lindelof (Staff)
Michael Wong (Staff)
Heather Urzua (Captioner)
Nikki Hare (Captioner)
Dorene Giacopini (Guest)
Ann Cupolo Freeman (Guest)
Larry Bunn (Guest)

Helen Walsh (Guest)
Helena Chang (Guest)
Anh Nguyen (Guest)

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Approval of August 27, 2020 Draft Minutes

Herb Hastings moved approval of the August 27, 2020 meeting with the amended minutes. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

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

4. Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan

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

She stated this plan is tied to the State Pandemic Resilience Roadmap. It is a collaborative plan that is led by twenty-five Bay Area transit operators from nine counties.

She shared the goals for Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan:

- Commit to common health and safety measures
- Establish consistency between transit providers for local and cross-county trips
- Build passenger confidence using transit during the pandemic

She shared the commitments of the transit agencies:

- Health and Safety Mitigations:
 - ✓ State-mandated face coverings
 - ✓ Safe distancing and capacity
 - ✓ Hand hygiene
 - ✓ A quiet ride
 - ✓ Daily cleaning and disinfecting
 - ✓ Proper ventilation
 - ✓ Touchless fares
 - ✓ PPE for employees
 - ✓ Contact tracing

- ✓ Demand response for paratransit riders
- Communication Strategy
- Accountability and Reporting

Hannah Lindelof provided a list of measures for riders who use the paratransit system and who may be more vulnerable:

- Face coverings
- Physical distancing
- Vehicle conditioning – cleaning and disinfecting
- Employee personal protective equipment and supplies
- Passenger COVID-19 wellness screening
- Contact tracing/outreach

Hannah Lindelof went over the ventilation system from the July 31, 2020 BART news story, “The Bay Area Healthy Transit, BART 15 step plan (<https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2020/news20200526>).

Hannah Lindelof shared the different signs throughout the BART Stations:

- Wear a face covering
- Practice social distancing
- Use hand sanitizer stations

Herb Hastings asked what BART is doing to enforce that riders are wearing face coverings. He added the Station Agents were informed to stay in their booths as much as they can for their own health and safety reasons. Hannah Lindelof responded that there are officers and ambassadors handing out free face covering at the stations.

Janet Abelson stated that the designated area for passengers with wheelchairs on the trains violate the six feet distancing, as it is adjacent to the doorways where riders exit and enter and wanted to know if this concern can be addressed. Hannah Lindelof said this is a great point and will take the question back to her staff.

Dorene Giacopini asked what the protocols for riders are using the elevators during COVID-19. Randall Glock mentioned this discussion will be under item number five, “Protocols of Riding BART Elevators During COVID-19.”

Clarence Fischer asked whether the ventilation that recirculates about every 70 seconds is for the Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains and/or the Legacy trains. Hannah Lindelof mentioned she will have to clarify, but believes it is for both trains.

Randall Glock stated the windows inside of the trains are fairly dirty and was wondering if this is from fogging during deep cleaning. Hannah Lindelof stated she will take this question back to staff and have an answer.

Randall Glock thanked Hannah Lindelof for her presentation.

Members requested to have the PowerPoint presentation emailed to them.

5. Protocols of Riding BART Elevators During COVID-19

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

He shared that BART Safety Department evaluated all stations and cars to come up with a simple message that could apply to all areas: keep safe distances, which is currently six feet.

He shared that there are currently two signs in elevators. One sign is to maintain a safe distance and the other sign says, "Face covering required."

For discussion purposes, Bob Franklin shared how other agencies address riding in elevators, which include the following:

- Mask required
- Keep a 6 feet distance
- One party at a time
- Face away from others
- Yield to the following:
 - A passenger in a wheelchair
 - A person using a cane (sight impairment)
 - A couple using canes (elderly)
 - A passenger who is pregnant

Bob Franklin shared some useful information to consider when riding in elevators at BART:

- Use sanitizer if you touch buttons
- Check elevator status in advance
- Elevators cleaned throughout the day
- Take escalator or stairs when possible or if able to
- Attendants – Downtown San Francisco
 - If more than one person, attendant gets out

Randall Glock asked if there had been any feedback from the elevator attendants about how they have been managing during COVID-19. Elena Van Loo responded by stating that she has been doing a Disability Awareness training for new elevator attendants for Downtown San Francisco elevators and the director of the program stated that it is going really well, and people are very respectful of each other's space. The attendants are trying to make it as safe and healthy as possible for everyone.

Anne Cupolo Freeman voiced her concerns about a few items regarding elevators. Trying to maintain a six feet distance, especially when the elevators are jammed with people, is difficult. She was curious about the ventilation systems in the elevators. She questioned who will make sure the people riding elevators wear their masks. She questioned where the sanitizers are located and suggested to put them near the elevators. She doesn't understand how you can face away from each other. She shared the best way to be safe is to restrict the numbers of riders allowed at one time in the elevators. She added elevators are essential for people with disabilities.

Bob Franklin responded back that he wrote down all the points that people have brought up and will reconvene with staff and see if BART will make some changes and will communicate back to this group.

Herb Hastings asked if audio announcements are being done at the BART stations to take precautions while riding BART during COVID-19. Bob Franklin stated he has heard routine announcements, but he will find out the frequency of the announcements.

Dorene Giacopini asked whether BART or Muni is responsible for cleaning the elevators at stations where BART and Muni share elevators.

Helen Walsh said that formats of communications are vital for persons with disabilities and BART doesn't have the best signage.

6. November and December 2020 BATF Meeting Plans

Randall Glock led the agenda item.

Discussion was held about whether to have the scheduled meetings for November 12, 2020 and December 9, 2020.

Alan Smith suggested to have the November 12, 2020 meeting, to go over the budget discussion that the BART Board of Directors will have at their October 22, 2020 BART Board meeting.

Bob Franklin shared an idea to have an online “open-house,” since BATF Holiday Reception will not happen due to COVID-19 and invite BART management to provide a brief overview of their department and to answer any questions that members may have.

Alan Smith motioned to keep both November 12, 2020 and December 9, 2020 scheduled meeting and go with Bob Franklin’s suggestion to have a “round table,” with the BART’s executives in December. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with ten (10) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention

7. 19th Street Oakland BART Station Modernization Updates

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

Michael Wong gave a list of current updates:

- Moved bike racks to the South End of the Station on the concourse level
 - Started construction on the Northern “winder” staircase that goes between the concourse and the lower platform. This has construction barriers on each level.
- Proposed working on two staircases at a time
 - Next stair/escalator scheduled are the North and Center “winder” staircases, which will be closed off with barriers.
 - Start construction barriers for the replacement of existing fare gates, which are being raised from 3.5 feet to 5 feet tall.

Michael Wong noted the new elevator will be on the North end of the station with new faregates and a new Station Agent booth. The new elevator will be inside the faregates. On the South end of the station there will be a new faregate and the elevator that is already there will be inside the faregates. He also shared that the restrooms are being renovated.

Members thanked Michael Wong for the presentation and members requested that the PowerPoint presentation be emailed to them.

8. Potential Changes to BATF By-Laws

Randall Glock led agenda item. He mentioned this discussion was from September’s BATF meeting about changing the BATF By-Laws.

Randall Glock asked Bob Franklin for clarifications about the process to change the by-laws. Bob Franklin shared that any changes needs to go to the BART legal department. There are nine advisory committees with variety of rules and BART does not want to set off a motion where all the committees then request similar changes from the BART Board of Directors for approval. BART wants to make a generic change for all committees to use the BART Board time more wisely. BART will have to look at all nine committees and make a consistent change. Staff understands the intent of having members from the five service counties, but the actual words may vary. The BART Board would have to approve any changes.

Clarence Fischer thought “BART service area,” was vague because he questioned “what is a service area,” and that is why there are concerns.

Valerie Buell’s stated she would like to see “service area.” BART is expanding into San Jose and so Santa Clara County would not be included if we only name specific counties. Also, we talked in the last meeting about more areas BART is expanding to.

Bob Franklin stated this could be solved by saying “the service area for counties which contain a BART Station.”

Alan Smith motioned to suggest changing the By-Laws, under Article V – Termination of Membership, from “A member has ceased to reside in the BART counties.” to “A member has ceased to reside in the BART service area,” Alan Smith wanted to name all the counties - Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and San Mateo - into the by-laws to make it clear. Clarence Fischer seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, one (1) against, zero (0) abstention

Elena Van Loo informed members that the motion passes and staff will take the recommendations to the BART legal department and report back to members with any updates.

9. Yearly Nominations and Elections of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice Chair

Elena Van Loo led the agenda item with assistance from Laura Timothy and Bob Franklin.

Randall Glock and Gerry Newell gave a short speech supporting their nomination as Chairperson.

Voting Results for Chairperson:

Randall Glock – nine (9) in favor, zero (0) against,
Gerry Newell – two (2) in favor, zero (0) against,

Abstention (s) – two (2)

Next was the nominations for Vice Chairperson:

Gerry Newell, Alan Smith, and Herb Hastings gave a short speech as to why they would be a good candidate for Vice Chairperson.

Voting Results for Vice Chairperson:

Gerry Newell – eight (8) in favor, zero (0) against
Alan Smith – three (3) in favor, zero (0) against
Herb Hastings – two (2) in favor, zero (0) against

Abstention (s) – zero (0)

Next was the nominations for Second Vice Chairperson: Alan Smith and Herb Hastings.

Candidates for 2nd Vice Chairperson:

Alan Smith – eight (8) in favor, zero (0) against
Herb Hastings – four (4) in favor, zero (0) against

Abstention (s) – one (1)

The BATF officers for the next term, October 2020 to September 2021, will be Randall Glock, Chairperson; Gerry Newell, Vice Chairperson; and Alan Smith, 2nd Vice Chairperson.

10. Member Announcements

No member announcements.

11. Staff Announcements

No staff announcements.

12. Chairperson Announcements.

Randall Glock announced the meeting went over the scheduled two hours meeting. “Future Agenda Topics-Member Suggest Topics,” will be handled by email. Herb Hastings motioned to end the meeting and Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

13. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

No announced future agenda topics.

14 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **October 22, 2020.**