

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE**  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 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
10. Herb Hastings
11. Janet Abelson - ABSENT
12. Janice Armigo Brown - ABSENT
13. Marjorie (Marji) McWee
14. Randall Glock (Chair)
15. Roland Wong
16. Valerie Buell
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

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

Elena Van Loo  
Laura Timothy - ABSENT  
Bob Franklin

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board Director)  
Mariana Parreiras (Staff)  
Brian Tsukamoto (Staff)  
Timothy Smith (Staff)  
Gina Lau (Staff-Intern)

Judy Jacobs (Captioner)  
Sandra Ruvalcaba (Captioner)  
Helen Walsh (Guest)  
Helena Chang (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **3. Approval of September 24, 2020 Draft Minutes**

Clarence Fischer moved approval of the September 24, 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. Texting BART Police to Report an Incident**

Agenda item to be moved to another scheduled meeting date.

## **5. BART Police Department Progressive Policy Outreach**

Agenda item to be moved to another scheduled meeting date.

## **6. BART Fleet of the Future (FOF) and BART Legacy Trains – Update**

Timothy Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the BART Fleet of the Future (FOF) update. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Timothy Smith shared the Fleet of the Future (FOF) current and future budget.

He listed the project accomplishments:

- 245 cars conditionally accepted and ready for revenue service
- Electrical and Mechanical Technician training continues
- Commissioning of special tools and test equipment
- 17 trains are in service on all lines plus one training train
- Cars 246-260 are in acceptance testing at the Hayward test track
- Car shells for car numbers 307-336 are in progress in Sahagun, Mexico

Timothy Smith shared the Pittsburg manufacturing update:

- The first two vehicles have been assembled, tested, and are in revenue service
- 9 vehicles are in production, 4 are through testing and completing process to ship
- 13 cars were shipped from the Hayward shop for modifications
- 2 cars have been completed, tested, and returned for revenue service

He went over the stages for the Fleet of the Future (FOF) from the past, current, and future schedule.

Herb Hastings asked if the 7 cars are the only cars in service or if this is the amount being used due to fewer riders from COVID-19. Timothy Smith confirmed there are 245 cars conditionally accepted and ready for revenue service. There are 17 Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains on the service lines.

Randall Glock requested to share the PowerPoint presentation with members by email.

Brian Tsukamoto gave a PowerPoint presentation on the BART Legacy Fleet Decommissioning Update. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

He stated BART is currently in the process of decommissioning its Legacy Fleet cars as we create additional capacity for the incoming Fleet of the Future (FOF) cars. Most of the existing Legacy Fleet will be recycled in the upcoming Legacy Fleet decommissioning contract. The public will have an opportunity to provide proposals for their vision how the future of these cars can be envisioned.

Brian Tsukamoto mentioned that within the current recycling process, BART continues to harvest reusable parts for use on the remaining legacy cars in service, which is a cost saving for BART.

He stated to date that 18 cars have been recycled with the 19th car scheduled to go the Hayward yard by the end of the month. There are 4 different types of Legacy Fleet cars that are going to be decommissioned: 1-A2 cars, 6-B2 cars, 4-C1 cars, and 7-C2 cars.

Brian Tsukamoto went over the process for “public proposals to give new life to retired cars”:

- Public proposals process and timeline
- Vehicle acquisition guidelines
- Cost considerations

Valerie Buell asked Brian Tsukamoto if he knows the estimate of how long the Legacy Fleet cars will still be in service. Brian Tsukamoto stated that they will be in service for about 4 years and added BART needs to keep enough cars in service as a contingency to the schedule of receiving new cars.

Valerie Buell also asked if BART will be donating Legacy Fleet cars to the firefighter training schools and Brian Tsukamoto stated Legacy Fleet cars will be donated to local firefighter schools throughout the Bay Area and is working with staff about the logistics.

Clarence Fisher heard and asked that some of the Legacy Fleet cars will be kept for historical purposes and wanted to know approximately how many Legacy Fleet cars will be kept. Brian Tsukamoto shared BART will be keeping some of the legacy cars as historical items and does not know many at this time.

Members requested to have PowerPoint presentation emailed to them.

Randall Glock thanked Brian Tsukamoto for his presentation.

## **7. North Berkeley BART Station Access Improvements Project**

Mariana Parreiras gave a PowerPoint presentation on the North Berkeley BART Station Access Improvement Project. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Mariana Parreiras shared new access improvements at North Berkeley by starting with data and background information. She mentioned she looked at past surveys how people walk or bike to and from the station and stated that surveys are done about every five years. We are working on a new survey for this station.

She pointed out the goals of this project:

- To set a new standard for bicycle and pedestrian access to BART
- To reduce congestion in the Ohlone Greenway
- To improve pedestrian safety and security
- To minimize cost and maximize benefit in light of an upcoming TOD project.

She then shared what is going to be done at the station and highlighted what would be of the most interest to BATF members:

- Separated two-way cycle-tracks
- **Raised speed table in front of the station that is level with the station plaza**
- **Tighter curb radii and directional curb ramps along Virginia Street**
- **Widened Ohlone Greenway with a separate pedestrian path**
- Raised crosswalks on streets
- Midblock bulb out on Sacramento
- **New ADA passenger loading on Sacramento**
- **New direct path from Sacramento sidewalk to elevator**
- Two-way separated cycle-track on Delaware
- Storm water management along Franklin Street
- Pedestrian-scale lighting
- Art on fixed structures

Helen Walsh suggested that when new surveys are being done that they should keep track of people who use wheelchairs or adaptive bikes who enter the North Berkeley Station. Mariana Parreiras responded stating this is a good suggestion and will take this back to BART staff who has been working on the survey.

Chris Mullin thanked her for the presentation and asked if the elevator will remain in the same location outside the main station across the street. Mariana Parreiras responded that this project will not move the elevator from where it currently is near the corner of Sacramento and Delaware.

Herb Hastings asked if there will be speed limit signs for vehicles to slow down for pedestrians and bicyclist. Mariana Parreiras confirmed that there will be signs throughout the station.

Helen Walsh shared she thinks where the elevator is located is way too far away. She was concerned for the safety of the riders who have no other choice but to use the elevator. Mariana Parreiras pointed out with the new layout that there will be more of a direct path of travel from the elevator to the main station, as well as a convenient drop off and pick up location.

Randall Glock thanked Mariana Parreiras for her PowerPoint presentation, which will be emailed to members.

## **8. Review and Approve Year 2021 BATF Scheduled Meeting Dates**

Randall Glock led the agenda item and shared the dates of the BATF 2021 meeting schedule:

- January 28, 2021, Thursday
- February 25, 2021, Thursday
- March 25, 2021, Thursday
- April 22, 2021, Thursday
- May 27, 2021, Thursday
- June 24, 2021, Thursday
- July 22, 2021, Thursday
- August 26, 2021, Thursday
- September 23, 2021 Thursday
- October 28, 2021, Thursday
- November 10, 2021, Wednesday
- December 08, 2021, Wednesday

Alan Smith motioned to approve the BATF 2021 scheduled meeting dates. Herb Hastings seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with fourteen (14) in favor, zero (o) against, zero (o) abstention

## **9. Member Announcements**

Gerry Newell would like to propose to change back the meeting time from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm starting in January 2021 instead of ending at 4:00 pm. He stated just in case there are more agendas items and it runs longer, we will have time.

Roland Wong agreed with Gerry Newell to keep the original time to end at 4:30. While we are on Zoom, there may be technical issues that need to be addressed and may add additional time and there may be more agenda items than usual. It is ok if the meeting ends early.

Valerie Buell thanked members for completing a survey back in January for the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). She added that she will email the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) 2020-2021 scheduled meeting dates to Elena Van Loo to forward to BATF members.

Valerie Buell thanked BART staff for getting the meetings going again.

Marjorie (Maji) McWee shared that she will email Elena Van Loo to forward to BATF members to join in a telephone town hall meeting about transportation for older adults and people with disabilities through Contra Costa Transportation Authority and Contra Costa County on October 27, 2020.

## **10. Staff Announcements**

Elena Van Loo announced Mussie Gebre is no longer a BATF member as he has missed four regular meetings in a calendar year. She added that he will be missed and hopefully he will return as a member down the road and announced there are 16 current members and 2 openings.

Bob Franklin had three things to share:

- Has requested a date on the Board of Directors agenda to change the BATF By-Laws to expand the membership eligibility to “the BART service area, beyond just residents of the BART District,” and it is awaiting approval from the General Manager to place on the agenda.
- On October 28, 2020 at 11:00 am, Center for Independent Living (CIL) is hosting a transit panel, and he will be on the panel about riding public transit during COVID-19. He will forward the invitation to Elena Van Loo to forward to BATF members.
- As a follow up to the elevator discussion from last month, there will be changes to the elevator maximum occupancy policy, limiting occupancy to one party or person per elevator for the small elevators. Some are big enough to accommodate more than one person. For the smaller elevators, there will be a notice to put up a sign for a maximum of one person/party for social distancing.

Robert Raburn gave a quick update from the BART Board of Directors. He believes BART will survive through these hard times. The Board is moving forward with the investigation of budget options but is staying positive. He mentioned there will be BART ridership increases as soon as schools start reopening and parents do not have to stay home.

## **11. Chairperson Announcements**

Alan Smith reminded members back in June that there was a budget presentation and appreciated that BART will continue the senior and disabled discount rates and took the opportunity to thank again the BART Board of Directors at their meeting on October 22, 2020 after the budget agenda item was presented.

Randall Glock mentioned he has been receiving messages from members if they could use BART. He stated it is up to you, your individual choice, and shared with members to do what you think is safest way due to shelter-in-place, COVID-19.

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

Clarence Fischer commented if BART start taking steps in closing some stations due to budget cuts down the road, he would like a presentation on this.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **November 12, 2020.**