

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

Minutes  
March 28, 2019

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

**Members:**

Alan Smith  
Catherine Callahan  
Chris Mullin  
Clarence Fischer  
Christina Lasson (ABSENT)  
Don Queen  
Emily Witkin  
Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez  
Gerry Newell (ABSENT)  
Hale Zukas  
Herb Hastings (ABSENT)  
Janet Abelson (ABSENT)  
Janice Armigo-Brown (ABSENT)  
Larry Bunn  
Mussie Gebre  
Randall Glock  
Roland Wong  
Valerie Buell (ABSENT)

**BART Staff present:**

Bob Franklin (ABSENT)  
Laura Timothy  
Elena Van Loo

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)  
Maureen Wetter (BART Staff)  
Aaron Weinstein (BART Staff)  
Roderick McFarland (BART Staff)  
Paul Medved (BART Staff)  
David Silva (BART Staff)  
Susan Poliwka (BART Staff)

Carl Orman (BART Staff)  
Melissa Jordan (BART Staff)  
Janice Dispo (Stenographer)  
Terri Manning (ASL interpreter)  
Lisa Moore (ASL interpreter)  
Marjorie Mc Wee (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

No public announcements.

## **3. Approval of February 28, 2019 Minutes**

Clarence Fischer moved approval of the March 28, 2019 meeting minutes. Larry Bunn seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **4. Braille Signage Content and Placement**

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

After PowerPoint presentation from Elena Van Loo, Carl Orman answered questions.

Carl Orman brought a Braille tactile sign made out of magnesium to share with members and the public. The magnesium maintains its color and texture for many years. Carl Orman also mentioned that magnesium tactile signs last over ten years.

Carl Orman mentioned that the tactile signs should be cleaned more often and he is communicating with BART System Service group to have this done.

Carl Orman mentioned if any tactile sign has been vandalized or stolen, BART Maintenance Department will order the tactile sign and replace them as soon as possible.

Carl Orman shared that the tactile signs near escalators and stairs are supplementary while the other signs throughout the station are at height that is ADA compliant.

Don Queen recommends placing Braille signs on top of the low walls which exist at the top and the bottom of many BART escalators.

Mussie Gebre was concerned that the Braille tactile signs are too low at the bottom of the stairs and escalators. Mussie Gebre suggested to have the tactile signs at the top of stairs and escalators. He also mentioned that some of the escalators do not have tactile signs at the bottom of the escalators.

## **5. Modernizing Elevators and Escalators**

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

Roland Wong asked if the Embarcadero BART Station and the 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station will have brand-new elevators put in. Michael Lemon confirmed that there will be a brand-new elevator put in at the Embarcadero BART Station and the 19<sup>th</sup> BART Station.

Randall Glock expressed when the brand-new elevators are put in at the Embarcadero BART Station and at the 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station that the elevator panels where the push buttons are located should be at 26 inches from the floor to the panel and not at 36 inches.

Alan Smith asked if the new escalators in San Francisco will have yellow stripes at the edge of each step. Alan Smith also expressed at the Downtown Berkeley Station, during modernization, the escalators did not have the yellow stripes at the edge of each step.

Chris Mullin shared that he was at 12<sup>th</sup> Street/Oakland City Center training a client how to ride the BART System. One of the six escalators was not working. Chris Mullin asked how do we know when the escalators are not in service and would like an estimate of the time when the escalator (s) will be down.

## **6. Fleet of the Future (FOF) Survey Results**

PowerPoint presentation from Aaron Weinstein and Maureen Wetter. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Roland Wong asked if BART can reconsider to install flip-down seats due to less seating on the Fleet of the Future and can be used as bike area when flip down seats are not in use. Roland Wong was aware that this subject has been brought up in past BATF meetings.

Emily Witkin stated that screens are really nice and it would be even nicer if there wasn't a pole in front of them. Emily Witkin suggested to put the screens on the other side of the train where there are no poles and it is more visible.

Chris Mullin says that the survey seems really good. Chris Mullin asked if this will be only once in a life time survey or will there be more surveys down the road.

Randall Glock mentioned that he would like to see time and day displayed on the screens and the screens are small.

Clarence Fischer stated that there is a glare on the digital display screen, depending of the day or evening, and it is difficult to read.

## **7. Future Irvington BART Station - Escalators**

Susan Poliwka, Paul Medved, and David Silva gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Randall Glock asked if the Irvington BART Station will be a low or high volume station in terms of the number of riders. The members and the public were informed that the Irvington Station will have a low volume of riders.

Randall Glock asked whether the elevator will accommodate two or more wheelchairs. The members and the public were informed that the elevator must accommodate a gurney into the elevator per elevator safety code requirements.

Hale Zukas asked why the ADA parking is far away from the elevator. Hale Zukas thinks the ADA parking should be closer to the elevator.

Alan Smith expressed concerns that the Irvington BART Station can be a high volume of riders in fifty years as there will be more residential and office buildings being built.

Randall Glock asked the members who would like to make a motion to do a study of ridership fifty years down the road. Alan Smith moved the item and Larry Bunn seconded the motion.

- Motion did not pass, with 2 votes in favor, 3 against, and 7 abstentions.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez would like to make a motion to support the continuation of this project with the condition that includes redundant elevators instead of escalators. Chris Mullin seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with 10 in favor, 0 against, and 2 abstentions.

## **8. Member Announcements**

No comments from members.

## **9. Staff Announcements**

Elena Van Loo congratulated Larry Bunn and let the members know that BART Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve him to become a BATF member. Larry Bunn is now officially a BATF member.

Elena Van Loo stated that the Ethics Training will be on May 7, 2019, in the BART Board of Directors Board Room, from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Elena Van Loo mentioned that she will be mailing the members reminder of the Ethics Training. Also, she will remind members on April 25, 2019 BATF meeting under Staff Announcements.

Elena Van Loo reminded members that the first quarter reimbursement, January 01, 2019 to March 31, 2019, is due on April 10, 2019. Elena Van Loo let members know if they need to get approved reimbursement that have not been approved to email Elena Van Loo by April 8, 2019.

## **10. Chairperson Announcements**

Randall Glock stated that he has been asking BART Staff to present “Fleet of the Future Safety Features,” at the next BATF meeting in April.

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

- Fleet of the Future Safety Features

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting for **April 25, 2019 at 2:00 pm at, 1750 Broadway, Oakland, California 94612.**

[The meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm]