

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

Minutes

September 26, 2019

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

Members:

Alan Smith
Catherine Callahan
Chris Mullin
Clarence Fischer
Christina Lasson
Don Queen
Emily Witkin
Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez, 2nd Vice-Chair
Gerry Newell
Hale Zukas
Herb Hastings
Janet Abelson
Janice Armigo Brown
Larry Bunn
Mussie Gebre (ABSENT)
Randall Glock, Chair
Roland Wong, Vice-Chair
Valerie Buell

BART Staff Present:

Bob Franklin
Elena Van Loo
Laura Timothy

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)
Carl Orman (Staff)
Wendy Wheeler (Staff)
Evan Brown (Staff)
Janice Dispo (Stenographer)
Dennis Gassaway (Guest)

Marjorie (Marj) Mc Wee (Guest)
George Carlos (Guest)
Ian Blakey (Guest)
Anita Ortega (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Dennis Gassaway stated that he didn't feel like Clipper machines were blind-user-friendly and suggested that station agents be more watchful in spotting and helping riders in need of assistance.

3. Approval of August 22, 2019 Minutes

Herb Hastings moved approval of the July 27, 2019 meeting with the amended minutes. Clarence Fischer seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with fifteen (15) in favor, two (2) abstention, zero (0) against

4. New Fleet of The Future Tracker and Cancelled Train Notice on The Digital Platform Signs

Wendy Wheeler and Evan Brown gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Wendy Wheeler shared riders will now know if approaching trains is a Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains with three doors or a legacy train with two doors showing on the platform digital signs.

Wendy Wheeler stated adding middle door decals markings for the Fleet of the Future (FOF) have already been installed at a few BART stations and will continue to be placed systemwide.

Wendy Wheeler also added the digital platform signs will let riders know when a train has been cancelled, giving riders advance warning.

Don Queen wanted to confirm with the Fleet of the Future (FOF), middle door, will still stop at the place just like the legacy trains. Wendy Wheeler confirmed that Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains will still stop at its place for the first door and third door, just like the legacy trains and there will be decal marking where the middle door will be when the trains stop.

Roland Wong commented that he likes the new digital platform signs indicating a three door or a two door train coming. He will know if it is a Fleet of the Future (FOF) train or a legacy train coming. He also likes the new decal markings for the third door indication.

Larry Bunn thanked staff that he really likes hearing over the intercom whether it is a three door train or a two door train approaching the station.

Emily Witkin asked Wendy Wheeler and Evan Brown if three door train or two door train will be part of the BART (Official) app for smart phones under train schedules.

Emily Witkin added the third-door signs on the platform are not tactile detectable and asked if that is included in the future planning.

Director Raburn reported that as of Monday, September 23, 2019, there were a hundred and five (105) new trains on BART property, ninety (90) of which have been certified by the PUC (California Public Utilities Commission) and fifty-eight (58) trains are currently in revenue service. BART expects to move five (5) additional cars over into revenue service in the next week.

Randall Glock thanked Wendy Wheeler and Evan Brown for their presentation. Randall Glock requested to share PowerPoint presentation to the members. Elena Van Loo will follow on the request.

5. Stair Treads at BART Stations

Carl Orman presented on this item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Carl Orman stated the current installed yellow colored nosing strips on all stairs inside BART stations are not durable and it is costly to maintain. Carol Orman continued saying due to the cost of this product being significantly higher, it will be only installed at the top and the bottom of each stair flight and not at every stair. The color of nosing will stay yellow or a contrasting color required by California Building Code.

Alan Smith voiced concerns not having yellow nosing strips on all stairs instead having yellow nosing strips on the top of the stairs and the bottom of the stairs. He voiced concerns for those who have depth perception or is low vision may harm themselves.

Randall Glock shared that this topic, stair treads, has been brought up at meetings many times and this is not a new topic. He added this topic is a complex situation and if you have suggestions, please share your ideas to BART Staff.

6. Accessibility Projects – Updates

Carl Orman presented on this item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Carl Orman listed projects that are completed and ongoing projects:

- Elevator Lobby LED lighting improvements have been completed at 10 BART Stations
- Hearing Loop have been installed at Agent Booths and Customer Service Centers. Forty-one (41) hearing loops has been installed at twenty-six (26) stations
- Platform edge tile replacement to show solid yellow along the edge on the platform levels is a continuing project
- Accessibility Improvement Program (AIP):
 - Courtesy phones to be replaced with call boxes with the red buttons
 - Third door markings at the platform levels

Randall Glock asked about elevator lighting as part of the Accessibility Improvement Program (AIP). He expressed there is a lack of lighting at some BART Stations.

Hale Zukas expressed many of the intercom in the elevators are too low to push the red button and it not accessible to all.

7. Discussion “Please Offer Me a Seat/Baby on Board,” Buttons to Use on BART Trains

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

Elena Van Loo shared how “Please Offer Me a Seat,” button started. She stated there was a complaint from BART Customer Service Department for those who are pregnant. The rider asked if another rider can give up his or her seat and give the seat to a pregnant rider. Elena Van Loo stated that the pregnant rider was

refused a seat and is requesting that BART roll out a “Baby on Board,” button for pregnant woman being done in London, England.

Laura Timothy mentioned this program would be a pilot and is being looked into. She also mentioned that this program will be an “honor system,” and to get a button is go online or call and request a button with just your name and an address. Laura Timothy shared that other public transit agencies are rolling out new buttons in Chicago, Illinois and Toronto Transit Commission in Canada has started offering “Please offer me a seat,” buttons.

Janet Abelson expressed that passengers may take advantage of this program.

Clarence Fisher suggested to have two types of pins. One pin with magnetic or a needle pin. Clarence Fisher stated that some passengers do not want to put holes on their clothing.

Chris Mullin stated riders may end up leaving the pins/buttons on the train and littering.

Emily Witkin said that this can be helpful for people with hidden disabilities who need a seat. She added that outreach to the public is important to increase program visibility and awareness. She does not believe people litter because it would take some amount of effort to obtain these buttons/pins. She feels it would be more cost effective to distribute these at station agent booths or perhaps places like the Ed Roberts Campus rather than mailing them out.

Valerie Buell liked this idea. She thought it would be a good idea to put “Please offer me a seat,” on the RTC card, or have it big in large writing on the badge, or on the button so that riders can clearly read it and get their attention.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez expressed if she had a hidden disability, I would not feel comfortable wearing the button. She felt she would be targeted with the button on her and may be a safety concern.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez suggested having a better training program or campaign to have more common courtesy, or putting in ads, billboards, to let riders know to be kind and give up your seat.

Catherine Callahan liked this idea and would be great to have “Please offer me a seat,” on the Clipper Card instead of a button or a badge.

8. Year 2020 BATF Meeting Dates and Discussion of Meeting Time Change – Review and Approve

Randall Glock presented on this item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Alan Smith noted for 2020 BATF meeting schedule, he would like to change the date November 11, 2020 to November 12, 2020. He mentioned November 11, 2020 is Veterans Day.

Randall Glock asked who would like to make the first motion to change the meeting date from November 11, 2020 to November 12th, 2020.

Clarence Fischer motioned first and Christina Lasson second the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, one (1) no, five (5) abstentions

Randall Glock announced meeting date has been changed from November 11, 2020 to November 12, 2020 has been passed.

Randall Glock discussed possibly changing the meeting times from, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, to the new meeting time of 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Randall Glock asked who would like to make the first motion to change the meeting times from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez motioned first and Larry Bunn second the motion.

- Motion did not pass with six (6) noes, five (5) yeses, and 6 (abstentions)

Randall Glock announced meeting times will remain from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

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

Elena Van Loo ran this portion of the meeting.

Candidates for Chairperson:

Randall Glock – nine (9) votes

Christina Lasson – one (1) vote

Gerry Newell – five (5) votes

Herb Hastings – two (2) votes

Roland Wong – position declined
Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez – position declined

Valerie Buell – position declined
Chris Mullin – position declined
Alan Smith – position declined

Abstention (s): zero (0)

Candidates for Vice Chairperson:

Gerry Newell – nine (9) votes
Alan Smith – five (5) votes
Herb Hastings – one (1) vote
Abstention (s): two (02)

Candidates for Second Vice Chairperson:

Alan Smith – eleven (11) votes
Herb Hastings – two (2) votes
Roland Wong – Position Declined

Abstention (s): four (04)

The Chairperson for the next term will be Randall Glock, the Vice Chairperson will be Gerry Newell, and the Second Vice Chairperson will be Alan Smith.

Randall Glock thanked Roland Wong and Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez for their service as the vice chairperson and second vice chairperson in the past year.

10. Member Announcements

Valerie Buell shared a recent incident where she had been harassed and her car was vandalized by a group of teenagers at BART. She stated she reported to BART Police and was able to describe in detail what happened. After the report has been done, BART police were quick to respond and helped her out. Valerie Buell shared that she did use the BART Police Watch App and it was very useful when this incident happened.

Christina Lasson reminded members and the public to come and celebrate self-advocate hosted by Bay Area People First happening on October 18, 2019 at Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley, California.

Alan Smith reported that according to the East Bay Times, do not expect to get to Downtown San Jose on BART until 2029 or 2030. There have been delays in the project and the 2026 opening date appears to not be accurate.

Chris Mullin commented this meeting was really, really good. The topics were interesting and noted that most members spoke.

Hale Zukas stated that there is a sign posted with inaccurate information at 19th Street BART Station. Bob Franklin will follow up with Hale Zukas.

11. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo reminded members the third quarter, July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019, approved travel reimbursements end on September 30, 2019. She let members know if they need to get approved reimbursement that have not been approved to email Elena Van Loo by October 8, 2019.

Elena Van Loo confirmed the pop-up faregates at Fruitvale BART Station prototype will no longer be used due to high price of maintenance.

Elena Van Loo shared that Janice Dispo will be leaving as captioner after eleven years of her dedicated service and shared she will be looking into having hearing loops installed in the East Bay Paratransit first floor conference room.

12. Chairperson Announcements

Randall Glock passed out to members a photo of a possible new swing style fare gate model that was presented at the BART Board of Directors meeting. He mentioned pilot program for the new swing style faregates will be at Richmond BART Station projected for August of 2020. Randall Glock asked staff can present on the new possible swing style gates for next month's BATF meeting.

Randall Glock spoke to Aaron Weinstein to see if he is able to present on third door markings at the platform level at the next scheduled BATF meeting in October.

Randall Glock mentioned he attended the Committee for Transportation Mobility and Accessibility (CTMA) meeting on September 12, 2019 at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) headquarters in Downtown San Jose. He wanted to invite members of CTMA to the BATF Holiday Reception on December 11, 2019. Randall Glock asked Elena Van Loo if red BART tickets can be given to the CTMA members to attend the holiday reception as a gift gesture. Elena Van

Loo will check with BART Staff management if BART red tickets can be given to CTMA members.

13. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- New swing style fare gate model
- Follow up on the third door boarding locations for the Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains
- Have better seating area around the bus locations
- Following up on the Montgomery BART Station faregate at the platform level – Signages

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting for **October 24, 2019, at 2:00 pm at, 1750 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.**

[The meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm]