

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
2150 Webster Street, P.O. Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94604-2688

BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE
Committee Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2024

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Anita Ortega
2. Annie Koruga (Vice-Chair)
3. Bruce Yow
4. Catherine Callahan
5. Christine Arseneault
6. Clarence R. Fischer
7. Danny Kodmur
8. Daveed Mandell
9. Emily Witkin - ABSENT
10. Herb Hastings
11. Hillary Brown
12. Janice Armigo Brown (2nd Vice-Chair)
13. Roland Wong (Chair)
14. VACANT
15. VACANT
16. VACANT
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

Quorum of seven (7) in-person BATF members. Christine Arseneault used her second, “Just Cause,” out of two. Annie Koruga used their first, “Just Cause.” Daveed Mandell used his first, “Just Cause.”

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Bob Franklin
Ryan Greene-Roesel

BART Director (s), BART Staff, Speakers, and members of the public:

Director Robert Raburn
Ahmad Rassai (BART Staff)

Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Jessica Kirby (Captioner)
Sam Buman (Guest)
Aleta Dupree (Guest)
Lucky Maxwell (Guest)
Shawn Castillo (Guest)
Roger Acuna (Guest)
Sarah Desumala (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Shawn Costello mentioned he has a couple of concerns. He mentioned at 12th St. BART station, at the upper-level elevator alcove, the light has been out for a while. He mentioned the San Leandro elevator is too small. He added that the elevator doors to the San Francisco platform does not open all the way.

Aleta Dupree introduced herself and said she often felt alone when it comes to sharing matters of disability to the BART Board of Directors. She mentioned it is hard for her because she does not appear to look disabled. She asked people to expand their consciousness to think of disability community as being very diverse. She asked that people join in her journey and that people with disabilities can be fully accepted within the BART system.

Lucky Maxwell introduced themselves and their pronouns are they and them. They mentioned they work at the Center of Independent, Berkeley, as the Transportation Coordinator. They wanted to know if the trains could be marked with a symbol on the outside of the train to indicate where a person who uses a mobility device may board. They suggested having BATF meetings recorded, so that they are available for those who were not able to attend the meetings in person.

3. Approval of June 27, 2024 meeting minutes

Herb Hastings moved approval of the June 27, 2024, meeting minutes with some amendments. Clarence R. Fischer second the motion.

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

4. Accessibility improvement program phases 1 & 2 project update

Ahmad Rassai (AR) presented on, “Accessibility improvement program phases 1 & 2: project update.”

AR went over project overview and the budget.

He shared what has been completed at Fremont, Bay Fair, Hayward, Castro Valley, Fruitvale, San Leandro, MacArthur, Rockridge, Lafayette, North Berkeley, and Richmond. AR went over some of the completed projects:

- replacement of curb ramps
- replacement of handrails
- replacement of courtesy phones
- Installation of new elevator lobby lights
- Removal of platform and/or concourse phone cubes

AR mentioned some stations listed still need work on better accessible pathways, removal of payphones, updated handrails at stairwells, replacement of courtesy phones, and better lighting at some stations.

He mentioned the next twelve (12) stations going through its design work to better improve Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accessible pathways are El Cerrito del Norte, El Cerrito Plaza, Downtown Berkeley, Ashby, Embarcadero, Montgomery, Powell, Civic Center/UN Plaza, 16th St, 24th St, Glen Park, and Balboa Park BART Stations and will give an update at an upcoming meeting.

Clarence R. Fischer expressed concerns that there are not enough seating within the BART system. He would like to see more seats available at the loading area and bus station locations. Annie Koruga agreed with Clarence's comment.

Danny Kodmur would like to see smaller elevators replaced with larger elevators to fit larger wheelchairs. He also asked if some of the railings can be taken out in the smaller, older elevators or will this be violating ADA law?

Danny Kodmur and Bruce Yow wanted to see the contract specifications for more details on the project to ensure accessibility issues are addressed.

Anita Ortega asked if the new call boxes that replaced courtesy phones could be easy to locate and asked if all payphones will be taken out of BART stations. AR shared the new call boxes are larger than the courtesy phones and there are signs indicating call boxes, more visible. He mentioned payphones belong to independent vendors and is not aware if all payphones will be taken out. Director Robert Raburn mentioned that he would like to see vandalized payphones removed from the system.

Aleta Dupree mentioned fixing the sidewalks are essential and that we can always improve BART's system.

Bruce Yow asked if BATF members have some comprehensive ADA review process of designs. Bob Franklin stated BATF members is to provide input to making the BART system accessible.

Roland Wong thanked AR for his presentation.

5. New committee member nomination, Sam Buman

Roland Wong led agenda item, “New committee member nomination, Sam Buman.”

Sam Buman introduced himself and expressed why he is interested in joining the BATF.

Herb Hastings moved to recommend Sam Buman as a BATF member. Clarence R. Fischer seconded the motion.

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

6. Review final approved BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) By-Laws

Elena Van Loo led agenda item, “Review final approved BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) By-Laws.”

She announced BATF members approved parts of the BATF By-Laws on June 27, 2024 and BART Board of Directors passed to update the BATF By-Laws on July 11, 2024.

Elena Van Loo went over what was passed:

ARTICLE III – RESPONSIBILITIES (page 2)

B. In order accomplish these responsibilities BATF shall:

#6 - Complete ethics training required by the State of California within six months of being appointed to the BATF and every two years for active BATF members. (clarification to completing ethics training to new appointed members and active members)

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP (page 3)

C. NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

... Out of three consecutive meetings, an interested applicant must attend two and then apply for membership... (shorten the time to recruit BATF members)

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS (page 5)

D. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND 2ND VICE-CHAIR

#1 – Term of Office

The officers of the BATF shall serve for one year or until the next election is held. Officers shall serve for no more than two consecutive terms in the same office, unless no other member is interested in serving in that role. After a one-year break, members may serve in any officer role again. (give more members a chance to serve as committee leaders)

ARTICLE – AGENDAS, MINUTES, RULES OF CONDUCT, AND ACCOMODATIONS (page 7)

A. AGENDAS

...The Chair shall schedule items on the agenda in consultation with the staff liaison. The BATF staff liaison shall be responsible to work with BATF Officers, BATF members and BART departments to schedule items on the agenda, prepare the agenda, compile the associated agenda materials and distribute the final agenda for each meeting... (clarify how items are placed on the agenda)

Elena Van Loo shared that the complete new by-laws are posted under bart.gov.

7. Member announcements

No member announcements.

8. Staff announcements

Director Robert Raburn shared effective August 12, 2024, there will be a minor schedule adjustment to improve service and connections.

Director Robert Raburn wanted to invite everyone to National Night Out on August 6, 2024 at Bay Fair BART Station and Millbrae Station.

Elena Van Loo let members know nominations and election for Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair will take place on September 26, 2024.

9. Chairperson announcements

No chairperson announcements

10 Future agenda items – member suggest topics

- Elevators buttons are not lit at some station
 - Checked daily by Station Agents
- Better ways to reach the station agents
 - Some booths are far from elevator
- Print schedules at platform levels
 - Not used and wants to know why
 - Would like to see a return printed schedule

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm until the next regular meeting, Thursday, August 22, 2024.