

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Draft Minutes

August 22, 2013

1. Self-Introductions of Members

Members present: Janet Abelson; Randall Glock; Janice Armigo Brown; Peter Crockwell; Don Queen; Hale Zukas; Clarence Fischer; Herb Hastings; Jane Lewis; Katrina McCurdy; Roland Wong; Alan Smith; Larry Bunn

Members not present: Mary Fowler; Jim Gonsalves; Gerry Newell; David Jackson

Staff: Ike Nnaji; Bob Franklin

Directors, Speaker(s), Guest Staff, and Guests of the Public: Tian Feng; Crystal Raine; Paul Plecnik; Robert Raburn; Armando Sandoval; Marina Villena; Megan O'Brien; Sondra Solovay; Cindy Sharp; Mary Steiner

2. Public Comments

Megan O'Brien would like to have a better means to communicate with BART police, perhaps by text messaging.

Sondra Solovay is a local attorney whose focus is on weight discrimination issues. She asked for the BATF's support and help in advocating regarding the BART redesign issues. She shared some of the concerns she had regarding the lack of space in BART cars, even in the redesign.

Cindy Sharp would like to raise awareness regarding some of the issues the redesign of BART cars will cause, i.e., poles, immovable armrests.

3. Approval of Minutes of July 25, 2013 Meeting

No opposition to Janet Abelson's motion to approve minutes of the July 25, 2013 meeting, (second by Clarence Fischer). Motion carries with two abstentions by Herb Hastings and Jane Lewis.

4. Signage Wayfinding Update

After the update given by Tian Feng, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Janet Abelson said she sometimes encounters signage that obstructs the path of travel. Tian Feng replied that his team has to follow specific design criteria and that this should not be occurring.

Roland Wong commented that he oftentimes has trouble locating the elevators and would like better signage in order to help users locate the elevators.

Clarence Fischer stated that he has a number of comments. He will send Randall Glock an e-mail to forward on to Tian Feng.

Mary Steiner said that many people get confused when getting off the elevator when the ticket gate is facing the wrong way. She emphasized the importance of not only having the gates face the right way, but that there be more signs to help direct people.

Larry Bunn shared his concerns regarding the Union City Station. He feels that there is a lack in adequate signage, a lack in the detectable path of travel, as well as a lack in contrasting (i.e. cement benches) at and around the station.

Randall Glock stated that he and Tian Feng will continue the conversation and will meet again.

He encouraged members to share any concerns/questions they have regarding Union City for him to bring to staff's attention.

5. Member Letter Regarding Hearing Loop

Janice Armigo Brown shared her thoughts with members regarding the installation of the hearing loop system into stations. She would like to see the system placed into some of the busiest stations soon, instead of waiting for it to be installed into new stations, such as Warm Springs.

She suggests installing the hearing loop system into stations such as Embarcadero, Powell Street, San Francisco Airport, and Oakland Coliseum/Oakland Airport Connector, as these stations carry the largest volume of riders, who could most benefit from this assistive technology.

Alan Smith reported that the cost for such a system in the new Walnut Creek Library was \$700.

No opposition to Alan Smith's motion to urge BART to promptly move forward with installing a hearing loop system in some of the major stations, as outlined in the letter, to see whether it should be installed throughout the system, including the new stations, (second by Clarence Fischer).

A friendly amendment was made by Herb Hastings to prioritize the Oakland Airport Connector Station, (accepted by Alan Smith, second by Clarence Fischer).

Motion passes unanimously.

6. MacArthur Garage Project Update

After the update given by Paul Plecnik, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Janet Abelson would like for staff to make sure that accessible paths of travel are not reduced during the project.

A site visit will be arranged for the BATF when the time is appropriate.

7. Station Automated Announcements

Ike Nnaji stated that he needs to know the specific concerns members have related to this agenda item in order to pin down the right staff to bring in for a presentation.

Randall Glock and Alan Smith will work with staff on that.

8. Project Status Reports

General Disabilities Awareness Booklet Preparation:

Crystal Raine stated that they are currently working on exact verbiage to be used. They hope to finalize the quick cards by October, at which time members will be able to review them.

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled to occur sometime in September.

Stair Tread Color Contrast Project

Alan Smith shared that Don Allen is to select five stations for minor improvements and will share that with members after doing so.

eBART Project

Elevators are to be built with two sets of doors.

Richmond Garage and Intermodal Project

[No update at this time.]

Warm Springs Station

The Warm Springs Station is expected to open for service in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Berryessa/Milpitas Stations

[No response from staff yet, Alan Smith to follow up.]

9. Chairperson Announcements

The November 13th, 2013 BATF meeting is to be held in the same room.

The December 11th, 2013 meeting is to be held at 300 Lakeside in Oakland. (Expect exact location announcement from Bob Franklin.)

The BART website has been better updated related to BATF agendas and minutes.

There are openings for new members on the BATF committee.

Members are to review the new member application of Marina Villena at the next BATF meeting.

10. Staff Announcements

Members were asked to fill out replacement W-9 forms, as the forms that they had previously filled out were accidentally shredded.

Bob Franklin announced that red tickets are available today for members who cannot wait for the reimbursement on their Clipper Card, which was processed late. He further confirmed that in October, members will receive travel reimbursement for two quarters.

Ike Nnaji reminded members that comment cards are available at station agent booths, and it can be mailed, with no postage necessary.

He added that he has received comments regarding priority seating on cars wherein people are not giving up their seats. Unfortunately, the law does not permit BART to enforce priority seating.

11. Member Announcements

Roland Wong announced that he is now a member of the Independent Living Resource Center of San Francisco, which provides advocacy, information, and support to people with disabilities. For more information, members are encouraged to call (415)543-6222.

12. Future Agenda Topics

- Next Meeting September 26, 2013
- Chart of elevator locations in individual stations tied to car position locations
- In-service and out-of-service elevator information on destination signs and board signs
- Discussion on practice, policy, and procedure regarding handicap/senior priority seating violations
- Poorly marked bicycle and wheelchair space designations in cars

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of **Thursday**,

September 26, 2013, 2:00 p.m. (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)