

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Minutes

July 24, 2014

1. Self-Introductions of Members, Staff and Guests

Members present: Janet Abelson; Randall Glock; Janice Armigo Brown; Peter Crockwell; Don Queen; Hale Zukas; Clarence Fischer; Gerry Newell; Herb Hastings; David Jackson; Alan Smith; Larry Bunn; Marina Villena; Megan O'Brien; Roland Wong; Brandon Young

Members not present: Katrina McCurdy

Staff: Bob Franklin

Directors, Speaker(s), Guest Staff, and Guests of the Public: Director Robert Raburn; Tim Chan; Scott Vandussen; Duncan Watry; Elena Vanloo

2. Public Comments

[No public comments.]

3. Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2014 Meeting

Herb Hastings made a motion to approve minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting, (second by Gerry Newell).

Alan Smith made a friendly amendment to the motion, suggesting that the approval of the June 26, 2014 meeting minutes be deferred until the next meeting in August, as there was some confusion as to which version of the minutes were meant to be voted on, (second by David Jackson; and accepted by Herb Hastings and Gerry Newell)

Upon a short discussion, all motions were withdrawn.

No opposition to Gerry Newell's motion to approve amended minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting, (second by Janet Abelson).

Motion carries with abstentions from Randall Glock, Alan Smith, Brandon Young, and Megan O'Brien.

4. Montgomery/Embarcadero Capacity Plan

After the presentation given by Duncan Watry, people were allowed to clarify, ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Randall Glock commented that elevators should have the capability of serving all levels, if at all possible, especially in the case of an emergency

Roland Wong stated that it is important to have redundant elevators.

5. Oakland Airport Connector Update

After the update given by Scott Vandussen, people were allowed to clarify, ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Randall Glock thanked staff for working so closely with the BATF throughout this project.

Alan Smith asked when people would begin to hear the automated announcements. Scott Vandussen will follow-up with an answer at a later time.

Alan Smith also asked about the signage and hopes it will be large enough for people to see clearly.

Janet Abelson suggested that BART provide a list of telephone numbers for the appropriate airlines at the courtesy phones and payphones in case someone needs to call for assistance.

The site tour has tentatively been scheduled to occur in the beginning of October.

6. Powell Station Proposed Improvements

A list of proposed improvements was provided to members, and members were to vote for five items that they felt were most important.

7. Project Status Reports

Stair Tread Color Contrast

It has been relayed to Paul Oversier that the stairwell lights at both 12th Street and 19th Street stations need to be cleaned.

MacArthur Garage

A visual tour of the elevator has been tentatively set for the first or second week of August.

eBART

Alan Smith reported that the contract for eBART was signed one week ago.

Staff is working on two change orders; one regarding TTY phones and one regarding photocell lighting in the stairway.

The trains will be made and tested in Switzerland. It will be disassembled for shipment and reassembled in the United States.

Richmond Intermodal

Six-inch, yellow Armor-Tile-type product will be used and tested.

Berryessa/Milpitas Stations

Alan Smith will be drafting a letter on behalf of the BATF, stating that yellow truncated domes are preferred over black truncated domes. This letter will be reviewed by Bob Powers, Tian Feng, and Emil Jilwan, BART staff.

Oakland Airport Connector

At the last BATF meeting held on June 26, 2014, it was reported that the stair striping at the airport end of the garage is dark brown, not yellow.

Alan Smith reported that this issue was raised at the last Board meeting. He has not yet heard a resolution, but is pleased to see that the Board is listening to the needs of the BATF.

Union City Station Remodel

Six-inch, yellow Armor-Tile-type product will be installed, replacing the material that was originally used.

Concord Station Upgrade

The Downtown-specific plan has been approved by City Council.

EI Cerrito Del Norte Improvement

The use of the six-inch Armor-Tile-type product will be included in planning. A decision to install will depend in part on the test results from the Richmond Intermodal testing.

No updates were given for the following projects:

- Fleet of the Future
- Warm Springs Station
- Phase 2 – South Bay Extension
- 20th Street Entrance Canopy
- Berkeley Station Upgrade
- Joint Meeting with VTA CTA
- General Disability Awareness

Comments:

(eBART) - Janice Armigo Brown is concerned that TTY phones are not sufficient enough to serve the needs of the deaf community. She suggested the use of caption phones.

Roland Wong suggested that the BATF draft a letter including a list of their concerns, which can then be submitted to the Board.

8. Discuss BATF Election Process

Gerry Newell commented that elections should be held in fairness to other members, but reminded everyone that they can still vote for the same chairperson and vice-chairperson.

No opposition to Gerry Newell's motion to hold nominations and election of officers for the 2014-2015 term during the September BATF meeting, (second by Herb Hastings). Motion passes with abstentions from Randall Glock and Alan Smith.

9. Chairperson Announcements

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.
The December meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014.

Alan Smith will be talking to Director John McPartland, and will then have an update regarding path of travel at West Dublin at a future meeting.

Alan Smith reported that Bob Powers is aware of the importance of getting input from the BATF early on in a project.

Alan Smith also reported that Bob Powers will follow up with Shirley Ng regarding her review of BART policies.

BART is in the process of hiring a replacement for Jeff Garcia, who was the ADA compliance project manager.

Randall Glock encouraged members to invite people to fill the open member positions on the BATF committee.

He reminded members to inform him of any changes or updates made to their Clipper cards in order to receive travel reimbursement.

Randall Glock thanked Bob Franklin and Timothy Moore, website manager for BART, for their work in making updates to the Accessibility Task Force section.

10. Staff Announcements

Elena Vanloo and Bob Franklin are working on improving the Accessible Services page of the www.bart.gov website.

There will be a presentation at a future meeting.

11. Member Announcements

David Jackson announced that this might be the last meeting he will be attending as he is very close to getting employment. He thanked everyone for allowing him to express his views. He hopes to attend future meetings and continue to participate in activities of the BATF.

Larry Bunn announced that he is now the Board President for the Lions Center for the Blind in Oakland.

He mentioned that in November, he will be speaking at a two-day conference for an organization having to do with the blind and visually impaired, and he will be talking about employment and transportation.

Gerry Newell would like to hear an update on eBART in the August or September meeting.

He would also like to have an update on the General Disability Awareness project and how the booklets are working in the field pilot testing.

He asked about when members are due for ethics training.

Randall Glock will ask staff about ethics training, especially for the new members.

Roland Wong announced that the Independent Living Resource Center of San Francisco has moved. They are now located at 825 Howard Street in San Francisco, and is most easily accessed by the Powell Street station.

They will be having a grand opening and ADA anniversary celebration on July 26th, 2014 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and all are invited to attend.

Peter Crockwell shared that the East Bay Paratransit has been doing a lot of work regarding emergency procedures and earthquake preparedness, and suggested that the BATF do the same for BART.

Members expressed an interest in inviting Grace Crunican back to speak at a future BATF meeting.

12. Future Agenda Topics

- Presentation and demonstration on caption phones
- Discussion on “next station (name of station), doors opening on (side)” announcements with appropriate staff present
- Clarence Fischer suggested that when a train comes into a different platform than usual, that the train destination signs include that information, as the deaf/hard of hearing community cannot hear the verbal announcement.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of **Thursday, August 28, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.**