

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
February 27, 2025

1. Roll Call of Members:

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

Quorum of eight (8) in-person BATF members. Two members participated remotely: Catherine Callahan, her first “Just Cause,” and Roland Wong used his second “Just Cause.”

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Ryan Greene-Roesel

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

Ahmad Rassai (BART staff)
Tyler Brown (Caltrans)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)

Alicia (Captioner)
Shana Ray (Guest)
Janien Harrison (Guest)
Natalie King Sleigh (Guest)
Sara Desumala (Guest)
Kelly Huerta (Guest)
Tyler Sha (Guest)
F. Ventura (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Christine Arseneault highlighted Aleta Dupre's email and thanked her for the message:

Aleta Dupre shared her thoughts for the 2025 BATF goals. She feels that awareness is an important part of BATF. She asked to seek common grounds and themes in advocacy and added that commitment needs to be another goal from the BATF members. She asked to consider the value that comes with each individual participating during BATF meetings.

3. Approval of November 21, 2024 meeting minutes and January 23, 2025 meeting minutes

Hillary Brown moved approval of the November 21, 2024 meeting minutes with amendments. Herb Hastings second the motion.

- Motion passes with thirteen (13) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstention.

Christine Arseneault rescheduled the approval of the January 23, 2025 meeting minutes for the next scheduled BATF meeting. She asked if Officers can receive a copy of the draft minutes before they are posted to the public. Elena Van Loo will reach out to BART's legal department to see if this can be accomplished.

4. Transit accessibility and the draft Caltrans Bay Area Transit Plan

Tyler Brown, presenter, introduced himself as the transportation planner from Caltrans.

He shared the bike, pedestrian, and transit plans are part of the District 4 Modal Plans.

He listed major tasks:

- Public & Stakeholder Engagement
- Transit Inventory & Existing Conditions
- Goals, Objectives & Performance Measures
- Identify Transit Needs
- Transit Best Practices Toolkit
- Transit Plan Final Report & Map

Tyler Brown went over the timeline starting with development of draft plan components from July 2023 to December 2024: the public draft will be available for feedback in March 2025, and the final plan is projected to be released in May 2025.

He mentioned there were four results: Barriers to Transit Use, service frequency and connectivity; Accessibility and infrastructure; Safety, security, and comfort; and Affordability and convenience.

Tyler Brown went over transit best practices toolkit and defined what Transit-Access Facilities means:

Transit-access facilities are infrastructure focused on improving the experience for transit passengers by providing generally direct, comfortable, and accessible infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists to access existing transit stop locations.

This toolbox includes guiding passengers to bus stops, improving pedestrian and bicycle access to bus stops, mobility hubs, and park-and-rides.

Tyler Brown went over the other strategies to support transit in District 4 (Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Marin County, Napa County, San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, Solano County, Sonoma County):

- **Transit Planning & Funding** – Support the development and implementation of Caltrans Transit Policy, include transit more formally
- **Project delivery** – Improve transparency and predictability, opportunities to streamline
- **Data Collection & Performance measures** – Monitor transit priority implementation on the State Highway System
 - **Staffing up** Build up transit planning function
 - Point-of-contact for transit agencies
 - Engagement to support transit equity

He wanted to share what are the key questions for the accessibility task force:

- What are the key barriers and areas for improvement in accessing public transit on Caltrans State Transportation Network?
- What transit locations on the State Transportation Network are most difficult to access?
- What can Caltrans do to further support your transit experience on the State Transportation Networks?

Joshua Saunders asked if there will be better notices when bus stops have changed from one location to another. He mentioned he is visually impaired and he doesn't receive updated notices soon enough. Tyler Brown mentioned the direct transit agency is responsible for posting updated, new bus stops and thanked him for sharing.

Hillary Brown liked the presentation and they shared they were involved with bike program with Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Accessible Advisory Committee in San Francisco.

Clarence R. Fischer mentioned Caltrans could be a leader if Caltrans can somehow develop signal prioritization on the State Route (SR) and/or the United States (US) routes where a firetruck, or an ambulance, or police can trigger a signal as a first priority and there would be a second priority for buses which would help to speed up trips overall so that the bus drivers to get to one stop to another stop on time. Tyler Brown liked Clarence R. Fischer vision and thanked for his suggestions.

Danny Kodmur voiced a particular concern for San Pablo Avenue since that is part of a highway system that goes through multiple jurisdictions and goes right through his neighborhood. He stated he runs into a bit of a contradiction on who sets the speed limit which is not being enforced on San Pablo. He learned the speed limit is set by the State of California and not set by the city and/or county jurisdictions. He noticed the speed limit on San Pablo is not uniform. Danny Kodmur stated there should be a safe uniform speed limit for all of San Pablo Avenue so that bike riders, pedestrians, and people who uses wheelchair can cross the street safely and added San Pablo Avenue is known for drivers who go over the speed limit. Tyler Brown mentioned on San Pablo Avenue is working on better infrastructure to increase safety.

Daveed Mandell mentioned some projects do not work together with City and/or county with Caltrans. He voiced lack of safety and accessibility for pedestrians. Tyler Brown thanked him for his comments and suggestions.

Sam Buman asked about an ongoing construction along San Pablo Avenue. Tyler Brown mentioned Caltrans was not part of the project along the San Pablo Avenue.

5. Nominate and elect BATF Vice Chair (and 2nd Vice Chair, if open)

Agenda item moved to a future BATF meeting.

6. BATF committee goals for 2025

Christine Arseneault led the agenda item.

The BATF goals were discussed, with the following highlights:

Christine Arseneault:

- Have a subcommittee for the new faregate
- Report on claims, cases regarding to lack of accessibility within the BART System
 - Receive summarized report

Danny Kodmur:

- Understand the process when a customer rider reports a claim in regard to accessibility

Daveed Mandell:

- Making BART more accessible especially for people with low vision and/or people who are blind
 - Better wayfinding through smartphones
 - Avoid another class action lawsuit due to lack of accessibility within the BART System

Joshua Saunders:

- Have the sounds from the faregates be more consistent through the smartphone and/or Clipper Card
 - Some smartphones generate sounds and some smartphones do not generate the sounds

Sam Buman:

- Basic disability awareness crash course for the BART Board of Directors, especially for the newest BART Board Directors

7. New committee member nomination

- **Janien Harrison**

Janien Harrison introduced herself and expressed why she is interested in joining the BATF.

Christine Arseneault moved to recommend Janien Harrison as a BATF member. Herb Hastings seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with fourteen (14) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstention

8. Debrief BATF Meet and Greet event on January 23, 2025

Christine Arseneault thanked Elena Van Loo for organizing the BATF Meet and Greet event and having the event in January was a good idea. She mentioned three BART Board of Directors attended and a lot of BART staff attended. She thanked Danny Kodmur for sharing that Ed Robert's mother passed away. Zona Roberts was a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities.

Hillary Brown shared they enjoyed the BATF Meet and Greet gathering.

Sam Buman thought the event was really good and wasn't sure how the event would turn out but it was great to see BART staff there. And he mentioned it was great to see BART Board of Directors there and met with the new BART Board of Directors.

Clarence R. Fischer wished there were BART staff from other transportation departments to better represent and communicate with. He mentioned he would like to see more staff for next year's event.

9. Member announcements

No member announcements.

10. Staff announcements

Elena Van Loo informed appointed BATF members that Ethical Training AB1234 is coming up and will reach out to those who needs to be recertified every two years, as well as newly appointed BATF members.

11. Chairperson announcements

No Chairperson announcements.

12. Future agenda items – member suggest topics

- New faregate installment update
- Quarterly BART's claims open related to accessibility within the BART System
- Disability Awareness
 - Sam Buman wanted to present to BATF members and members of the public to be passed on to the BART Board of Directors
- Work plan for making the BART System more accessible for people with visual impairments or people who are blind
 - Strategies
 - Try out possible new plans and give input
 - Using a third company to assist with the workplan
- Disability access complaints within the BART System reports
 - Possibly to have quarterly reports

13. Adjournment

Sam Buman moved to adjourn the February 27, 2025 meeting and Herb Hastings second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, March 27, 2025.