

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
January 22, 2026

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Herb Hastings, **Chair**
2. Joshua Saunders, **Vice Chair**
3. Hillary Brown, **2nd Vice Chair**
4. Anita Ortega
5. Bruce Yow
6. Catherine Callahan
7. Clarence R. Fischer
8. Danny Kodmur
9. Daveed Mandell
10. Esther Waltz
11. Janice Armigo Brown
12. Roland Wong
13. Sam Buman
14. Shana Ray
15. VACANT
16. VACANT
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Kevin McDonald
Ryan Greene-Roesel

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

Director Janice Li
Director Edward Wright
Ahmad Rassai (BART staff)
Wyeth McAdam (BART staff)
Ryan Manriquez (Guest)
Aleta Dupree (Guest)

Valerie Buell (Guest)
Vi Ibarra (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)
Sarah Desumala (Guest)
Tanya Washington (Guest)
Nate Miley (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Ryan Manriquez stated that wayfinding is critically important as a transit user. He recommended installing signage at both the upper and lower levels of the 19th St. BART Station to indicate which elevators do not provide street-level access. The signage should direct riders to use the elevators on each level to reach the concourse, where additional signs should guide them to the street elevator located at the opposite end of the station.

Valerie Buell noted that interacting with Clipper Card customer service can be challenging and emphasized the need for improved support from the Clipper Card Customer Service Department.

Sarah Desumala observed that the new faregates require holding the Clipper Card for several seconds, whereas the older faregates allowed faster passage.

Aleta Dupree asked how BATF members and members of the public can get to know each other. She stated that truly getting to know each other means understanding and sharing your experiences.

Director Janice Li and Director Edward Wright introduced themselves and expressed their gratitude to the BATF.

Wyeth McAdam introduced herself and shared that she works for BART as an Independent Police Investigator.

3. Approval of the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes

Daveed Mandell moved approval of the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes. Sam Buman seconded the motion.

- Motion passed with twelve (12) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstentions

4. 2026 Annual BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) Participation Packet

Elena Van Loo presented on the agenda item with the full presentation included in the BATF January 2026 agenda packet.

The BATF committee discussed the item. A few comments, concerns, and suggestions were provided:

- Hillary Brown asked whether Ethics Training is required every three years or every two years.
- Esther Waltz noted she plans to read the 2026 Annual BATF Participation Packet in full and may have questions later. She also mentioned she might complete Ethics Training (AB 1234) online.
- Daveed Mandell requested clarification regarding BART’s branding, materials, equipment, and information.
- Danny Kodmur asked for more details about the Code of Conduct under “Professional Conduct,” specifically the statement: “Neither shall they engage in acts which will subject the District to criticism or adversely affect the interests of the District.”
- Danny Kodmur also raised concerns about avoiding serial meetings or outside discussions of agenda items, noting this could violate the Brown Act, as referenced in the “Quick Reference to Sturgis Parliamentary Procedures.”
- Bruce Yow asked whether BATF members are required to complete diversity and sexual harassment training.
- Bruce Yow asked if BATF members need to complete Form 700 (Conflict of Interest – California Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests).
- Joshua Saunders asked whether sending the draft BATF agenda to the Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair would violate the Brown Act.
- Shana Ray asked if members who need to complete the Ethics Training will be notified.

Aleta Dupree commented that the presentation was informative and emphasized the importance of taking this agenda item seriously. She highlighted that the Code of Conduct is essential for both BATF members and the public.

5. Member Announcements

No member announcements.

6. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo shared a few staff announcements:

- Esther Waltz has been officially appointed as a BATF member by the BART Board of Directors, effective January 22, 2026.
- Starting February 26, 2026, BATF meetings will return to East Bay Paratransit on Broadway.
- An in-person Ethics Training AB 1234 session will take place this year. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.
- The BART Board of Directors will hold its annual workshop on February 12, 2026. Please note that travel reimbursements will not be provided, as this is a public meeting.

Kevin McDonald shared that on January 8, 2026, the BART Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing BATF to hold remote meetings. He also noted that travel reimbursement will continue to be available for those who choose to attend in person.

7. Chairperson announcements

Herb Hasting shared that the Clipper Card 2.0 project is ongoing.

Herb Hastings noted that the elevator signs at 12th St. BART Station still display “Warm Springs” even though the line now ends at Berryessa/North San Jose.

8. Future agenda items – member suggests topics

- Braille and Braille signage
- BART’s new faregates concerns
 - Sensors
 - Doors are broken
 - Fare evasion
- New BART and Uber integration and ride discount program

9. Adjournment

Clarence R. Fischer moved to adjourn the January 22, 2026, meeting. Esther Waltz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, February 26, 2026.