

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
2150 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94612, P.O. Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94604-2688
510-464-6000

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA
BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE (BATF)
July 23, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

WAYS TO ATTEND

1. In-Person: The meeting will be held at East Bay Paratransit location at 1750 Broadway, Oakland, California 94612, 1st Floor conference room. The facility is served by public transportation. The nearest BART Station is the 19th Street BART Station, and there are multiple AC Transit routes to the meeting site.

2. Teleconferencing Options

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86225454828>

Go to www.Zoom.com or call 1-833-548-0282 (toll-free) and enter access code 862 2545 4828

HOW TO ADDRESS THE BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE (BATF)

The public may address the BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) on any matter on this agenda, or during the “Public Comment” section for matters not on the agenda. There is a two (2) minute time limit.

During the Meeting:

- Appear in person and request to make a public comment.
- Join by phone by calling 1-833-548-0282 and entering access code 862 2545 4828; dial *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute when requested to speak.
- Join via Zoom by entering access code 862 2545 4828 and using the “raise hand” feature, or use the direct meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86225454828>

In Advance:

Email written comments to evanloo@bart.gov, using “public comment” as the subject line. Submit comments as early as possible. All emailed comments must be received before 12:00 p.m. on July 21, 2026, to be included in the record.

MEETING DETAILS

Agendas, Updates and Notices available online: <https://bart.legistar.com>

Consent Calendar items are considered routine and will be vote on with one motion, unless an item is removed for discussion by a Director or a member of the public.

Any action items requiring more than a majority vote for passage will be so noted.

Full rules of meeting participation: www.BART.gov/Board

Please refrain from wearing scented products (perfume, cologne, after-shave, etc.).

ACCOMMODATIONS

BART provides accommodations for persons with disabilities or with limited English proficiency. To arrange services, please contact the District Secretary's Office one to five days in advance, depending upon the service requested. Alternatively, BART will reasonably assist a member of the public who wishes to provide their own translation services. Please contact the Office of the District Secretary at (510) 464-6083 for information.

Meeting Location

East Bay Paratransit, 1750 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612
1st Floor Conference Room

1. Roll Call of BATF Members. (For information) 5 minutes
Self-Introductions: Staff and Guests.
2. Public Comment. (For information)
An opportunity for members of the public to comment on items not on the agenda.
Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per person
3. Approval of the May 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes. 5 minutes
(For information/action)
4. Connect Bay Area Act – Focused Improvements Expenditure 20 minutes
Plan. (For information)
5. BART Celebrating 36 Years of the Americans with Disabilities 40 minutes
Act (ADA). (For information)
6. Member Announcements. (For information) 5 minutes
7. Staff Announcements. (For information) 5 minutes
8. Chairperson Announcements. (For information) 5 minutes
9. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics. 5 minutes
Next Meeting Scheduled: August 27, 2026 – Thursday
10. Adjournment.



Approval of the May 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

BATF

July 23, 2026

Agenda 3

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

BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

DRAFT Committee Meeting Minutes

May 28, 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. Ryan Manriquez
14. Sam Buman
15. Shana Ray
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 Robert Raburn
Michael Gerbracht (BART staff)
Ahmad Rassai (BART staff)
Aleta Dupree (Guest)
Vi Ibarra (Guest)

Jerry Grace (Guest)
Sarah Desumula (Guest)
Mussie Gebre (Guest)
Masooma Afgan (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Sarah Desumula announced that on June 17, 2026, there will be a Bay Area People First (BAPF) discussion held via Zoom. She invited BATF members and members of the public to join the meeting.

Aleta Dupree introduced herself and expressed her hope that the work of the BATF members will continue, emphasizing the importance of maintaining broad perspectives. She urged BART to help educate the public about discount cards available to seniors and people with disabilities, including those with hidden disabilities.

Vi Ibarra introduced herself and thanked Kevin McDonald for attending a Contra Costa Developmental Disabilities Council meeting and providing an overview of BART's accessibility features, fares, discounts, and ways the public can participate in BATF meetings.

Vi Ibarra also emphasized that train operators need to be aware that some riders, especially those using walkers, require extra time to board, exit, and get settled before the train begins moving, so they do not risk falling once the train is in motion.

3. Approval of the April 23, 2026 meeting minutes

Clarence R. Fischer motioned for approval of the April 23, 2026 meeting minutes. Esther Waltz second the motion.

- Motion passed with thirteen (13) in favor, zero (0) against, and one (1) abstention

4. BART's Email and Text Alerts

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

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

- Roland Wong mentioned that he uses BART's email and text alerts and said this helps him when planning his travel within the BART system.
- Ryan Manriquez shared that he immediately signed up for BART's email and text alerts after seeing the presentation. He stated that one of the most gut-wrenching experiences is unexpectedly encountering an accessibility barrier, and emphasized the importance of proactive communication about outages so riders can plan ahead. He also asked whether there is a way to find out how many people have signed up for BART's email and text alerts. Ryan Manriquez asked if there are alerts letting riders know that the elevator is now in service or how long the elevator will be out of service.
- Clarence R. Fischer suggested adding elevator out of service notices to the trip planning section under bart.gov and exploring the possibility of including elevator mitigation information there as well. He acknowledged that this may be a significant request but noted it would be a positive step forward.
- Hillary Brown mentioned that she plans to sign up for BART's email and text alerts.
- Herb Hastings asked about the response time when elevators or escalators go out of service and noted that you can also use BART's official smartphone app to check the status of elevators and escalators.
- Roland Wong recommended indicating whether an elevator outage affects the concourse level, platform level, or street-to-concourse level.

Sara Desumula shared that she plans to sign up for BART's email and text alerts because she rides BART regularly.

5. BART's Elevator Modernization Program

Michael Gerbracht and Ryan Greene-Roesel presented on the agenda item with the presentation included in the BATF May 2026 agenda packet.

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

- Hillary Brown asked how elevator mitigation would be handled during large events in San Francisco, noting that heavy crowds could affect access when paratransit services are being requested.
- Clarence R. Fischer commented that some phases should be completed in a single effort rather than being broken into multiple parts. For example, he felt that the Embarcadero work should be done as one phase instead of several, while acknowledging that this might mean not all elevators would remain in service.

- Ryan Manriquez said he is excited that the elevators will become more reliable and faster for riders to depend on. He also noted that BART will need to prepare the community, especially people with disabilities, for the upcoming elevator modernization work.
- Ryan Manriquez had comments to share:
 - He asked if there was a deep dive into the design within the elevators and asked for feedback on the new design.
 - He asked if BART is evaluating the speed of the elevators.
 - He inquired about the placement of interior elevator buttons to ensure they are more accessible.
- Joshua Saunders asked whether BART has conducted elevator modernization projects in the past and inquired about the funding sources being used for the elevator modernization whether coming from capital or operating funds.
- Sam Buman said that the situation at the Downtown Berkeley BART Station is concerning because many BART riders, including himself, have disabilities. He asked whether riders would be rerouted to the Ashby BART Station and noted that careful planning will be needed as stations undergo elevator modernization.
- Roland Wong said he would like to see a presentation on the elevator designs, particularly the diameter. He asked whether some stations will receive larger elevators or if they will remain the same size. He also asked how the modernization will affect the elevator attendants at the four San Francisco stations: Embarcadero BART Station, Montgomery BART Station, Powell BART Station, and Civic Center/UN Plaza BART Station. He noted that the elevator attendants already take a lot of space in the elevators and would like to see more space available.
- Catherine Callahan had a few comments about elevator mitigation:
 - She mentioned there are alternatives by taking the public bus service but takes a long time to get from one BART Station to another BART Station that can double one's commute, especially from Bay Fair BART Station to Hayward BART Station.
 - She stated when it comes to Embarcadero BART Station, it can be tricky to determine the appropriate bus station to use if paratransit is being used during elevator modernization. She stated that she opted to use Muni bus service since it is more convenient.
- Danny Kodmur had several questions along with comments:
 - He asked whether BATF members will have an opportunity to discuss relocating call buttons to make them more accessible for individuals who cannot easily reach them. He noted that some call buttons are currently placed in locations that are not convenient or accessible.
 - He asked whether elevator sensors are functioning properly, especially in elevators without attendants. He expressed interest in having these

elevators operate in automatic mode so riders would not need to contact a Station Agent through the call box.

- He asked whether cameras will be installed as part of the elevator modernization program. He would like Station Agents to have access to these cameras to assist when issues arise. He also suggested installing cameras near the accessible faregates, including in the enclosure areas.
- Herb Hastings asked whether the Oakland International Airport (OAK) airport connector will be affected during the elevator modernization program. He also requested more information about the elevator mitigation plans.
- Daveed Mandell expressed concern that the elevator modernization program may significantly disrupt people's lives, especially when elevators are out of service or when alternative wayfinding is challenging for individuals who use wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility devices. He shared his personal frustration with not being able to reach his destination when accessibility is limited. Daveed Mandell strongly urged that all local paratransit services be notified in advance about the elevator mitigation program so they can ensure adequate staffing and support, emphasizing that this level of coordination is essential.
- Anita Ortega asked whether all fifty BART station elevators will be upgraded.

Jerry Grace expressed concern about the high noise levels expected during the elevator modernization work and noted that he is sensitive to loud sounds. He requested that updated wayfinding information be provided in advance for each project so that riders are aware of what to expect.

6. Third Quarter Compiled and Analyzed Customer Complaints Related to Accessibility

Kevin McDonald presented on the agenda item with the presentation included in the BATF May 2026 agenda packet.

- Hillary Brown stated that she appreciated seeing the comparison of claims for each quarter that was presented and thanked Customer Service for tracking accessibility related claims.
- Clarence R. Fischer asked for clarification on whether escalators automatically stop if there is an issue involving a scooter or another object on the escalator.
- Esther Waltz stated that she has seen larger scooters with big wheels being taken onto escalators and asked whether there is a weight limit for the escalators.
- Ryan Manriquez had questions and comments:
 - He asked whether the number of elevator-related claims reflected repeat issues at the same station, multiple complaints about a single elevator

being out of service, or if the claims were spread across individual stations.

- He shared that it is really promising to see the decrease in faregate issues. He thinks this shows that as BART rolled out new technology, riders are becoming more familiar with them and how to navigate them.
- He asked about disabled riders who are still having accessibility issues with the accessible faregates are being received and communicated to BART's faregate team for resolution. He acknowledged that the new faregate technology closes more quickly but has been proven safe, and he asked how many issues may be related to Clipper or tap-to-pay not working on the first attempt. He requested clarification on this topic.
- Joshua Saunders is glad the number of claims has decreased.
- Shana Ray also expressed that she is happy to hear the number of claims has decreased.
- Herb Hastings stated that it is good the number of claims is going down but voiced concern that the numbers may increase again once the elevator modernization project begins.

Aleta Dupree expressed concerns about people being prejudged. She explained that she does not have visible signs of a disability and worries that she may be accused of not being disabled when using priority seating. Although this has not happened to her, she wondered whether it has happened to others and asked if there are ways to address this issue.

7. Member Announcements

Hillary Brown shared on May 29, 2026; Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is hosting "Move Bay Area East Bay Summit" in Lafayette.

Ryan Manriquez echoed Hillary Browns sentiments of attending "Move Bay Area East Bay Summit." He mentioned it is a great opportunity to connect with transit leaders across the East Bay. He mentioned that Director Rayburn will be there and added that he will part of the panel.

8. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo congratulated Ryan Greene-Roesel on her promotion to Director of Customer Access and Accessibility.

Kevin McDonald shared that East Bay Paratransit has implemented new software that launched on May 1, 2026.

Kevin McDonald shared that East Bay Paratransit website, eastbayparatransit.org, has undergone a major improvements, updates to make it more user-friendly.

9. Chairperson Announcements

No Chairperson announcements

10. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

Next Meeting Scheduled: June 25, 2026

- What happens if the Regional Transit ballot measure does not pass in November of 2026
- How does the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) plan incorporate accessibility components
- Lafayette BART Station construction update
 - Related to accessible access
- BART's trip planner
 - Why regional transfer discounts are not included in the trip planner's estimate of how much a trip will cost.
- Wayfinding for people who are visually impaired or people who are blind updates
- ADA access from inside the paid area at split platforms stations

11. Adjournment

Hillary Brown moved to adjourn the May 28, 2026, meeting. Clarence R. Fischer seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, June 25, 2026.



Connect Bay Area Act –
Focused Improvements
Expenditure Plan

BATF

July 23, 2026

Agenda 4



Connect Bay Area Act

Rider-Focused Improvements Expenditure Plan



June 1, 2026

Agenda

1. SB 63 Connect Bay Area Act
2. Rider Focused Improvements
 - Fare Programs
 - Accessibility
 - Transit Priority/Mapping & Wayfinding
3. Expenditure Plan Process



Connect Bay Area Act (SB 63)

Overview

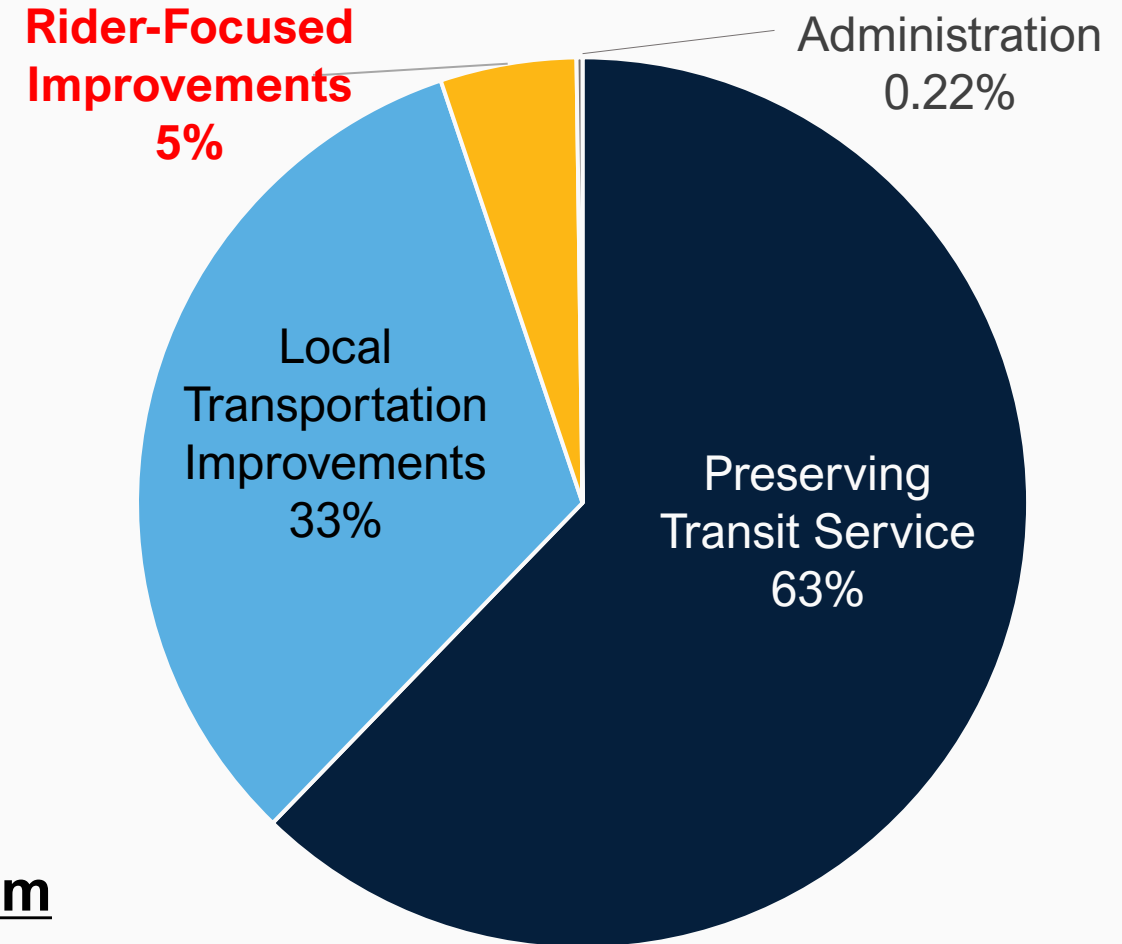
- Authorizes a November 2026 ballot measure in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties to prevent major service cuts on AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, and SF Muni
- Revenue Mechanism: 14-year sales tax
 - Generating about \$980 M/year in FY2026-27
 - Annual average of \$1,016 M in current year dollars (Sperry Capital Inc. 2024 Analysis)
 - Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara: **0.5% rate**
 - San Francisco: **1% rate**



Connect Bay Area Act Funding Categories

- **Preserving Transit Service**
 - Funding to BART, Muni, Caltrain, AC Transit, SF Bay Ferry, and East Bay bus agencies
- **Local Transportation Improvements**
 - Funding to Santa Clara VTA, SamTrans, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and Alameda County Transportation Commission
- **Rider-Focused Improvements**
- **Administration**

Focus of this item



*Percentages are estimated

Rider-Focused Improvements

- The Connect Bay Area Act allocates 5% or approx. \$45 million/year to the Commission for rider-focused improvements to make transit more affordable, accessible and easier to use, for example and not limited to:



Fare programs (~\$25 million)

- Fund free and reduced-cost transfers, which can save multi-agency commuters \$1,500/year. Projected to increase ridership by 30,000 daily trips.
- Double the capacity of the Clipper START discount program to make transit more affordable for an additional 100,000 low-income riders.

Accessibility (~\$10 million)

- Investments in accessibility, such as streamlined paratransit eligibility and cross-jurisdictional paratransit, will improve experience for older adults and people with disabilities.



Transit Priority and Mapping and Wayfinding (~\$10 million)

- Mapping and wayfinding upgrades at intermodal hubs and strategic transit priority investments will make it easier to navigate the system and improve bus speed and reliability on significant corridors.



Rider-Focused Improvements Expenditure Plan

MTC Resolution No. 4767

Purpose:

- To provide additional information about the types of projects and programs that would be funded by rider-focused investments given the very limited descriptions included in SB 63/statute
- Establish a process for MTC, in partnership with transit operators through the Regional Network Management Framework, to develop a program of projects/programs for the use of rider-focused improvement funds

Connect Bay Area Act

Senate Bill 63 (2025)

**Rider-Focused Improvements
Expenditure Plan**

June 2026

**MTC Resolution 4767
Attachment A**

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Regional Network Management Section**

<http://www.mtc.ca.gov>

Fare Programs

Description in SB 63: *“Fare programs, including free and reduced-cost transfers and expanding the Clipper START program”**

- Delivering rider-friendly fare products and programs helps make transit more affordable for today’s users and encourages more people to use transit.
- Goals: affordable access to transit, increase ridership, promote interagency collaboration
- Projects and Programs: \$25 million per year
 - Clipper START
 - Free/Reduced Inter-agency Transfers
 - Fare Programs



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

*Source: California Government Code Section 67750 § 10-12

Transit Priority/Mapping and Wayfinding

- **Transit Priority** investments improve transit travel time and reliability, enhancing the experience for riders and lowering costs for operators.
 - Goals: reduce travel time for riders, increase ridership, reduce operational costs
- The **Regional Mapping and Wayfinding Project** is working to make it easier to ride transit in the Bay Area by making wayfinding materials more consistent and easier to identify.
 - Goals: provide easy-to-understand transit information for travelers and improve the accessibility of the transit system for all types of users
- Projects and Programs: \$10 million per year

Description in SB 63: *“Mapping and wayfinding and transit priority projects and programs”**



Accessibility

Description in SB 63: “Accessibility programs and projects”*

- Improve mobility and access to services for older adults and people with disabilities and give more Bay Area residents the freedom to get around the region independently.
- Goals: improve mobility/access to services and better service delivery
- Projects and Programs: \$10 million per year
 - Projects/Programs in the Coordinated Plan
 - Improvements to Paratransit Service



Proposed Programming Process

- MTC Commission will adopt a multi-year program of projects for rider-focused improvements at least every four years
- Program will be developed by MTC staff in partnership with transit operators through the Regional Network Management framework
 - Regional Network Management Council
 - Customer Advisory Group
- Program of projects will be consistent with state statute and all applicable geographic use of funds conditions
- MTC Commission may revise MTC Resolution No. 4767 as needed in the future



MTC Presentations

- Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Council
 - May 26th
- Regional Network Management Council
 - June 1st
- Regional Network Management Committee
 - June 12th
- MTC Commission
 - June 24th





BART Celebrating 36
Years of the Americans
with Disabilities Act
(ADA)

BATF

July 23, 2026

Agenda 5



BART Celebrating 36 years of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) - July 23, 2026



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - 101

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush
- **ADA** is a federal **civil rights** law
- Prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities under five titles:
 - 1) Employment
 - 2) State and Local Government
 - Public Transportation
 - 3) Public Accommodations
 - 4) Telecommunications
 - 5) Miscellaneous Provisions

Harold Willson



Harold Willson was a pioneering disability rights advocate who became the first person in a wheelchair to ride a train on the San Francisco Bay Area Transit (BART) system. His activism, demonstration, and collaboration with system directors directly led to mandatory ADA upgrades, including elevators in every station.

Photo above - Harold Willson (left) smiles at Eric Staley (right) on a BART train in 1972 — Photo courtesy of Kaiser Permanente Heritage Resources

ADA Historical Photos



Photo of protestors sitting in wheelchairs protesting in front of the White House - 1972



Photo showing George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law, July 26, 1990



Diane Coleman in Los Angeles sitting in her power wheelchair with protest sign which reads "Accessible Transportation Now"

Thank you, BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF)



Photo to the left, BATF members
Left to right:

1. Clarence R. Fischer
2. Janice Armigo Brown
3. Joshua Saunders
4. Shana Ray
5. Esther Waltz
6. Danny Kodmur,
7. Daveed Mandell
8. Herb Hastings
9. Bruce Yow
10. Roland Wong
11. Hillary Brown
12. Sam Buman
13. Catherine Callahan
14. Anita Ortega
15. Ryan Manriquez (not in photo)

Thank you for providing valuable feedback and guidance to the BART Board of Directors and staff on disability-related issues, and for advocating on behalf of people with disabilities and seniors to ensure the BART system is accessible to everyone since its beginning in 1975. We truly could not have accomplished this without BATF.

BATF's Accomplishments:

- Hale Zukas was honored as disability activist at Ashby BART Station – 2012
- General Disability Awareness tri-fold pamphlet given to the BART Police Department to use as a reference - 2014
- Advocated for accessibility to the new Fleet of the Future (FOF) floor plans – 2015
- Hearing Loops installed within the BART stations – 2017
- 10 new appointed BATF members – 2023 to 2026
- New Out-of-Service elevator signages for all BART stations – 2024
- Advised on the new next generation accessible faregates – 2025
- Improved “chime” faregate tones to make BART stations easier to navigate for people who are low vision or blind – 2026

Fun Photos

Photo to the right,
Chris Mullin to the
left, Roland Wong to
the right



Photo to the left, Herb
Hasting waving inside
the front of the new
trains

Photo below, Zoom group photos of BATF members and members of the public during COVID 2020





Photo above, a few BATF members on a field trip at a BART station

Photo below, two people in power wheelchairs riding the old BART train



Photo to the right, from left to right, Herb Hastings, Clarence R. Fischer, and Roland Wong



Photo below Janice Armigo Brown standing inside the new BART train next to the hearing loop logo



Photo above, Hale Zukas inside Ashby BART Station, platform level



Photo above, two people who are visually impaired, inside the new BART train at a sensory orientation that BART hosted



Photo above, Bob Franklin presenting at a BATF meeting

Photo below, Ryan Manriquez, center, with two of his friends





Photo above, Shana Ray, to the left, Joshua Saunders, to the right



Photo above, Rodd Lee, to the left, Danny Kodmur, to the right



Photo above, a group gathering discussing low vision/blind features at BART. Hillary Brown, upper left corner

This is not the end...



07.07.26 (<https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2026/news20260707-1>)

BART celebrates Disability Pride Month: How BART builds access into every ride



July is Disability Pride Month, marking the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. ADA law gives people with disabilities the ability to live, work, and move through the world with dignity and independence. For a transit agency, that mission is not abstract. Accessibility isn't an add-on at BART; it's foundational to how the system is built, operated, and improved.

This July marks 36 years since the ADA became law, and BART continues to invest in the features, training, and community partnerships that make the system usable for everyone.

A history rooted in advocacy



Harold Willson is pictured on a BART train. Photo courtesy of Kaiser Permanente Heritage Resources.

The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. BART's commitment to accessibility predates the federal law.

BART became the first major U.S. transit system to build elevator access into every station before the system opened in 1972. Elevators at every station was not in the original planning documents, but incorporated thanks to the work of pioneering disability rights advocate Harold Willson. His activism and direct collaboration with system directors led to mandatory accessibility upgrades across the system, including the requirement that every station have an elevator. Read more about Wilson's contributions to BART [here](#).



Hale Zukas pictured at Ashby Station in July 2020.

Another name central to BART's accessibility history is disability rights legend Hale Zukas, a key figure in the passage of the ADA itself. Zukas consulted directly with BART since the 1970s, and even helped design the button placement inside BART elevators so they'd be easy to reach for wheelchair users. Read more about Zukas in [this article](#).

Zukas cofounded the BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) in 1975 and served as a member for 47 years. He passed away on November 30, 2022.

About the BART Accessibility Task Force



Photo caption: BART recently visited 19th St. Oakland Station with members of the Accessibility Task Force, including Chair Herb Hastings (far left), Roland Wong (second from left), and Sam Buman (far right) to walk through and take photos with the station's accessibility features. They were joined by Elena Van Loo (second from right), BART Sr. Admin. Analyst and liaison to the BATF in the Customer Access and Accessibility Department.

The [BATE](#) meets monthly to advise the BART Board of Directors and staff on disability-related issues and advocates on behalf of people with disabilities and seniors to make the BART system accessible to people regardless of disability or age.

One of the recent contributions of the BATF, along with other disability organizations, was endorsing a floor plan for BART's new train cars designed to meet the diverse needs of people with disabilities. Their

consultations led to the modification of the cars' floor plan so that passengers with more than one wheelchair user in their group could sit together, with both wheelchair areas relocated to the center door of each car and floor-to-ceiling poles removed to maximize accessible paths. Other resulting features include the third door per car, wider aisles, and intercoms positioned at wheelchair-accessible height.

BATF members include Janice Armigo Brown, Hillary Brown (2nd Vice Chair), Sam Buman, Catherine Callahan, Clarence R. Fischer, Herb Hastings (Chair), Danny Kodmur, Daveed Mandell, Ryan Manriquez, Anita Ortega, Shana Ray, Joshua Saunders (Vice Chair), Esther Waltz, Roland Wong, and Bruce Yow.

We thank the BATF for their contributions to making BART a system that is accessible for all.

The BATF is actively recruiting new members. If you are interested or have questions email accessibility@bart.gov.

Did you know?

- In March 2026, BART rolled out [new fare gate tones](#) that are more pleasing and audible over station background noise, making stations more welcoming and simpler to navigate, especially for blind and low-vision riders.
- BART has [hosted sensory orientations](#) to help riders who are blind or have low vision navigate the system, most recently in March 2026.
- Every new and current BART Station Agent goes through Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training.

Disability Pride Month is a reminder of how far accessible transit has come and a recommitment to the work still ahead. Learn more about BART's accessibility features and resources at bart.gov/accessibility.