

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
July 23, 2026

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Herb Hastings, **Chair**
2. Joshua Saunders, **Vice Chair** - ABSENT
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 - ABSENT
10. Esther Waltz - ABSENT
11. Janice Armigo Brown - ABSENT
12. Roland Wong - ABSENT
13. Ryan Manriquez
14. Sam Buman
15. Shana Ray - ABSENT
16. VACANT
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Kevin McDonald

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

Boris Lipkin (BART staff)
Drennen Shelton (Guest-MTC staff)
Aleta Dupree (Guest)
Vi Ibarra (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)
Sarah Desumala (Guest)
Brian Batista (Guest)

Anna Tran (Guest)
Kevin Mintz (Guest)
Isaac (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Aleta Dupree encouraged BATF members to think beyond the confines of the meeting room and consider accessibility issues throughout the broader BART system, noting that concerns shouldn't stay limited to discussions "within these four walls." She emphasized that elevators should be accessible to everyone, including individuals with hidden disabilities, and shared that she worries she might be denied elevator use because her disability is not visible.

Kevin Mintz emailed as a public comment to the BATF members and members of the public. He mentioned on July 26, 2026, Roxie Theater in San Francisco is hosting to celebrate the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Kevin also expressed growing frustration with the frequent elevator outages at the 16th Street Mission BART Station. He also noted that the fare gate at the same station has been inoperable.

3. Approval of the May 28, 2026 meeting minutes

Clarence R. Fischer motioned for approval of the May 28, 2026 meeting minutes. Ryan Manriquez second the motion.

- Motion passed with eight (8) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstention

4. Connect Bay Area Act – Rider Focused Improvements Expenditure Plan

Drennen Shelton from Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) presented on the agenda item with the presentation included in the BATF July 2026 agenda packet.

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

- Hillary Brown shared that she serves as MTC's representative for BART and was involved in the wayfinding project in El Cerrito, California a few years ago.
- Clarence R. Fischer stated that he would like to see Clipper Card discounts displayed under the transfer information in BART's Trip Planner under bart.gov. He asked when Clipper will become available for paratransit users, noting that it currently cannot be used for paratransit services. Clarence also

expressed interest in seeing paratransit expand beyond district and county boundaries under the “One Seat, One Ride Trip” service program.

- Danny Kodmur’s first question was whether signages at bus stops in suburban and rural areas will be improved, and if current signs will be redesigned or replaced and his second question was whether one of the MTC’s pilot efforts will include publishing information about weekend bus service gaps in suburban and rural areas where no weekend services are available.
- Ryan Manriquez asked about the fare program that includes free and reduced-cost transfers and the expansion of the Clipper START Program. He asked whether MTC plans to expand Clipper Access as well.
- Sam Buman asked about a specific political campaign, but discussion was limited only to the impartial, factual information about the topic.
- Herb Hastings shared that he was asked by MTC to participate in the paratransit working group.

Aleta Dupree shared that she is a strong supporter of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), noting that it is very important to her. She mentioned that she currently uses a discount card and appreciates the lower fares within the BART system. Aleta expressed hope that, in the future, riders will be able to use their credit cards and have the discount automatically applied, so she would no longer need to carry the physical discount card.

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

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

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

- Herb Hasting was reminded he has been an appointed BATF member for about twenty years. He appreciated all the accomplishments that the BATF members made and noted how dedicated the BATF members are and continue to be.
- Ryan Manriquez reflected on how the ADA has evolved over time. He read a quote describing Harold Willson’s vision for making BART’s design accessible, taken from the book BART: *The Dramatic History of the Bay Area Rapid Transit System* by Michael C. Healy. Ryan also shared his thoughts on the purpose behind the formation of the BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) by founding members such as Hale Zukas. He explained that BATF’s role is to advance accessibility and inclusion so that not only riders with disabilities, but all riders, receive the access they deserve within the BART

system. Ryan added that he is deeply honored to be the newest appointed member of the BATF.

- Ryan Manriquez also agreed with what Elena Van Loo stated by encouraging BATF members to join in BART hosted events and listed some events:
 - Prom Night: Enchantment Under the “C” Line
 - Valentine Train Ride
 - SF Sketchfest: On the Rails – A live comedy show in the trains
 - BART and AC Transit Oakland Ballers night (baseball)
- Clarence R. Fischer stated that the BATF is an essential group because it brings together members with diverse disabilities. He shared that he is grateful to be part of the committee and noted that BATF voices accessibility concerns within the BART system. Clarence added that when informing riders about accessibility and the BATF, it is an opportunity to recruit new members who can share their ideas and make a positive impact on the committee’s work.
- Hillary Brown also reflected on the history of the ADA and how it has changed over the years. She mentioned BART is not perfect when it comes to accessibility, but it is getting better.

Aleta Dupree shared that she learns something new about BART all the time and expressed appreciation that all BART stations have elevators. She reflected on earlier experiences in New York City when curb cuts were not available, platforms did not have the yellow safety strip, and some stations had no elevators at all. Aleta asked how the ADA can be made broadly inclusive and emphasized that its effectiveness depends on the people responsible for implementing and overseeing it.

6. Member Announcements

Danny Kodmur shared that on July 26, 2026, an event celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), originally passed on July 26, 1990, will be held at the Roxie Theater in San Francisco. He mentioned that the event will feature two films about the history of Americans with disabilities, along with guest speakers.

Hillary Brown announced Move Bay Area is having an event at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) headquarters on August 28, 2026.

7. Staff Announcements

Boris Lipkin introduced himself as the new Assistant General Manager in the Planning & Development Department. He thanked the BATF members for their dedication and for providing valuable feedback on accessibility within the BART system.

Kevin McDonald announced that the bi-directional feature of the fare gates has been deactivated, so each gate will now operate in only one direction. This was requested by BATF members, and others, to prevent issues where an exiting passenger and an entering passenger are both attempting to use the same gate. The accessible fare gates will continue to function in both directions; bi-directional.

He also reflected on the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), noting that thirty-six years is an impressive milestone. He acknowledged the progress made and emphasized that there is still much work ahead for the transit agency. Kevin thanked the BATF members for their ongoing feedback and their many contributions over the years.

Kevin expressed appreciation to the BATF members who took part in the photo shoot celebrating the ADA's thirty-sixth anniversary. The photos will be displayed at the Downtown San Francisco BART stations and the 12th St. BART Station. He mentioned that BART published, [*Disability Pride Month: How BART builds access to every ride*](#), on July 7, 2026.

8. Chairperson Announcements

Herb Hastings shared that he was invited by MTC to represent Alameda County in discussions about introducing the Clipper Card for paratransit agencies, which currently do not accept Clipper as a payment method. He noted that MTC is working on forming an advisory group that will focus on implementing Clipper Card use for paratransit services.

9. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics - Next Meeting Scheduled: August 27, 2026

- Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
 - Universal design – accessibility
- How does the trip planner work under bart.gov
 - Under schedule portion
 - Planner when using BART and connecting with bus lines

10. Adjournment

Sam Buman moved to adjourn the July 23, 2026 meeting. Clarence R. Fischer seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, August 27, 2026.