

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Minutes

June 25, 2015

1. Self-Introductions of Members, Staff and Guests

Members present: Randall Glock, Janice Armigo Brown, Peter Crockwell, Don Queen, Hale Zukas, Clarence Fischer, Gerry Newell, Herb Hastings, Alan Smith, Larry Bunn, Megan O'Brien, Brandon Young, Roland Wong, Linda Drattell

Absent: Janet Abelson, Marina Villena

BART Staff present: Ike Nnaji

Directors, Speaker(s), Guest Staff, and Guests of the Public:

Director Robert Raburn, Sadie Graham (BART), Fred Edwards (BART), Tian Feng (BART), Carl Orman (BART), Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez, Jerry Grace, Robin Mills (ASL Interpreter), Ric Owen (ASL Interpreter), Janice Dispo (Stenographer)

2. Public Comments

[No public comments.]

3. Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2015 Meeting

No opposition to Clarence Fischer's motion to approve the May 28, 2015 meeting minutes, with a second by Gerry Newell.

Motion passes unanimously.

4. El Cerrito Del Norte & Concord Upgrades

[No presentation at this time; staff not in attendance to present.]

The El Cerrito Del Norte outreach event will be held on July 8th, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., and is eligible for travel reimbursement.

Clarence Fischer suggested that lean rails/seats be installed at the platforms, like the ones available at Union City Station.

5. Elevator Announcements Accuracy

After the presentation given by Fred Edwards, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

6. Train Operators' Announcements

After the presentation given by Fred Edwards, a lengthy discussion was held for members to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Hale Zukas moved to recommend that train operators be required to announce any elevator outages before arriving at the station at which the elevator is out of service.

The motion was seconded by Herb Hastings.

Alan Smith suggested that a friendly amendment be made to the motion; that announcements be made whenever possible, as opposed to it being a requirement.

Roland Wong commented that as an advisory task force, members can only recommend, and not move to require.

The vote for the original motion that announcements be a requirement went as follows:

5 yeases: Peter Crockwell, Linda Drattell, Megan O'Brien, Janice Armigo Brown, Larry Brown.

7 noes: Alan Smith, Herb Hastings, Gerry Newell, Brandon Young, Don Queen, Clarence Fischer, Randall Glock

1 abstention: Roland Wong

The motion does not pass.

Clarence Fischer moved that whenever possible, train operators should announce any elevator outages before arriving at the station at which the elevator is out of service.

The motion was seconded by Gerry Newell.

The vote for the amended motion that announcements be made whenever possible went as follows:

9 Yeses: Herb Hastings, Alan Smith, Brandon Young, Peter Crockwell, Linda Drattell, Roland Wong, Clarence Fischer, Janice Armigo Brown, Randall Glock.

2 Noes: Larry Bunn, Hale Zukas

1 abstention: Megan O'Brien

The motion passes.

Fred Edwards told members that whenever they experience announcements not being made, they should make a complaint via customer service so that it gets logged.

Alan Smith asked whether recap announcements can be made every 30 minutes or so regarding which out-of-service elevators.

Fred Edwards replied that he does not have the personnel to do that, and that the system currently in place is for the announcement (BSA or smartphone elevator updates) to reach users before entering the system.

The solution would be to go to the station agent booth to inquire about any elevator outages before boarding the train.

Fred Edwards will follow up with the BATF to confirm that as the train departs the station, announcements are being made regarding the next station.

7. 19th Street Station Project Update

After the presentation given by Sadie Graham, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

8. New Staff Introduction

[No presentation at this time.]

9. Capital Project Status Reports

Warm Springs Station

Alan Smith and Randall Glock gave members an overview on the construction tour that they attended.

Fleet of the Future

Due to complex testing, this project is currently behind by a month.

Entrance Canopies

There was an article written by John King in the San Francisco Chronicle regarding the canopies at the San Francisco stations.

The information displayed on the signage at the entrance of these canopies comes from 511, not BART. Per Tim Chan, BART is aware of the readability issue and is working on improvements.

eBART

The target date for the opening is Spring of 2018, not 2017

Path of Travel

Tian Feng and Carl Orman reported that mobility specialists and outside experts have advised that there are not enough reference materials to develop a standard. Therefore, they think it is unwise to launch any project for construction without any recognizable or beneficial standard.

They suggested forming a subcommittee in order to talk more closely with these experts.

No opposition to Roland Wong's motion to form a subcommittee, (second by Randall Glock).

Motion passes unanimously.

No updates were given for the following projects:

- El Cerrito Del Norte
- Oakland Airport Connector (OAC)
- Union City Station Remodel
- Phase 2 Downtown San Jose
- Civic Center Station Upgrade
- Montgomery Station Upgrade
- San Bruno Path of Travel
- Track Maintenance
- Station Hearing Loop
- Berkeley Station Upgrade
- Stair Tread Color Contrast
- Richmond Intermodal Project
- Berryessa/Milpitas Stations
- Powell Street Station Upgrade
- Embarcadero Station Upgrade
- West Dublin Path of Travel
- Concord Station Upgrade

10. Chairperson Announcements

Alan Smith and Randall Glock plan to meet with staff to talk about communication devices for the hearing impaired.

A joint meeting with the BART Accessibility Task Force and the BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force will be held in the month of July.

Some areas of common interests that will be discussed and recommended to the Board:

- Elevators should be kept clean and maintained in good, working order
- Elevator redundancy
- Elevators need to be large enough to accommodate both bikes and wheelchairs
- Additional wide gates to accommodate both bikes and wheelchairs
- Elevators placed within the fare gates

The agreed-upon wording for two bike rules the BATF has discussed previously is as follows:

“People with bikes must use elevators or stairs, not escalators.”

“Bicycles must be walked in pedestrian areas in and around BART stations.”

BART held a town hall meeting on June 3, 2015

More information on what was discussed at the town hall meeting can be found at www.bart.gov/townhall

Alan Smith spoke at the last BART Board meeting regarding the BATF’s support of all aspects in the FY 2016 budget having to do with improving accessibility (especially escalators and elevators), and getting more cars on the tracks.

He added that also at the meeting, he had spoken with Paul Oversier regarding loose handrails at the Montgomery Station, and that within 24 hours, all handrails had been tightened.

Plans are in place to weld all the handrail brackets at Montgomery, and also Powell Street.

The General Disability Awareness quick cards have been finalized and are being used in the field by all BART police. Crystal Raine and Mark Smith send their thanks to the BATF, especially those who worked on this project.

There is a new project at Dublin/Pleasanton station that involves things such as building a new bus shelter, new concrete and asphalt paving, a new accessible drop-off area, wayfinding signs, path of travel strips, and truncated domes.

Herb Hastings will be following this project closely and report back to the BATF.

11. Staff Announcements

[No staff announcements.]

12. Member Announcements

Roland Wong shared that the San Francisco Mayor's Office on Disability and Community Alliance for Disability Advocates is hosting an event called ADA25, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This event will take place on July 1, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at San Francisco City Hall, North Light Court.

13. Future Agenda Topics

- Members request for a discussion of or a presentation on the planned Transbay service shutdown in August and effect on late night service.
- Members request for staff to describe the contingencies in place for the disabled community, as well as describe the dissemination plan on getting information to various disability organizations

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of **Thursday, July 23, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., at 101 8th Street in Oakland, California.**