

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT  
BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE**

Minutes  
June 25, 2020

**1. Self-Introduction of Members, Staff, and Guests:**

Members:

Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)  
Catherine Callahan  
Chris Mullin  
Clarence Fischer  
Don Queen  
Emily Witkin  
Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair)  
Herb Hastings  
Janet Abelson  
Janice Armigo Brown  
Marjorie (Marji) McWee  
Mussie Gebre - ABSENT  
Randall Glock (Chair)  
Roland Wong  
Valerie Buell

**BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:**

Elena Van Loo  
Jessica Kuo  
Laura Timothy  
Bob Franklin

**Director (s), Speakers, Staff, and Guests of the Public:**

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Director)  
Christopher Simi (Staff)  
Joel Soden (Staff)  
Greg Lombardi (Staff)  
David Coggshall (Staff)  
Kimberly Peterson (Captioner)  
Katie Arioli (Captioner)  
Hale Zukas (Guest)

Anita Ortega (Guest)  
Larry Bunn (Guest)  
Jeshua Aveno (Guest)  
Donnie Denome (Guest)  
Helena Chang (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

No public announcements.

## **3. Approval of February 27, 2020 Draft Minutes**

Herb Hastings moved approval of the February 27, 2020 meeting with the amended minutes. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

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

## **4. BART Services**

Joel Soden gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Joel Soden introduced himself and mentioned he works in the Operations Planning Department.

Joel Soden wanted to highlight three quick items to go over:

- June service adjustments:
  - Berryessa/South San Jose and Milpitas BART Stations opened on June 13, 2020
- Service adjustments to the early bird express and regular BART service:
  - Monday-Friday service 5:00 am-9:00 pm, run every 30 minutes, due to COVID-19
  - Sunday's schedule service is 8:00 am to 9:00 pm, run every 30 minutes, due to COVID-19
  - Flexibility to add in trains if ridership goes up to continue the social distancing rule
- Other construction-related service adjustments:
  - Train track interlocking, with a bus bridge between Rockridge BART Station and Lafayette BART Station, has been completed.

- Starting July 18, 2020, there will be a bus bridge between Bay Fair and Hayward to work on the train track interlocking between these two stations.
- Single tracking will occur in the Transbay Tube during the evenings for a retrofit project.
- Downtown San Francisco BART tracks are being repaired.

There were no comments or questions from the BATF members or from the public.

## **5. BART Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Chris Simi introduced himself as the Budget Director and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Chris Simi announced the BART Board of Directors passed the Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Chris Simi shared how unemployment has spiked up in April due COVID-19 and this affects the ridership on BART trains, but ridership is slowly coming back.

Chris Simi shared the impacts of COVID-19 on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget:

- Reduce service to reflect lower ridership while enabling social distancing
- Focus on employee and rider safety
- Implement aggressive cleaning protocols
- Accelerate capital projects where it is safe and feasible
  - Cable replacement
  - Track replacement
  - Rebuilding track interlockings
- National leader in conversation around COVID-19 and transit, advocating for our needs at local, state, and federal levels

Chris Simi shared the timeline for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget:

- BART Board of Directors passed the FY2121 budget on June 25, 2020
- First quarter update; check point in October 2020
- Second quarter update; checkpoint in January 2021
- Third quarter update; checkpoint in April 2021

Gerry Newell asked about the Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains slowly coming on board. He wanted to know if this project been halted due to the much lower Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Chris Simi answered Gerry Newell’s question and stated there are two different types of budgets: The Operating Budget and the Capital Budget. The deliveries of the FOF trains will continue under the Capital Budget and has not been impacted during the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget.

Alan Smith asked if during these economic challenges whether the senior/disabled discounts will remain the same.

Bob Franklin answered Alan Smith’s question that in order to change any discounts in fares for the senior/disabled riders, BART would have to go through an extensive public process, including a Title VI study, and that there are no plans to change the senior/disabled discount amount.

Alan Smith made a motion to thank the BART Board of Directors for not changing the percentage of the senior/disabled discounts. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

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

Janet Abelson asked if BART has any reserve funding if COVID-19 continues for many months.

Chris Simi answered Janet Abelson’s question by stating BART does have some reserve funding that has been used in the last few years and is not being used for the Fiscal Year 2021, but we are prepared to use it if needed.

BATF members thanked Chris Simi for his time presenting.

## **6. BART Passenger Welcome Back Plan**

David Coggshall and Greg Lombardi presented this item, using the BART news article published on May 27, 2020, “BART Releases 15-Step Plan to Welcome Back Riders as Region Reopens.” Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

“BART Releases 15-Step Plan to Welcome Back Riders as Region Reopens,” article link, <https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2020/news20200526>:

1. Cleaning
  - a. Train poles are being wiped down with a disinfectant at the end of the line during service hours.
  - b. Disinfectant mist is being used on inside train cars.
  - c. Station touchpoints are being wiped down throughout the day
    - i. Elevators are being cleaned both inside and outside
2. Run long trains
  - a. Allow riders to maintain social distancing
  - b. Running every thirty (30) minutes
3. Increase train frequency
  - a. More trains were added to accommodate more riders
4. Pilot new seat configuration (to new Fleet of the Futures (FOF) trains only)
  - a. To create space between riders
    - i. No changes to the bike rack locations
    - ii. Dedicated wheelchair spaces remain the same
5. Require face coverings when riding BART
6. Police enforcements
  - a. Enforcing face covering requirement
  - b. Provide education and provide masks for those who need them
7. Visual indicators
  - a. large decals, posters, and banners remind people to be six feet apart and to wear masks
8. Hand sanitizers
  - a. BART is offering hand sanitizers at every station
    - i. Posted large signs so the dispensers are easy to find
9. Contactless payment
  - a. Riders are encouraged to use Clipper cards and load funds online in advance
    - i. Reduce customer touchpoints
  - b. Can still continue to use fare machines to purchase paper tickets
    - i. Being wiped down regularly
10. Personal Hand Straps
  - a. Can be purchased for use in the trains and to take home
11. Data Transparency
  - a. Will continue to post ridership numbers showing what percentage ridership is at compared to pre-COVID-19 ridership
12. New technologies and industry best practices being pursued.
13. Business community outreach

#### 14. Healthy workforce

- a. BART's number one priority is to make sure its employees remain healthy in order to provide customer service
  - i. Provide workers with PPE
- b. Station Agents have been advised to stay in their station booth as much as they can to limit exposure
  - i. Constantly being disinfected at station booths

#### 15. Rebuild infrastructure

- a. With low ridership, accelerate infrastructure rebuilding projects

Chris Mullin asked if there will be more outreach to people with disabilities about the 15-step plan to welcome back riders, especially people who are visually impaired, blind, or simply do not have easy access to go online to read up any updates.

Laura Timothy let Chris Mullin know if any member knows of anyone who would like more information about the 15-step plan to reach out to her or Elena Van Loo and ask about the specific question (s) regarding to the COVID-19 coming back and we can put something together and post any updates on the BART website.

Janet Abelson asked if the hand sanitizers being were at least 70% alcohol.

Greg Lombardi verified that the hand sanitizers are over 70% alcohol.

Janet Abelson also wanted to add to have signs outside the elevator to remind riders of social distancing while riding in the elevators.

Emily Witkin asked whether the new pilot seating reconfigurations have fewer seats.

Greg Lombardi addressed Emily Witkin's question by answering the number of seats are the same as the pilot seat reconfiguration. Greg Lombardi believes only one train on the Fleet of the Future (FOF) is doing the pilot seating reconfiguration and to his knowledge, he believes the pilot seat reconfiguration doesn't apply to the older legacy cars. Greg Lombardi also added the pilot seats can be easily be put back to where it was before the COVID-19.

Gerry Newell asked to describe the hand straps. Gerry Newell let David Cogshall know that he is blind.

David Coggshall described the personal hand straps as blue colored, which will be for sale soon on BART's merchandise webpage. He added the hand straps look just like the black ones which already mounted inside the train.

BATF members thanked David Coggshall and Greg Lombardi for presenting.

## **7.     **BATF New Member Nominations (s)****

Randall Glock lead this agenda item.

Randall Glock announced there are two members who are interested to be a BATF member. He announced Hale Zukas and Anita Ortega are the two nominations.

Elena Van Loo let members know there are fifteen (15) active member and there are three (3) open spaces.

Randall Glock asked who would like to make the first and second motion for Hale Zukas and Anita Ortega to be nominated. Herb Hasting did the first motion for both Hale Zukas and Anita Ortega. Gerry Newell seconded the motion for both Hale Zukas and Anita Ortega.

Randall Glock asked Hale Zukas and Anita Ortega if they would like to share why they would like to be a BATF member.

Hale Zukas had no comment.

Anita Ortega gave a short speech why she is interested in becoming a BATF member.

### **Hale Zukas**

13 (thirteen) yes, 0 (zero) no, 1 (one) abstention

### **Anita Ortega**

11 (eleven) yes, 1 (one) no, 2 (two) abstentions

Since both nominations passed, Elena Van Loo let members know that the next step will be for these nominations to be considered by the BART Board of Directors at their next meeting for final approval.

## **8. Member Announcements**

Valerie Buell was happy to share that she had a wonderful, successful meeting last night at the state council with Development Disabilities Regional Advisory meeting.

Marjorie (Marji) McWee announced that the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority (CCCTA) has a survey called Contra Costa Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan and encouraged BATF members to fill out the survey. She added she will send the survey to Elena Van Loo so she can pass it on to members.

Roland Wong shared he went to the Richmond BART Station on June 5, 2020 to test the new accessible swing faregates. He stated his experience was positive and had no problems entering and exiting the swing gate. He added the faregates did not make loud noises and was quiet. Roland Wong expressed the swing gates stayed open too long and was worried about passengers fare evading.

Roland Wong's second comment was to provide an update that the lights inside the elevator at South Hayward BART Station have been fixed.

## **9. Staff Announcements**

Jessica Kuo shared that on July 26, 2020 the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) will celebrate 30 years and BART Marketing, Communication Department will feature some of the BATF members on bart.gov about what ADA meant to them.

## **10. Chairperson Announcements**

Randall Glock and Alan Smith shared the annual BATF report was submitted to the BART Board of Directors on March 12, 2020, and the report was well received.

Randall Glock had a few announcements to share:

- Thanked the members for joining by phone or video for the first time
- Would like to have the next BATF meeting phone/video conferencing meeting from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- Would like to see about getting hand straps to members
- Reminded members when riding the trains to wear face masks, wash your hands, but stay home if you can.



## **11. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics**

- New member nomination – Jeshua Aveno
- New accessible swing faregate pilot at Richmond BART Station update
- When it safe to travel in large group to go to the two newest BART Stations; Berryessa/Milpitas BART station to celebrate the opening as a committee

## **12. Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be **July 23, 2020.**

[The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.]