

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

Minutes
July 23, 2020

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

Members:

Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)
Anita Ortega
Catherine Callahan
Chris Mullin
Clarence Fischer - ABSENT
Don Queen - ABSENT
Emily Witkin
Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair)
Hale Zukas
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:

Jumana Nabti (Staff)
Wendy Wheeler (Staff)
Jennie Nguyen (Staff)
Tanner Amador (Staff)
Kimberly Peterson (Captioner)

Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Larry Bunn (Guest)
Jeshua Aveno (Guest)

2. Public Comments

No public announcements.

3. Approval of June 25, 2020 Draft Minutes

Randall Glock pulled the June 25, 2020 draft minutes until the next scheduled meeting, August 27, 2020, to allow time to correct errors in the minutes.

4. Walnut Creek BART Station Accessible Pathways

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

Jumana Nabti shared that there are three major projects that BART is working on and BART is also maintaining access during these projects for all passengers. The three major projects are the following:

1. Transit Orientated Development
 - i. The project is continuing for about two years
2. Replacing a substation on the north side of the station
 - i. The project plans to start in about two years.
3. Walnut Creek BART Station modernization project
 - i. The project plan is to start in early in 2021 and to finish in early 2022

Jumana Nabti highlighted the Walnut Creek Bart Station modernization project by explaining the new layout on the north-west end of the station where there will be an expansion of the platform right next to the existing platforms and there will be a new set of stairs between the platform and the concourse level. She also explained the new accessible pathway during construction and where the new location of the accessible pathway will be when construction has been completed.

Marjorie McWee thanked the presenter and said the area on the north-west end of the station is a little tricky area when using my wheelchair, as it is steep. She wants to see what the plans are to have that area leveled and flattened to be safer. Jumana responded that this will be looked at during the final construction stages and that during construction, the temporary accessible pathway will be easier for people in wheelchairs to maneuver.

Randall Glock asked if there will be signs installed during construction and Jumana Nabti confirmed there will be wayfinding signs during construction to direct people to the location of the temporary accessible pathway.

Gerry Newell asked if the new stairways being installed will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant on the edges of the stairs for those who are visually impaired or blind. Jumana Nabti responded that she will get clarification and pass along the information to members on how stair-nosings will be treated and that they are ADA compliant.

Alan Smith commented when Walnut Creek project was first presented a few years ago, there would be accessible pathways signages and suggested to bring examples of wayfinding signs to the BATF meeting to discuss whether the fonts were large enough and the colors were easy to read especially, for people who are visually impaired.

5. Accessible Swing Gate Pilot at Richmond BART Station Updates

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

Wendy Wheeler shared that the Board of Directors had approved to move forward with new faregates. A lot of people did not like the new barriers at the accessible faregate that was installed at the Richmond BART Station with the double-stacked paddles coming down. There was a lot of concerns from Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) communities. Ms. Wheeler stated that BART did listen and went back and redesigned the faregates and came up with a new faregate design. They are clear doors were five feet tall gates that open in the direction of travel, similar to the faregates at Muni, with stickers on each panel. The stickers were to call attention to the faregate panels for sight-impaired passengers.

Wendy Wheeler shared they are getting ready to deploy four more of these accessible faregates in the Oakland Coliseum BART Station, including at the elevator location, which will be deployed around September. Additionally, there will be a new faregate installed at the Montgomery BART Station also near the elevator location around October 2020, and two faregates in the Concord BART Station around December 2020.

Ms. Wheeler also spoke about sensors at the faregates, with the current sensors unable to detect guide dogs. The focus will be to figure out whether wheelchairs are fully through the faregates, and to differentiate between people, luggage and

bicycles. She said new improved sensors will better detect people and objects from a distance, as well as going through the swing faregates.

Roland Wong commented that the path of travel going through the faregate at Richmond was really good. He added when going through the gate, it was much more quiet and it does not feel intimidating like the double-stacked faregates. The height of it was good and he said there will be less people crawling underneath the new swing faregates to fare evade. Roland thanked staff for the improvements.

Wendy Wheeler thanked Roland Wong for his feedback that he gave to staff at the Richmond BART Station open house back in June about the swing faregate doors staying open too long. Her staff had gone back and improved some the sensors to close the faregates faster after passengers have gone through.

Herb Hasting requested to see a video of someone going through the new swing gate. Bob Franklin provided a short video showing Roland Wong going through the new swing faregate at the Richmond BART Station from the open house in June 2020.

6. El Cerrito del Norte BART Station Bus Location Updates

Jumana Nabti gave a brief update presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Jumana Nabti shared that the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station at west-side bus island remains under construction and is projected to be completed by October 2020. BART is currently working with all of the bus operators in relocating the stops from west-side bus island area. Ms. Nabti will update the BATF when the final bus layout design is ready.

Jumana Nabti added the concrete on the north side of the station between the faregates and the ticket vending machines will be reconstructed. She added access to the elevators, fare machines, and at the faregates will not be affected during construction, but the pathways through the station will change while reconstruction is happening.

Randall Glock asked for the rough timeline when construction will be done and Jumana Nabti stated February 2021 is the current estimate to reopen the east-side bus lane.

Janet Abelson voiced her concerns regarding the locations of the stops for the public buses, including AC Transit, due to lack of accessibility especially for

people who uses wheelchairs and the safety of the riders. Jumana Nabti stated that her concerns will be addressed with her staff and will share with members at another scheduled meeting regarding about the new AC Transit bus locations and the safety of the riders.

7. Member Announcements

Valerie Buell shared the State Council of Development Disabilities (SSCD) is working with The Community Living Campaign (CLC) to send out flyers that may be of interest to a lot of people here because this is about equal access. CLC is doing a “Broken Sidewalks: Quack Me Up,” contest and basically you identify an unsafe or inaccessible sidewalk and take a photo of the damaged sidewalk and send it in. Valerie Buell will email Elena Van Loo the “Broken Sidewalks: Quack Me Up,” contest, which will have more detailed information and Elena will forward to the members.

8. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo had two announcements to share:

- Hale Zukas and Anita Ortega are now officially BATF members starting today, July 23, 2020. The BART Board of Directors voted to approve both new memberships this morning.
- Nominations for the Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair nominations are scheduled for the September 24, 2020 meeting. Elena said to contact her if anyone had any questions.

9. Chairperson Announcements

Randall Glock asked members if they received their hand straps.

Gerry Newell stated he has not received his hand strap yet.

Randall Glock informed members if they wish to request a hand strap, to email Elena Van Loo for one.

Randall Glock shared he used his hand strap and it made a big difference. He added it was nice to grab on to the hand strap knowing that it is clean and shared he washed his hand strap and it washed just fine. He expressed he’s glad to have the hand strap.

Randall Glock announced Anita Ortega and Hale Zukas are now members.

Randall Glock announced Hale Zukas was recognized for his Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) activism on the 30th anniversary of the ADA.

Randall Glock shared he received a message from a member of the Committee for Transportation Mobility and *Accessibility* (CTMA) regarding the Berryessa BART Station. He said Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) staff will work on the accessible path of travel issue that was brought up and hopes it will be fixed soon.

10. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- Powell BART Station restrooms update
- Transbay Tube construction update

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting for **August 27, 2020.**

[Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm]