

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE
Committee Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)
2. Anita Ortega
3. Catherine Callahan
4. Chris Mullin
5. Clarence Fischer
6. Don Queen
7. Emily Witkin
8. Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair)
9. Hale Zukas
10. Herb Hastings
11. Janet Abelson - ABSENT
12. Janice Armigo Brown
13. Larry Bunn
14. Marjorie (Marji) McWee
15. Randall Glock (Chair)
16. Roland Wong
17. Shay Roberson
18. Valerie Buell

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Laura Timothy
Bob Franklin

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)
Karen Basting (Staff)
Patricia Nelson (Staff)
Ni Lee (Staff)
David Coggshall (Staff)
Asiann Chan-Velasco (Staff)

Tera Stokes-Hankins (Staff)
Farrell Kopecky (Captioner)
Carol Hood (Captioner)
Warren Cushman (Guest)
Kacie Conyers (Guest)
Roger Acuna (Guest)
Helena Chang (Guest)
Helen Walsh (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Warren Cushman expressed concerns that there were no station agents at the Bay Fair BART Station. He stated sometimes assistance is needed at the elevators and having the station agent not there makes it more difficult.

Kacie Conyers introduced herself as the newest employee at Center for Independent Living (CIL), Berkeley, and she offers travel services. She added she noticed that there is an agenda item about phasing out discount magnetic tickets. Kacie Conyers was wondering how to offer magnetic discount tickets in bulk after December 31, 2021, and how will this work in the future.

3. Approval of August 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Alan Smith moved approval of the August 26, 2021 meeting minutes. Herb Hastings seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with thirteen (13) in favor, zero (0) against, two (2) abstention

4. Stop Selling Discount Magnetic Tickets on December 31, 2021

Patricia Nelson and Karen Basting gave the presentation on stop selling discount magnetic striped tickets on December 31, 2021.

They shared there is an article on this subject on BART's website:
<https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2021/news20210908>.

Karen Basting shared that the Regional Transit Connection (RTC) Discount Card program is a Clipper program and is managed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

Kacie Conyers, who works at Center for Independent Living (CIL) in Berkeley, used

to buy BART discount magnetic striped tickets in bulk for her clients and she would like to know how this will work with no magnetic striped discount tickets.

Patricia Nelson stated that the Next Generation Clipper system, which is currently being designed and implemented, will have group sales capabilities, although with limitations.

Discussion continued regarding Clipper Card and Regional Transit Connection (RTC) Discount Cards and questions arose not related to stopping selling discount magnetic tickets. Members would like staff from Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and BART staff to come back to discuss Clipper Card and RTC Discount Cards at a later scheduled BATF meeting.

5. BART Public Restrooms Update

Ni Lee gave the presentation on the reopening of BART public restrooms.

She shared at BART's above-ground public restrooms, BART has completed the enhancements by painting and spot repairs at all 64 public restrooms on the A, C, L, M, W, and R lines.

She stated after September 11, 2001, the District closed all public restrooms as a security measure. Above-ground public restrooms were reopened shortly thereafter, whereas the underground restrooms have remained closed as they pose higher security risks. She added that all underground San Francisco station restrooms from Embarcadero to 24th Street/Mission BART Stations remain closed. In the East Bay, Lake Merritt, 12th Street, 19th Street, and Downtown Berkeley are closed. There are two (2) underground public restrooms under construction at Powell Street BART Station and at 19th Street BART Station. El Cerrito del Norte BART Station, above-ground, also opened with a refurbished restroom this year, 2021.

Underground Public Restrooms:

- 10 underground restrooms closed after 9/11 in 2001.
 - Two (2) restrooms under construction (Powell Street and 19th Street)
 - Eight (8) station restrooms underwent a condition assessment
 - Seven (7) restrooms require repair of electrical, plumbing and/or ventilation

- Four (4) restrooms present higher security risks
- Eight (8) restrooms – Opportunity to improve accessibility (Downtown Berkeley, Lake Merritt, 12th Street, Embarcadero Street, Montgomery Street, Civic Center, 16th Street, and 24th Street.)

Enhancement/Renovation needed:

- Lake Merritt – Enhance by relocate grab bars and equipment to improve accessibility
- Montgomery Street – Enhance and remove partition wall to improve accessibility
- Embarcadero – Enhance and open one restroom and renovate the other by redesign interior to improve accessibility
- Downtown Berkeley – Enhance and open one restroom and renovate the other by expanding entrance and redesign interior to improve accessibility
- 12th Street – Renovate by expanding entrance and add grab bars to improve accessibility
- Civic Center – Enhance or renovate to improve accessibility
- 16th Street – Design and build brand new restrooms
- 24th Street – Design and build brand new restrooms

Potential Reopen Timing:

Ni Lee mentioned she will engage with design consultants and will reach out to BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) to review underground restrooms.

- Fiscal Year 2022
 - 19th Street
 - Powell Street
- Fiscal Year 2023
 - Embarcadero
 - Downtown Berkeley
- Fiscal Year 2024
 - 12th Street
 - Civic Center
- Fiscal Year 2025
 - 16th Street
- Fiscal Year 2026
 - 24th Street

Ni Lee mentioned funding for the underground and above-ground restroom enhancements and renovations will come out of capital funding.

Randall Glock stated as the restrooms reopen, he hopes there will be an opportunity, as a committee, to see them and added this big change in the restrooms are really needed across the BART system.

Herb Hasting stated he would really like the BATF committee to be involved in the design phase of the restrooms as we move forward.

Roland Wong mentioned when he visited El Cerrito del Norte BART Station, there are no doors when entering and exiting the restrooms and wanted to know if other restrooms will be doorless. He added lighting in restrooms can be challenging and at other BART restrooms, the doors to enter and exit can also be challenging as they can be heavy/hard to open.

Ni Lee thanked Roland Wong for his comments and stated the El Cerrito del Norte restrooms were intended to be airport style with no doors to enter and exit. She mentioned Powell Street BART Station will open in 2022 and will also have doorless restrooms. Ni Lee also mentioned at the 19th Street BART Station, the restrooms are due to open in 2022 and have a semi-transparent door and hopes the doors will be much easier to open.

Larry Bunn voiced concerns that some restrooms are out-of-the-line-of-sight of the Station Agent and wants to know if this will be addressed. Ni Lee mentioned there will be a pilot to hire attendants for three months to add extra surveillance and deter any illegal activities.

6. Review and Approve Year 2022 BATF Scheduled Meeting Dates

Randall Glock led agenda item for review and approve year 2022 BATF scheduled meeting dates and read the dates to members and the public.

BATF scheduled meeting dates for the year 2022:

- **January 27, 2022**, Thursday
- **February 24, 2022**, Thursday
- **March 24, 2022**, Thursday
- **April 28, 2022**, Thursday
- **May 26, 2022**, Thursday

- **June 23, 2022**, Thursday
- **July 28, 2022**, Thursday
- **August 25, 2022**, Thursday
- **September 22, 2022**, Thursday
- **October 27, 2022**, Thursday
- **November 09, 2022**, Wednesday
- **December 14, 2022**, Wednesday

Alan Smith moved approval of the 2022 BATF scheduled meeting dates. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with sixteen (16) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention

7. BATF Holiday Reception Planning for December 2021

Members discussed whether to have an in-house Holiday Reception for December 2021 and members agreed to hold the in-house Holiday Reception for December of 2022 since members and guests were worried who has been vaccinated or has not been vaccinated and added having a large crowd in a room is not a good idea at this time.

Members discussed whether to have a meeting scheduled for December 08, 2021.

Gerry Newell, Herb Hasting, Alan Smith, and Larry Bunn agreed to take a break for the December 2021 scheduled meeting.

Herb Hastings moved to cancel the scheduled December 8, 2021 BATF meeting. Gerry Newell second the motion.

- Motion passes with fourteen (14) in favor, zero (0) against, two (2) abstention

8. BATF Yearly Nominations and Elections of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair

Elena Van Loo led the agenda item with assistance from Laura Timothy and Bob Franklin.

Randall Glock was the only one who was nominated as Chair.

Voting Results for Chairperson:

Randall Glock – sixteen (16) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention

Randall Glock will be the Chair from October 2021 to September 2022.

Gerry Newell and Herb Hastings did a short speech why they would be a candidate as Vice-Chair.

Nominations and elections for Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair will be moved to the next BATF scheduled meeting as there was a tie for Vice-Chair between Gerry Newell and Herb Hasting with eight (8) votes each. Nominations and elections for 2nd Vice-Chair were not completed due to a tie for Vice-Chair.

Larry Bunn moved to move the nominations and elections for Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair to the next BATF meeting. Alan Smith seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with sixteen (16) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention

9. Recognition of Marilyn Golden, Transportation Advocate

Elena Van Loo led agenda item on behalf of Hale Zukas who asked to recognize Marilyn Golden as a public transportation advocate as an agenda item.

Chris Mullin spoke highly about Marilyn Golden how she was kind, was a major role in the public transportation to advocate people with disabilities, smart-as-a-dickens, and also knew how to have fun. He mentioned Marilyn Golden will be missed.

Clarence Fischer request to adjourn this meeting in Marilyn Golden's memory.

Bob Franklin mention Hale Zukas wanted a motion to dedicate a building in Marilyn Golden's name to honor her at the Ashby BART Station, Eastern parking lot, near Ed Robert's Campus, when it is developed.

Gerry Newell motioned to name the parking structure at the Ashby BART Station in honor of Marilyn Golden's name. Herb Hastings seconded the motion.

Laura Timothy clarified it is not the parking structure at the Ashby BART Station. She mentioned she knew Marilyn Golden and that she was funny and fierce and at the

same time was a wonderful advocate for people with disabilities. Laura Timothy mentioned the intent will be to name the Transit Orientated Development (TOD) project for Marilyn which will remove parking and will develop the land like Fruitvale Village with housing as well as shops. Naming the building in honor of Marilyn Golden is Hale Zukas's intent.

Gerry Newell amended his motion to name Transit Village in Marilyn Golden's honor at the Ashby BART Station. Herb Hasting seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with twelve (12) in favor, zero (0) against, three (3) abstention

10. Member Announcements

Valerie Buell shared that her last meeting with the Regional Advisory Committee meeting was great where there was a panel that discussed mental health and things that can be done. She mentioned there were several legislative offices that attended the meeting, taking notes, and they were really involved. She stated the reason she is mentioning this was because there are a lot of issues people had when riding BART who may or may not have a mental breakdown and cause some concerns from riders. Valerie Buell shared if members are interested in getting the next Regional Advisory Committee meeting package which has the minutes about mental health to reach out to BART staff and they can reach out to me.

Marjorie (Marji) McWee mentioned in the past she shared some work that is underway with the Contra Costa Transit Authority regarding accessible transportation and they moved from doing assessment planning to implementation and added there are three initiatives in process. She mentioned if anyone is interested in joining or is impacted to reach out to Marjorie (Marji) McWee or visit the Contra Costa Authority website for more information.

Alan Smith asked if there has been any response back from the BART Board of Directors on two different support letters, Installation of Sharps Disposal Containers and Station Agents at all BART Stations. Elena Van Loo mentioned she will look into this and get back to members for an update.

11. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo shared with members how Officers and BART staff work together to get the monthly agenda out to members and the public. She shared that if any member has an agenda item request to email Elena Van Loo and she will do her best to put it on the agenda.

12. Chair Announcements

Gerry Newell congratulated Randall Glock for being the Chair and Alan Smith agreed with Gerry Newell.

13. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- BART Accessibility Improvement Plan Update
- RTC Discount Card and Clipper Card Update
 - Members request to have plenty of time for this agenda item
- Station Agent Booth and Station Agent at Pittsburg Center – Update
 - Also, how many BART Police officers are at Pittsburg Center
- BART Public Restrooms – Accessible Restrooms Layout – Update
- Walnut Creek – How to get to Faregates from California/Ygnacio Valley Road
- MTC Blue Ribbon Task Force – Would like more people with Disabilities to be part of the meeting or to be a committee member

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **November 10, 2021, Wednesday.**