

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

Minutes

February 28, 2019

**1. Self-Introductions of Members, Staff, and Guests**

**Members:**

Alan Smith  
Catherine Callahan  
Chris Mullen  
Clarence Fischer  
Christina Lasson (ABSENT)  
Don Queen  
Emily Witkin  
Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez  
Gerry Newell  
Hale Zukas  
Herb Hastings  
Janet Abelson  
Janice Armigo-Brown  
Mussie Gebre  
Randall Glock  
Roland Wong  
Valerie Buell

**BART Staff present:** Bob Franklin, Elena Van Loo

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)  
Jumana Nabti (BART Staff, guest)  
Janice Dispo (Stenographer)  
Larry Bunn (Guest)  
Shawn Costello (Guest)  
Anita Ortega (Guest)

**2. Public Commits**

Larry Bunn introduced himself and mentioned that he is applying to become a BATF member.

Anita Ortega introduced herself and it's her third meeting. She also mentioned that she is interested becoming a BATF member.

Shawn Costello commented that on his way to the meeting he noticed graffiti in the BART Stations and it needs to be addressed and that it is getting out-of-hand.

### **3. Approval of January 24, 2019 Minutes**

Alan Smith stated that January 24, 2019 minutes needed to be corrected under "Approval of January 24, 2019 minutes." The correct approved minutes is December 12, 2018, not January 24, 2019.

There was no opposition to Gerry Newell to correct January's minutes and Clarence Fischer second the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

There was no opposition to Gerry Newell's motion to approve the February 28, 2019 meeting minutes. Clarence Fischer seconded the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **4. Braille Signage Content and Placement**

PowerPoint presentation from Elena Van Loo. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Members asked these questions to be passed on to Carl Orman, BART Staff, for the next month's meeting or later:

- What kind of material is used and what's its longevity?
- How often are the tactile signs cleaned; is there a schedule (members expressed that they should be cleaned more often)?
- What is done when the tactile sign has been vandalized?
- Some signs are not at the CBC (California Building Code) height... Why?
- Is there CBC (California Building Code) height for people who use wheelchairs?
- The two newest BART Station, Pittsburg Center and Antioch. There are no Station Agent booths, so there are no tactile signs (more of a statement).

Members agreed to invite Carl Orman to answer these questions and members may have additional questions.

The Chairperson, Randall Glock, mentioned that this presentation may need to be presented again since Mussie Gebre was not at the meeting and the agenda was

suggested by Mussie Gebre. Mussie Gebre was not able to attend the meeting due to that there was only one ASL interpreter available and he must have two ASL Interpreters.

## **5. Future Irvington BART Station – Escalators**

Future Irvington BART Station – escalators will be presented at the BATF meeting on March 28, 2019. Presenters had to reschedule.

## **6. El Cerrito del Norte Construction Update**

PowerPoint presentation from Jumana Nabti, BART Staff. Members were asked questions and/or shared their concerns after the presentation.

Clarence Fischer asked if there could be a seating area at the drop-off, pick-up location and possibly put in a shelter. Would be good to have, especially if rains.

Clarence Fisher commented that at the kiosk there is no “early bird” schedules posted. Randall Glock confirmed that there are “early bird” schedules posted throughout the BART station.

Janet Abelson voiced her concerns that there is a lack of accessible pathways during construction.

## **7. BATF New Member Nomination**

Elena Van Loo introduced Larry Bunn, who is being nominated as the newest BATF member.

Larry Bunn gave a short speech about why he would be a great asset as a BATF member.

There was no opposition to Gerry Newell’s motion to recommend the approval of Larry Bunn’s application, with a second by Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez.

- 14-0 votes
- One abstention

Elena Van Loo let the members and the public know that Larry Bunn’s 14-0-1 vote will go to the BART Board of Directors for the final approval.

## **8. Member Announcements**

Valerie Buell announced that there will be a meeting with the State Council Bay Area Office's Regional Advisory Committee. One of the agenda topics will be about the five regional Paratransits. The meeting will be held on the last Wednesday of June from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Valerie Buell mentioned that the meeting will be open to the public and the meeting will be held at The Artist Den located in Concord.

Alan Smith mentioned while at the BART Board of Directors meeting this morning, BART got four new trains being used on the BART system and there are about twenty cars being used for training the operators. They are also expecting another twelve cars scheduled to arrive in March 2019.

Alan Smith also expressed how his train ride was the quietest train ride he's ever experienced. All wheels on the trains has been replaced and that's why we're hearing less screeching on the older trains.

Herb Hasting announced that Alameda County Disability Transition Fair will be happening on March 23, 2019, Saturday, from 9:00am until 4:00pm at College of Alameda.

Roland Wong shared his experience while riding on BART this past Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, as the Transbay Tube is going through a retrofit. Unfortunately, there was also a gas leak at the West Oakland BART Station area and took him from Hayward to San Francisco and back home over two hours. He let the members and the public know that BART rides may take a while from East Bay to San Francisco on weekends due to the Transbay Tube being retrofitted during the week and weekends.

Chris Mullen wanted to share that the Richmond Ferry officially launched on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Richmond Ferry will have four round trips, Mondays through Fridays. He noticed that the Richmond BART Station has more riders due to the opening of the Richmond Ferry.

Janice Armigo-Brown announced that there is good news. Hearing loops have been installed at 12<sup>th</sup> St, 19<sup>th</sup> St, and at Lake Merritt BART, Customer Service Department BART Stations. She will be testing the hearing loops and will report to the members and the public her experience at the next BATF meeting.

Emily Witkin mentioned that the doors between cars were left open while heading towards to Concord BART Station. She also stated that some seat cushions had been removed.

Emily Witkin expressed that there is a lack of seating on the trains and would like to see better public notices to have the seats available for those who need them.

## **9. Staff Announcements**

Elena Van Loo shared information regarding to the Ethics Training. She gave two tentative dates, April 2<sup>nd</sup> or May 7<sup>th</sup> and let the members know that Byron Toma will be leading the Ethics Training. Elena Van Loo will let the members know when the date, location, and time of the Ethics Training as soon as possible.

## **10. Chairperson Announcements**

Randall Glock, Chairperson, mentioned that Roland Wong is now a SRAC member recommended by the BATF members and went through the proper protocols.

Randall Glock stated that Elena Van Loo has already talked about the Ethics Training.

Randall Glock mentioned that Alan Smith already shared about the BART wheels not screeching as much.

Randall Glock mentioned that he has been seeing more and more Fleet of The Future (FOF) cars running.

Randall Glock looked at Bob Franklin and asked him about Montgomery BART Station. At the platform level there is a glass enclosure at the elevator location with no doors. He mentioned that he was a bit confused whether it's a gate or a faregate since there's no doors. Bob Franklin will look into this.

Roland Wong asked why the glass enclosure is on the platform level when it should be on the concourse level at the Montgomery BART Station.

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

Randall Glock and members list future topics:

- Future Irvington BART Station – Escalators
- Braille signage content and placement – update
- Sharps Containers
- Noise preventions at BART Stations, especially along the highways
- Escalators at BART Stations
- New benches at BART Stations – needs to be more contrast

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting for **March 28, 2019 at 2:00 pm at, 1750 Broadway, Oakland, California 94612.**

[The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm]