

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

Minutes
May 23, 2019

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

Members:

Alan Smith
Catherine Callahan
Chris Mullin
Clarence Fischer
Christina Lasson (ABSENT)
Don Queen
Emily Witkin
Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez, 2nd Vice-Chair
Gerry Newell
Hale Zukas (ABSENT)
Herb Hastings
Janet Abelson
Janice Armigo Brown
Larry Bunn (ABSENT)
Mussie Gebre (ABSENT)
Randall Glock, Chair
Roland Wong, Vice-Chair
Valerie Buell (ABSENT)

BART Staff present:

Bob Franklin
Elena Van Loo

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)
Laura Timothy (Staff)
Steve Dietrich (Staff)
Ryan Huang (Staff)
Janice Dispo (Stenographer)
David Goldstone (Guest)
Sara Desumala (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)
Anita Ortega (Guest)

2. Public Comments

No public comments

3. Approval of April 25, 2019

Clarence Fischer moved approval of the April 25, 2019 meeting minutes. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with twelve (12) in favor, one (1) abstention, zero (0) against

4. Cinched Fare Gate Rollout

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

Janet Abelson voiced concerns when going through accessible fare gates. She mentioned the fare gates closes too early and she gets stuck.

Steven Dietrich stated that this rollout does not apply to accessible gates yet, though he shares her concern. He then shared about the mechanics that go into controlling the gates and said that he would like to work on improving the sensors and see if any adjustments could be made. He also mentioned perhaps utilizing infrared sensors.

Herb Hasting asked how long the regular fare gates stays open and the accessible wide fare gates stays open. Steve Dietrich stated that the regular fare gates stays open for about one to two seconds and the accessible wide fare gates stays open for about five seconds.

Clarence Fischer shared that he often gets caught passing through the gates, as he walks slowly. He also has heard of service dogs getting caught by the barriers closing to soon while passing through the gates.

Randall Glock asked members if they would like to participate in testing fare gates in the field. Members agreed with Randall Glock to be part of the testing of the fare gates.

Gerry Newell asked Steve Dietrich if his PowerPoint presentation is available for the BATF members. Steve Dietrich will email the presentation to Elena Van Loo who will follow through on the request.

5. Oakland Coliseum BART Station Platform Emergency Call Boxes Pilot Program

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

Randall Glock shared the difference between emergency call boxes and the call boxes located at the elevators. The emergency call boxes are connected directly with the BART Police dispatch and the call boxes next to the elevators are connected directly with the BART Station Agent that is a non-emergency.

Randall Glock request a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to be shared with the BATF members. Elena Van Loo will follow through on the request.

Gerry Newell thanked the presenter and asked, as a blind user, are the buttons labeled in braille. He also asked, for his colleges who are low vision, are there large prints. Ryan Huang stated that there is a section of the emergency call box where there is braille is available.

Janice Armigo-Brown stated that she represents the hearing loss community and voiced that the emergency box is great however, on the platform level it can be loud from passing trains and being next to a major freeway. She expressed for those with hearing loss, it may be difficult to hear while interacting with the emergency dispatcher over the phone. Janice Armigo-Brown asked how to make sure that individuals can listen to the dispatcher with a noisy background. Ryan Huang expressed that there's been testing with noise level at that the Oakland Coliseum BART Station and will be addressed to make sure that the dispatchers are able to hear the caller clearly with his staff.

Janice Armigo-Brown had a thought in putting hearing loops in the emergency call boxes.

Herb Hastings said that it would be helpful if the station agent received an immediate alert whenever the emergency call box button is activated.

Randall Glock asked what the response time is when you push the red button, especially, if you are not able to talk, or it's too loud, or the dispatcher cannot hear the caller on the emergency call box. Ryan Huang stated that it is immediate response from the BART Police.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez shared that when she was at the Oakland Coliseum BART Station and saw that the emergency call boxes was accessible, especially those who uses wheelchairs. Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez did see braille on the machine and that

the buttons were big enough and thought it was accessible to everyone. She praised Ryan Huang for doing a great job.

6. Elevator and Station Agent Booth Location Diagram - Update

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

Gerry Newell request PowerPoint presentation to be shared with the BATF members. Elena Van Loo will through on the request.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez stated that the diagram is much clearer from the previous diagrams.

7. Learn BART Booklet Revisions and New Pages

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

Members asked for the PowerPoint presentation to be emailed to them. Elena Van Loo will follow through on the request.

Herb Hasting mentioned that the cover page should show the newest BART trains instead of the legacy trains. Laura Timothy mentioned since not all trains have been replaced with the new Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains that there will probably be an update of Learn BART booklet in a few years.

Emily Witkin expressed an idea to have another booklet to describe stairs and escalator locations or adding stairs and escalators locations in the current Learn BART booklet.

Chris Mullen stated the booklet is fabulous and wanted to know if the booklet will be in other foreign languages. Laura Timothy said that the booklet will be in English, Chinese and Spanish.

Gerry Newell asked about text version of Learn BART. Laura Timothy shared that there is a text version along with large prints. Also, if requested, braille is available.

8. BART – Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Berryessa/Milpitas Project

Bob Franklin gave an update of the two sites tour to Berryessa BART Station and Milpitas BART Station.

Bob Franklin stated the tour to Berryessa BART Station and Milpitas BART Station scheduled for May 29th and May 30th, 2019 has been cancelled due to an active construction site.

Bob Franklin announced that the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Committee for Transportation Mobility and Accessibility task force will be joining in with BATF members visiting both Berryessa BART Station and Milpitas BART Station as a day trip instead of two separate days.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez voiced concerned that now Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Committee for Transportation Mobility and Accessibility will be joining in the tour that this will now be a public meeting at which we were trying to avoid. Bob Franklin stated that VTA staff was concerned having a public meeting due to both stations are active construction sites. Starting June of 2019, BART will turn over to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and both Berryessa BART Station and Milpitas BART Station will no longer be a construction zone site.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez asked if BATF members will have more information when the site visits happens. Bob Franklin stated that he will share with BATF members the date and the logistics of the one-day trip, including, transportation, food, accessible restrooms, and water when he has more information.

9. Member Announcements

Herb Hasting liked the idea of having the bike bars replaced instead of the bike racks. Having the bike bars will be more convenient when he stands.

Herb Hasting also asked when will the middle door marking will be installed for the Fleet of the Future (FOF) now that he's seeing more Fleet of the Future (FOF) on the tracks.

Randall Glock mentioned that the third marking for the Fleet of the Future will be put in at a later date when about fifty percent or more the Fleet of the Future (FOF) are on the tracks.

Roland Wong mentioned that all Fleet of the Future (FOF) doors have small signages on the train doors. There's the wheelchair icon in the middle of the train doors and bike icons on the first and third train door.

Emily Witkin shared that she was at the Downtown Berkeley BART Station and heard some high school kids praising the look of the new Fleet of the Future (FOF) trains.

10. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo thanked the members who attended the Ethics Training on May 7, 2019 and reminded members that travel reimbursement has been approved. Elena Van Loo also announced members who have not completed the Ethics Training to give her a call or email.

Robert Raburn shared that the BART Board of Directors made a decision on the Fleet of the Future's (FOF) figuration and that is to take out the bike racks and replace them with bike bars like the legacy BART trains. The bike bars will remain at the first and third train door of the Fleet of the Future (FOF) and the wheelchair space will remain in the middle of the train doors. This decision was made from a survey that was done stating the bike racks was taking up space and blocking doorways.

Bob Franklin shared that he traveled to New York city with Laura Timothy and shared his experience attending seminars with other accessible agency transits that focused on accessibility within the transit system. Bob Franklin and Laura Timothy presented on elevator mitigation when elevator is not in service.

Robert Raburn shared that there is a new signage right over the sidewalk indicating the location of the elevator at the 19th Street BART Station.

11. Chairperson Announcements

Randall Glock asked BART staff the status having a tour of the Fleet of the Future (FOF) safety tour. Elena Van Loo informed BARTF members that BART staff is working on scheduling a time to have the Fleet of the Future (FOF) safety tour at the 19th Street BART Station.

Robert Raburn shared that there will be a joint meeting with VTA Board of Directors and BART Board of Directors on May 31, 2019 starting at 2:30 pm at the BART Board room.

Randall Glock asked BART staff if there will be travel reimbursement for BART and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) joint meeting on May 31, 2019. Both Bob Franklin and Elena Van Loo approved travel reimbursements.

12. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

Gerry Newell was interested having an agenda on the update General Disability Awareness (GDA) from the BART Police Department.

Gerry Newell was interested in getting a copy of the General Disability Awareness pamphlet to the BATF members and if this can be handed out to the public. Elena Van Loo will follow through if General Disability Awareness (GDA) can be distributed.

Roland Wong mentioned maybe to meet the new BART Interim Chief of Police, Ed Alvarez.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting for **July 25, 2019, at 2:00 pm at, 1750 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.**

[The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm]