

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

Minutes  
June 27, 2019

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

**Members:**

Alan Smith  
Catherine Callahan  
Chris Mullin  
Clarence Fischer  
Christina Lasson  
Don Queen  
Emily Witkin  
Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair (ABSENT)  
Gerry Newell  
Hale Zukas  
Herb Hastings  
Janet Abelson  
Janice Armigo Brown  
Larry Bunn  
Mussie Gebre  
Randall Glock, Chair  
Roland Wong, Vice-Chair  
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)  
Janice Li (BART Board of Directors)  
Chief Ed Alvarez (BART Police)  
Laura Timothy (Staff)  
Greg Lombardi (Staff)  
Randall (Randy) Radford (Staff)  
Mitra Moheb (Staff)  
Albert (Al) Schmitt (Staff)  
Melissa Jordan (Staff)

Sindhu Ananthavel (Staff)  
Tian Feng (Staff)  
Naomi Armenta (Presenter, guest)  
Lisa Moore (ASL Interpreter)  
Hannah Kanzall (ASL Interpreter)  
Janice Discpo (Stenographer)  
Edward Rodrigues (Guest)  
Arnold Berillinger (Guest)  
Leslie Flood (Guest)  
Anita Ortega (Guest)  
Rebecca Willifort (Guest)  
Jerry Grace (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

No public comments

## **3. Approval of May 23, 2019**

Clarence Fischer moved approval of the June 27, 2019 meeting minutes. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with sixteen (16) in favor, one (1) abstention, zero (0) against

## **4. BART Elevator Outage Guide**

Naomi Armenta and 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.

Naomi Armenta shared that she will forward the PowerPoint presentation to Elena Van Loo who will forward to the BATF members.

Randall Glock asked why the second elevator at 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station from street level to concourse level is not listed as a BART elevator. Naomi Armenta stated that the second elevator at 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station from street level to concourse level is not owned by BART and it is privately owned.

Mussie Gebre voiced a concern regarding receiving repeated elevator outage alerts and asked if he would be able to modify it so as to receive it only one time. Naomi Armenta suggested that he visit BART's website to refresh by cancelling and reinstalling alerts.

Gerry Newell stated that he has one short question and one short comment. Gerry Newell stated that it would be great to have a way to contact BART Customer Service and have a disability line so that they can tell you what needs to be done if the elevator is out of service. Gerry Newell asked if you are at an E-BART BART Station where there do not have Station Agents. How does elevator mitigation work?

Naomi Armenta responded to Gerry Newell's comment and question. Naomi Armenta stated that she agrees that they should have disability line and as for the E-BART elevator mitigation are basically the same. Antioch elevator mitigation is pretty good but, Pittsburg Center is working on how to make it better.

Janet Abelson asked and noted that this project sounded interesting and positive. She voiced concerns that the bus stops change on a regular basis. She asked if there will be updates when buses stops have moved? Laura Timothy stated this is still in the works looking into how to keep BART Elevator Outage guide updated.

Roland Wong commented that he uses the split platforms between stations when the elevator is not in service and said that it is working well for him. He asked how many riders has called for elevator mitigation in the past? Laura Timothy answered that calling for an actual pick up is very low. We had it available but, people were not using it because people didn't know it was not being offered, people were frustrated that it takes too long, or they were back tracking. Going forward we want to promote it more and keep track.

## **5. Modifying Existing Faregates – Stacked Faregates at Richmond BART Station**

Randall Glock wanted to clarify to members that the agenda item is focusing on the stacked faregates and not faregate evasions.

Randall Glock introduced the newest BART Board of Director, Janice Li, before agenda item was presented by Mitra Moheb.

Janice Li introduced herself as the newest BART Board of Director and she represents the Western half of San Francisco. Janice Li thanked the members and the public for their time and their service.

Greg Lombardi express his apologies that the stacked faregates rollout was not properly done and should have been rolled out a lot better. Greg Lombardi asked members if they would like to go to Richmond BART Station to test the stacked faregates.

Mitra Moheb, Greg Lombardi, Randall Radford, and Al Schmitt gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Mitra Moheb stated that the stacked faregates is a pilot program at the Richmond BART Station. There will be a pilot program at the Fruitvale BART Station coming soon with a different kind of faregates from Richmond BART Station. Janet Abelson visited the Richmond BART Station and expressed concerns that she did get stuck with the new stacked faregates.

Gerry Newell suggested to have people with different disabilities to be video tape going through the pilot stacked faregates so that BART staff can see where the issues are.

Alan Smith stated that his luggage has gotten caught in the fare gates at both San Francisco and Oakland airport BART Stations. He asked what the plan for safety is if those kinds of situations were to occur, specifically releasing the gate pressure.

Roland Wong stated when he first saw the stacked faregates, it was intimidating. Roland Wong stated that he is a wheelchair user and he did a test run at the Richmond BART Station with the new stacked faregates. He mentioned that he did not have a problem getting through the stacked faregates. He expressed concerns that riders follow him through the faregates when there is still a few more seconds left before the faregates closes.

Director Raburn encouraged everyone to go out and use the faregates and share any additional feedback they may have. He looks forward to hearing back from people over the coming months.

Members agreed to have an open house on July 10, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Richmond BART Station to look at the pilot stacked faregates with BART staff.

Members also expressed to have an Open House at the Fruitvale BART Station when the pilot faregates are installed.

## **6. Castro Valley BART Station – Path of Travel**

Tian Feng presented on the item. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Randall Glock wanted to clarify what the item agenda was about. There was a rider who is blind at the Castro Valley BART Station a few weeks ago and he was concern that the accessible path tactile path was not accessible on the platform

level. Rider voiced his concerns the noise level at the Castro Valley BART Station is very loud from the freeway traffic and had a difficult time locating the escalators to the concourse level. The rider mentioned when it is too loud, he is not able to hear the tapping from his cane.

Don Queen suggested to have a travel training representative at the Castro Valley BART Station to show the rider, who is blind, the layout of the station and especially using the tactile dome tiles.

## **7. Fleet of the Future (FOF) Safety Tour at 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station – Confirm a Tour Date**

Elena Van Loo announced that she has been working with BART staff to have Fleet of the Future (FOF) train be stationed at the 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station to look at safety features on the trains. She asked members what day and time works best.

Gerry Newell suggested having the Fleet of the Future (FOF) safety features tour before the regular scheduled BATF meeting on July 25, 2019.

Members agreed to have the Fleet of the Future (FOF) safety tour on July 25, 2019 from 11:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Elena Van Loo will work with BART Staff to set up a tour on the agreed date and time frame.

## **8. Introduction to Interim Chief Ed Alvarez**

Interim Chief Ed Alvarez introduced himself to the BATF members and to the public and that he has been Interim Chief for about six weeks after the Chief of BART Police retired. He shared that he has been with BART for years and worked in different departments within BART. Interim Chief Ed Alvarez thanked the members for inviting him and asked members if there are any questions.

Gerry Newell stated that he has been fortunate to do a ride along with BART Police and he appreciate what you guys do and please keep up the good work.

Randall Glock asked to Interim Chief Ed Alvarez if he has seen the General Disability Awareness pamphlet (GDA) that BATF members produced. Randall Glock also asked how many officers use General Disability Awareness pamphlet (GDA) and how often is it used? Chief Ed Alvarez will look into it and will report back to the members.

Members expressed safety concerns when reporting an incident on their smart phones. Interim Chief Ed Alvarez stated to be safe when reporting any incidences on your smart phone and to be aware of your surroundings.

## **9. Berryessa/Milpitas BART Station Accessible Features**

Bob Franklin announced that BART Staff is working with VTA Staff the logistics of the Berryessa BART Station and Milpitas BART Station site tour slated for August 7, 2019. He mentioned that back in March 28, 2019 BATF meeting, two ad hoc subcommittee was formed. Bob Franklin let the members know both Berryessa BART Station and Milpitas BART Station are still under construction.

## **10. Member Announcements**

Herb Hasting voiced his concerns the lack of signages directing you to The Alameda County Fair at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station.

Valerie Buell will be e-mailing a legislator survey to the committee, asking for feedback from the disability community. She mentioned that she will email the survey to Elena Van Loo who will then forward to members.

## **11. Staff Announcements**

Elena Van Loo let the members know that the second quarter for travel reimbursement ends on June 30, 2019 and let her know if there has been changes to be done before July 8, 2019.

Elena Van Loo announced she has reserved conference room number 1600 on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor for the BATF Holiday Reception on December 11, 2019.

## **12. Chairperson Announcements**

Randall Glock shared he and Roland Wong went to a joint meeting with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of directors. He mentioned the topic was mostly about Berryessa BART Station and Milpitas BART Station projects and it was very informative.

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

- Expanding elevator attendants to Montgomery BART Station and Embarcadero BART Station
- Montgomery BART Station faregate on the platform level – new accessible pathways
- Pilot faregates at the Fruitvale BART Station
- Update on Irvington Station

## **14. 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 4:39 pm]