

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

Minutes  
July 25, 2019

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

**Members:**

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

**BART Staff present:**

Bob Franklin  
Laura Timothy  
Elena Van Loo

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)  
Kay Tate (Staff)  
Mack Somers (BART Intern)  
Lisa Moore (ASL Interpreter)  
Rick Owen (ASL Interpreter)  
James Henderson (ASL Interpreter)  
Janice Dispo (Stenographer)

Dennis Gassaway (Guest)  
Jerry Grace (Guest)  
Anita Ortega (Guest)  
Sara Desumala (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

Randall Glock introduced Dennis Gassaway who wanted to share two concerns:

- Dennis Gassaway's first concern was about the BART paper tickets. He was aware the BART paper tickets will be fading out and wanted to know what to do with the BART paper tickets when there is still money available. He wanted to know if BART paper tickets can be cashed out or the money left over has to be transferred to a Clipper Card.
- Dennis Gassaway's second concern was the noise at the Castro Valley BART Station. He stated the station is very loud from the freeway traffic alongside the BART station. He would like to see a sound barrier be installed. Dennis Gassaway stated he is blind and relies on sound from his cane to navigate. He added when it is too noisy, he is not able to hear his cane tapping.

Robert Raburn announced the new BART General Manager is Robert (Bob) Powers. Robert (Bob) Powers has been with BART for the last seven years. Robert (Bob) goals is becoming a world class transit system, focused on the customers, maintain the safety, fare evasion issues we have, and keep being at the for front of being the leader in the Bay Area.

## **3. Approval of June 27, 2019 minutes**

Herb Hastings moved approval of the June 27, 2019 meeting minutes. Gerry Newell seconded the motion with corrections requested by the BATF members.

- Motion passes with sixteen (15) in favor, one (1) abstention, zero (0) against

## **4. Training for the Prevention of Workplace Harassment at BART**

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

Kay Tate informed members that she works for BART Office of Civil Rights and gave the members contact information.

Members requested the PowerPoint presentation to be forwarded to them. Elena Van Loo will follow through on their requests.

Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez complemented Kay Tate that the presentation was very detailed and very concise.

Gerry Newell thanked Kay Kate for an effective presentation, it was well done, and thank her for the Braille version of the agenda item.

Valerie Buell said the presentation was fabulous. The one piece of feedback she wanted to share was that there are people who might not like to shake hands due to various personal reasons and that they might speak up to say as such. She stated not to take it personal if the individual does not want to shake hands or give a hug and not to react badly to one's request.

## **5. Expanding Elevator Attendants to Montgomery BART Station and Embarcadero BART Station**

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

Tim Chan announced the BART Board of Directors passed to expand the elevator attendants program to Montgomery BART Station and Embarcadero BART Station and is scheduled to start in October of 2019. He confirmed that all four down San Francisco BART Stations will have elevator attendants.

Tim Chan shared that he has seen the construction of the secured area on the platform level at the Montgomery BART Station. He announced once the faregate at the platform level is secured and running, the elevator attendants will be there to assist riders to help them how to use the new faregates.

Janet Abelson shared that it can be crowded when there is more than one wheelchair with a stool in the elevator. She would like to see the stool outside of the elevator.

Hale Zukas stated some wheelchairs are very large and need all the space in the elevator to maneuver around.

Laura Timothy suggested putting in a folding stool so that it can be easily be folded away and kept in the elevator.

Randall Glock reminded Elena Van Loo to have a discussion for next month's BATF meeting with BART Staff in regard to bi-directional faregate being a concern at the Montgomery BART Station at the platform level.

Tim Chan shared he will be working with City of San Francisco for a master plan for redundant elevators and larger capacity elevators at the four downtown BART Stations. He also commented that this project will take many years down the road. Tim Chan confirmed the four downtown BART Stations:

- Embarcadero BART Station
- Montgomery Street BART Station
- Powell Street BART Station
- Civic Center/UN Plaza BART Station

Jerry Grace wanted to thank the elevator attendants for doing a great job at the downtown stations.

Tim Chan shared there will be future modernization projects at BART Stations:

- 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station Modernization
- Bay Fair BART Station Modernization
- Coliseum BART Station Modernization
- Powell Street BART Station Modernization
- West Oakland BART Station Modernization

## **6. Milpitas BART Station and Berryessa BART Station Site Tour Planning**

Elena Van Loo and Bob Franklin worked with members to schedule two separate site tours either to Berryessa BART Station scheduled for the morning or Milpitas BART Station scheduled for the afternoon. Elena Van Loo confirmed the site tour date will be August 7, 2019.

### Berryessa BART Station (morning):

- Alan Smith, Clarence Fischer, Valerie Buell, Mussie Gebre, Don Queen, Herb Hastings, Janet Abelson, Gerry Newell, Randall Glock, Emily Witkin, Roland Wong

### Milpitas BART Station (morning):

- Randall Glock, Janice Armigo Brown, Emily Witkin, Janet Abelson, Herb Hastings, Gerry Newell, Hale Zukas, Roland Wong, Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez, Valerie Buell

Elena Van Loo will let members know the final logistics through email. Informed members that space maybe limited on the bus that will be transporting from Warm Springs BART

Station/South Fremont BART Station to either Berryessa BART Station or Milpitas BART Station.

## **7. Discussion of Prototype Faregates at Richmond BART Station and Fruitvale BART Station.**

Elena Van Loo informed the members that this item will be presented at the August 22, 2019 BATF meeting per BART staff's request. Also mentioned the BART staff will present the Montgomery BART Station faregates at the platform level.

Randall Glock stated that since this item is on the agenda is to go ahead and talk about members experience with the stacked faregates at the Richmond BART Station. He also suggested for those who have not tried the stacked faregates at Richmond BART Station should go and experience them.

Roland Wong is part of Little People of America (LPA). He expressed concerns that little people may get hit on the head as the stacked faregates goes down.

Elena Van Loo wanted to share with members what some of the members said about the prototype stacked faregates at the Richmond BART Station:

- The accessible stacked faregates are louder than before.
- The stacked faregates looks narrower.
- BATF member stated that the accessible faregate closes too early. When she taps her Clipper Card on the disk, she looks at how much money is left on her Clipper Card that takes a couple more seconds. Just as she is going through the faregate, it closes on her. Would like to have the accessible faregates have more time to stay open.
- The accessible faregates works well and I let staff know when the leaves hit my shoulders, there was no concerns.
- When a rider goes through the accessible faregate fast, noticed the faregates remain open for about five more seconds. Was concerned that multiple followed the rider without paying – Fare evasion.

Janet Abelson also added at Richmond BART Station the stacked faregates closed on a baby stroller.

Don Queen stated the loud sound from the prototype stacked faregates at Richmond BART Station startles service animals.

Elena Van Loo informed there was an update information regarding to Fruitvale BART Station pilot faregates. She shared that Greg Lombardi informed her the pilot faregates are not working as well and BART staff is working on this.

Director Robert Raburn asked members to keep in mind that this is a pilot project going on at both stations; Richmond BART Station and Fruitvale BART Stations:

Director Robert Raburn shared some statistics regarding to the prototype faregates at Richmond BART Station and at the Fruitvale BART Station:

- As of July 24, 2019, there have been over 50,000 passengers who have used these gates at Richmond BART Station and there have been no documented injuries.
- As of July 24, 2019, at the Fruitvale BART Station, there have been 55,000 passengers who have used these gates. There has been one claim; however, it appears to be unrelated to the lower part of the gate. No injury has been verified.

Director Robert Raburn added that BART will continue to conduct surveys and review all survey data.

## **8. Wheelchair Accessible Trip Planner**

Bob Franklin announced that BART is applying for a federal grant for real time trip planner app for smart phones when the BART elevators are not in service. He mentioned that he is seeking a letter of support from other public transportation transit agencies and seeking BATF's support.

A draft BATF letter of support was read by Bob Franklin. After some discussions and some minor edits, Janet Abelson moved for approval of the letter of support. Herb Hastings second the motion.

The motion passes unanimously to approve the letter of support. Randall Glock, Chair, will sign the letter.

## **9. Member Announcements**

Valerie Buell passed out Regional Center Survey flyer to members and asked members to take a moment of their time to do the survey. She will forward the survey to Elena Van Loo who will forward the survey to BATF members by email.

Christina Lasson passed out flyers welcoming members and the public to celebrate self-advocate, Carlos Quintong's, who has recently passed away, on October 18, 2019 at Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley, California.

## **10. Staff Announcements**

Elena Van Loo announced the updated version Learn BART booklets is official to the public and passed out the updated version of Learn BART to members and to the public.

Laura Timothy thanked Elena Van Loo for all the hard work she has put into the completion of Learn BART booklet.

Elena Van Loo reminded members nominations and elections will take place at the September 26, 2019 BATF meeting. Informed members if any member or members are interested in being a chair, vice-chair, or 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-chair, to either email or call Elena Van Loo.

Bob Franklin shared that BART will no longer be installing or maintaining the yellow thermoplastic stripes on each interior step. BART will provide a contrasting stripe on upper approach and lower tread only to comply with codes and all exterior stairs will continue to have contrasting stripes on each and every step.

## **11. Chairperson Announcements**

Randall Glock shared the Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program (BORP) is launching Adaptive Bikeshare at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, where adaptive handcycles and trikes for people with disabilities will be made available on a regular schedule for use. He announced this program will start on July 28, 2019.

Randall Glock wanted to remind members to go to Richmond BART Station to try out the stacked faregates and this will be discussed at August 22, 2019 BATF meeting.

Randall Glock also reminded members on August 22, 2019 BATF meeting there will be a discussion regarding the faregates at the platform level at Montgomery BART Station.

Randall Glock would like to invite the new BART General Manager, Robert (Bob) Powers to a BATF meeting to introduce himself.

Randall Glock expressed Fleet of the Future (FOF) safety features tour was a success.

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

- Discussion of prototype at Richmond BART Station and Fruitvale BART Station
- Montgomery BART Station faregates at the platform level – Update
- Meet the newest BART General Manager, Robert (Bob) Powers
- Request for a joint meeting with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority – Committee for Transportation Mobility and Accessibility (VTA – CTMA)

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting for **August 22, 2019, at 2:00 pm at, 1750 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.**

[The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm]