

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
2150 Webster Street, P.O. Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94604-2688

BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE
Committee Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Anita Ortega
2. Catherine Callahan
3. Clarence Fischer
4. Daveed Mandell
5. Don Queen
6. Emily Witkin
7. Janice Armigo Brown
8. Randall Glock (Chair)
9. Roland Wong
10. VACANT
11. VACANT
12. VACANT
13. VACANT
14. VACANT
15. VACANT
16. VACANT
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

Quorum of five (5) in-person BATF members. No “Just Cause,” used.

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Matt West
Bob Franklin

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

Director Robert Raburn
Ahmad Rassai (BART Staff)
Sabrina Baptiste (Staff)
Bridgett Nolot (Captioner)

Sara Hill (Captioner)
Hillary Brown (Guest)
Bruce Yow (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)
Annie Koruga (Guest)
Roger Acuna (Guest)
Sarah Desumala (Guest)
Natalie Maxwell (Guest)
Danny Kodmur (Guest)
Alex Tiphayachan (Guest)
Sergio Valencia (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Danny Kodmur mentioned he attended August's BATF meeting and today will be his second meeting. He mentioned he is interested in joining the BATF.

Hillary Brown stated she is interested in joining the BATF. She mentioned this will be her third meeting that she has attended.

Annie Koruga shared correct pronouns are they/them.

Alex Tiphayachan expressed concerns that BART will no longer be selling group BART magnetic striped tickets when he teaches youth, seniors, and students with disabilities how to navigate through BART System and riding AC Transit bus system.

3. Approval of August 24, 2023 meeting minutes

Daveed Mandell moved approval of the August 24, 2023 meeting minutes with amendments. Clarence Fischer seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with seven (7) in favor, zero (0) against, and one (1) abstention

4. BART Accessibility Improvement Program – Phase 2

Ahmad Rassai (AR) presented on, "BART Accessibility Improvement Program – Phase 2."

AR introduced himself and he is the Accessibility and Improvement Program Manager. AR mentioned the purpose of the Accessibility Improvement Program (AIP) is to improve accessibility in and around the BART stations and to better meet

the needs of the disabled community and added the goal is to enhance access and safety in and around BART Stations.

He listed project locations at these BART stations.

Base Bid BART Stations:

1. Bay Fair
2. Fremont
3. Fruitvale
4. Hayward
5. MacArthur
6. San Leandro

Bid Options BART Stations:

1. Castro Valley
2. Lafayette
3. North Berkeley
4. Richmond
5. Rockridge

AR went over Accessible Improvement, Phase 2 estimated schedule for exterior work and interior work from 2023 to 2024.

He explained exterior work entails accessible ramp corrections, accessible paths and bus pad slope corrections, and cross walk stripping.

Exterior BART Stations:

1. Bay Fair
2. Hayward
3. San Leandro
4. Fruitvale
5. Richmond
6. Fremont
7. Castro Valley
8. Rockridge
9. MacArthur

AR explained interior work entails handrail corrections, replace existing courtesy phones with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant phones, and lighting upgrades at elevator lobbies at some BART Stations.

Interior BART Stations:

1. Bay Fair
2. Hayward
3. Castro Valley
4. San Leandro
5. Fremont
6. Fruitvale
7. MacArthur
8. Rockridge
9. North Berkeley
10. Lafayette
11. Richmond

He went over a diagram of a street ramp that is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and would like to see ADA street ramps to be consistent throughout the BART system.

AR mentioned some handrails at BART Stations will be replaced with new ADA compliant handrails under the exterior work agreement.

He shared handset courtesy phones will be replaced with hands-free courtesy phones throughout the BART System.

Roland Wong addressed lighting concerns at South Hayward BART Station and Ashby BART Station. He said South Hayward BART Station is dark throughout the station and should add this issue to the list of improvements. He mentioned at the Ashby BART Station, the lighting at the platform level is very dim and brighter lights should be installed. AR mentioned South Hayward and Ashby BART Station are on his list for future AIP projects with lights and wayfinding signs.

Don Queen asked what does, "AIP," means. AR clarified it stands for, Accessible Improvement Program.

Don Queen stated some of the Braille Tactiles signs are too low and wishes they are located at an average human height so he does not have to bend over to touch the Braille Tactiles.

Daveed Mandell agreed with Don Queen that the location Braille Tactiles are inconsistent and stated Braille Tactiles should be metal instead of plastic.

AR mentioned federal funds have specific guidelines that BART has to follow on how the money is used. Federal funds has to be for corrective Americans with Disabilities (ADA) actions.

5. Nominations and Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair

Elena Van Loo and Bob Franklin led agenda item, “Nomination and Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair.”

Chairperson election:

Randall Glock was nominated as Chairperson and he accepted.

Randal Glock gave a short speech as to why he would be a good candidate as Chairperson.

Voting results for Chairperson:

- Randall Glock – eight (8) in favor, zero (0) against, Abstention (s) – one (1)

Vice-Chairperson election:

Roland Wong was nominated as Vice-Chairperson and he accepted.

Roland Wong gave a short speech as to why he would be a good candidate as Vice-Chair.

Voting results for Vice-Chair:

- Roland Wong – eight (8) in favor, zero (0) against Abstention (s) – one (1)

2nd Vice-Chairperson election:

Clarence Fischer and Janice Armigo Brown were nominated for 2nd Vice-Chairperson and both accepted.

Clarence Fischer gave a short speech as to why he would be a good candidate as 2nd Vice-Chair.

Janice Armigo Brown gave a short speech as to why she would be a good candidate as 2nd Vice-Chair.

Voting results for 2nd Vice-Chairperson:

- Clarence Fischer – three (3) in favor, zero (0) against
- Janice Armigo Brown – four (4) in favor, zero (0) against
Abstention (s) – two (2)

Elena Van Loo announced the new Chairperson is Randall Glock, Vice-Chairperson is Roland Wong, and 2nd Vice-Chair is Janice Armigo Brown and they will serve for one year.

6. New committee member nomination

Randall Glock led the agenda item and introduced Bruce Yow who is interested in becoming a BATF member.

Bruce Yow introduced himself and expressed why he is interested in joining the BATF.

Clarence Fischer moved to recommend Bruce Yow as a BATF member. Roland Wong seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with nine (9) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstention

7. Discuss new BART September 2023 service changes

Randall Glock led agenda item, “Discuss new BART September 2023 service changes.”

Clarence Fischer mentioned he heard from people with disabilities and senior communities that they feel they are being discriminated against, especially on the Fremont and Dublin/Pleasanton lines which have six car trains. He stated people with disabilities and seniors attempt to board the trains during commute hours, some in wheelchairs, some in other mobility devices and they have been denied boarding due to the trains being packed. Clarence Fischer mentioned BART is monitoring the number of shorter trains since September 11, 2023 and may need to re-look into extending the number of trains during commute hours.

Director Robert Raburn shared BART is monitoring and depending on ongoing commute during commute hours, the number of trains can increase. He mentioned the shorter trains were to prevent anti-social behavior.

Roland Wong mentioned he has been going to San Francisco more often and has noticed the middle cars have been more packed with riders with their bikes and expressed he worries that he may catch COVID or a flu. He strongly advises to go back to ten car train during peak time.

Catherine Callahan agreed with what has been said and added the crowding on the trains really concerns her and hopes this new train service changes will be monitored. She mentioned she is a wheelchair user and entering and exiting the trains with the new train service changes has been a challenge.

Daveed Mandell mentioned he is blind and finds the six car trains to be too short. He stated he is being pushed into or trying to get around him if he's standing near the doorway and expressed his white cane, which he uses to navigate, may get damaged due to overcrowding. He says going back to eight car trains or going back to ten car trains is best thing to do.

Emily Witkin said since having shorter trains, even during non-peak hours, the trains can be too crowded heading towards to San Francisco.

8. Member Announcements

Clarence Fischer mentioned he still uses his paper discount BART tickets and mentioned as of November 30th, 2023, paper discount BART tickets will no longer be able to be used at the faregates. He asked why this was not a public announcement so people are aware of this change, deadline.

Daveed Mandell shared that Paratransit should provide same day service and making reservations twenty-four hours in advance is not acceptable.

Catherine Callahan suggested to have BART staff come to the meeting to present.

9. Staff Announcements

Bob Franklin introduced and welcomed Matt West as the new BART staff, Manager of Accessibility, in the Customer Access and Accessibility Department. Matthew West introduced himself.

Sabrina Baptiste, Office of Civil Rights (OCR), introduced herself.

Elena Van Loo mentioned travel reimbursement for the third quarter is due on October 10, 2023 and reminded members to update card numbers if they have changed.

10. Chairperson Announcements

No Chairperson announcements.

11. Future Agenda Topics – Member Suggest Topics

- Approve 2024 BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) scheduled meetings
- New committee member nomination
 - Hillary Brown
- New generation faregates update
- Platform door markers update
- Braille within the BART System update
- Update on the number of trains in service as of September 11, 2023

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, October 26, 2023, at 2pm.