

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Minutes

April 23, 2015

1. Self-Introductions of Members, Staff and Guests

Members present: Janet Abelson, Janice Armigo Brown, Peter Crockwell, Don Queen, Hale Zukas, Clarence Fischer, Gerry Newell, Herb Hastings, Alan Smith, Larry Bunn, Brandon Young, Roland Wong, Linda Drattell

Absent: Randall Glock, Marina Villena, Megan O'Brien,

BART Staff present: Ike Nnaji, Bob Franklin

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

Director Robert Raburn, Sadie Graham (BART), Khawaja Zubair (BART), Balvir Thind (BART), Mac Gines (BART), David Vasquez (BART), Elena Vanloo (BART), Russell Bloom (OIPA), Farrah Nolan (ASL Interpreter), Esperanza Diaz-Alvarez, Yu Dian He, Jerry Grace, Christian Johnson (ASL Interpreter), Janice Dispo (Stenographer)

2. Public Comments

[No public comments.]

3. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2015 Meeting

No opposition to Herb Hastings' motion to approve the March 26, 2015 meeting minutes, with a second by Roland Wong.

Motion passes with one abstention from Clarence Fischer.

4. Concord Station Upgrade

After the presentation given by Sadie Graham, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

Some of the concerns to be followed up on:

- whether additional surveillance cameras will be installed, especially in parking lots and along path of travel
- whether concrete benches will remain; if so, they need some contrast
- shallow curb cut on the sidewalk in front of garage

5. MacArthur Station Asbestos Removal Project

After the presentation given by Bob Franklin, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

6. Police Auditor Braille Brochure

After the presentation by Russell Bloom, he mentioned that the creation of the Braille brochures was inspired by the BATF and its members. He invited members to share any questions or concerns with him.

7. Train Operators' Announcements

Members were asked to share their observations regarding train announcements.

Some of the observations are as follows:

- some operators are not making announcements; announcements not heard even after moving to a different car
- announcements not sounding clear; operators either too close to or too far away from the microphone
- speakers in some cars simply not working
- difficult to hear announcements while traveling through tunnels
- announcements regarding transferring are not being made consistently

Some of the suggestions are as follows:

- that operators announce when an elevator is out of service at a station
- that operators announce which side of the train to alight from, when possible
- that operators avoid making announcements while in the tunnel; make announcements when it is much less noisy
- that operators announce when there are track changes

8. Station Lighting Schedule

Members of BART's electrical staff addressed the BATF's concerns regarding the lack of lighting in some stations.

After the presentation by Khawaja Zubair, Balvir Thind, and Mac Gines, members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had.

In response to a question posed by Alan Smith, staff replied that an LED fixture has been ordered to replace the burnt-out light fixture at the Montgomery Station. They estimate that they will receive the fixture within two to three weeks' time.

Staff mentioned that six LED lights have been installed to light the stairway at the Embarcadero Station, and asked members why they felt it was still too dark.

Herb Hastings suggested putting the station lights under an automated timing system

Gerry Newell suggested having monthly lighting maintenance and checks.

No opposition to Herb Hastings' motion to have staff perform and check and maintenance of station lights once a month, with a second by Peter Crockwell.

Motion passes unanimously.

9. Proposed Joint BATF/BBATF Meeting

No opposition to Herb Hastings' motion to hold a joint meeting with the BART Bicycle Task Force, with a second by Clarence Fischer.

10. April 1st Train/Track Tour Debrief

Members who attended the tour were allowed to discuss their experience and share any comments they had.

No opposition to Brandon Young's motion to hold this tour regularly, whether annually or semi-annually, with a second by Herb Hastings.

Motion passes unanimously.

Alan Smith thanked Brandon Young and David Vasquez and staff for their help in putting this event together.

David Vasquez then gave members a short debriefing.

11. Capital Project Status Reports

Web Design Update

Elena Vanloo gave members a quick update and welcomed any questions and comments.

(The presentation is available electronically and will be sent out to members)

This project will be completed in four to six weeks.

Portable Toilets

The portable toilets will not be ADA accessible.

[This item will be removed from the list as it falls under the control of the City of San Francisco.]

Oakland Airport Connector (OAC)

There have been no new reports of elevator failure.

BART staff is working together with airport staff to develop a plan to help users get to the crosswalk where there is not a path, currently.

The elevator on the Coliseum side is under warranty and a different contractor is responsible for its maintenance.

eBART

Alan Smith spoke at the BART Board meeting to suggest naming the station "Pittsburg Railroad Avenue" instead of "Pittsburg Center Station."

Montgomery

This station is now busier than Embarcadero.

In approximately five to ten years, there will be a new elevator at the MUNI end of the station. It will primarily be used to service MUNI riders, but can be used by BART in the event BART's elevator goes out of service.

The fare gates are to be moved so as to enclose the elevator within the paid area.

At the exit hall towards Sansome Street, a new exit hallway will be built leading to Market Street, with a stairway and an escalator.

Saddlebag platform to be implemented on the East Bay side in order to alleviate crowding issues.

Tim Chan is working on a program to replace all burned-out lights.

The platform will have flooring of a lighter color.

The station will be painted and cleaned.

BART is looking to put in platform-side doors/barrier at the four Downtown stations, as well as Coliseum.

20th Street Entrance Canopy

The BART Board has said that the font on the sign above the canopy is too small.

Concord Station Upgrade

[See Item No. 4]

No updates were given for the following projects:

- El Cerrito Del Norte Improvement
- Station Hearing Loop
- Joint Meeting with Valley Transportation Authority Committee for Transit Accessibility (VTA CTA)
- Union City Station Remodel
- Berkeley Station Upgrade
- Fleet of the Future
- Stair Tread Color Contrast
- Richmond Intermodal Project
- Warm Springs Station
- Berryessa/Milpitas Stations
- Phase 2 – South Bay Extension
- Powell Street Station Upgrade
- Civic Center Station Upgrade
- Embarcadero
- West Dublin Path of Travel
- San Bruno Path of Travel and Grade

12. Chairperson Announcements

Elevator floor replacement project contract (involving 127 elevators) is being presented on tonight's BART Board meeting agenda.

Ethics training is being held at the MTC Auditorium on May 5, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Training is also available online.

The proposed bike rules are still being worked on, and at this point, Alan Smith is unsure if it will go to the Board for review.

There is already a rule regarding skateboards (Penal Code 640; BART Police Policy 421); therefore, the current rule regarding walking bikes throughout the station will not be amended to include skateboards.

Alan Smith spoke with Paul Oversier before the Board meeting on April 9th and reminded him of the need to have announcements made when trains come in at a different platform than originally intended. He also urged that announcements be made regarding which side to exit the train from when such changes occur.

The BART Board has requested to authorize the award of invitation for a bid regarding a multi-function tamping machine.

13. Staff Announcements

[No staff announcements.]

14. Member Announcements

Clarence Fischer described a situation where he was trying to board a train and the door did not open. He added that he then tried to board the train at the next set of doors over, but it closed before he could get on, even though he stuck his cane in. He then asked what the protocol is for when a train operator sees a handicapped person attempting to board on a different car because of a non-functioning door.

Herb Hastings asked for more information regarding the scheduled track closure between the Fruitvale and Coliseum stations.

Bob Franklin then addressed some members' concerns and clarified some questions that were asked.

15. Future Agenda Topics

- Addition of ASL signage, especially with canned announcements

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of **Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 2:00 p.m., at 101 8th Street in Oakland, California.**