

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

Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2022

**1. Roll Call of Members:**

1. Alan Smith - ABSENT
2. Anita Ortega
3. Catherine Callahan
4. Chris Mullin
5. Clarence Fischer
6. Don Queen
7. Emily Witkin
8. Gerry Newell - ABSENT
9. Hale Zukas
10. Herb Hastings (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair)
11. Janet Abelson - ABSENT
12. Janice Armigo Brown (Vice-Chair)
13. Larry Bunn
14. Marjorie (Marji) McWee
15. Randall Glock (Chair)
16. Roland Wong
17. Shay Roberson
18. Valerie Buell

**BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:**

Elena Van Loo  
Laura Timothy  
Bob Franklin

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)  
Christopher Simi (BART Staff)  
Katherine (Kathy) Alagar (BART Staff)  
Lisa Raffretto (BART Staff)  
Wendy Wheeler (BART Staff)  
Zhiming Fan (BART Staff)

Paul Medved (BART Staff)  
David Silva (BART Staff)  
Michael Wong (BART Staff)  
Daniel Nhan (BART Staff)  
Patricia Parker (Captioner)  
Alicia Garispe (Captioner)  
Jack Wang (Guest)  
Kacei Conyers (Guest)  
Daniel Leong (Guest)  
Daveed Mandell (Guest)  
Patricia Piras (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **3. Approval of January 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Herb Hastings moved approval of the January 27, 2022 meeting minutes. Clarence Fischer seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, zero (0) against, one (1) abstention.

## **4. BART Board of Directors Workshop Financial Outlook**

Chris Simi, BART Budget Director, introduced the two presenters on the agenda item Lisa Raffretto, Principal Financial Analyst and Kathy Alagar, Manager of Financial to discuss the financial outlook:

- Financial outlook
  - Revenue projections revised downward
  - Operating expense projections stable
  - Remaining runway with federal funds is 24 – 32 months
- Extending the runway
  - Maximizing ridership recovery
  - Managing expense
  - Securing new revenue
- Long term operating revenue opportunities
  - Limited opportunities for permanent new federal or state operating support
  - Local revenue measure options

Lisa Raffretto and Kathy Alagar mentioned there will be challenges getting revenues as BART's ridership remains below average and shared BART's plans is to explore opportunities for new funding from local sources.

Valerie Buell thanked the staff for their presentation. She asked if there is anything BATF members can do to support BART's funding that is needed by reaching out to legislators or writing a letter of support and added she really wants to be supportive of what BART needs.

Clarence Fischer asked if the budget forecast included fare increases every two years and if the future outlook included any service reductions. Chris Simi stated the budget outlook does include biannual fare increases and the outlook for no service reductions will not change at this time.

## **5. Accessible BART Faregates Update**

Wendy Wheeler, Group Manager of Systems and Data Analytics Engineering/Fare Collection Engineering gave an update on the faregate projects.

Wendy Wheeler mentioned accessible faregates will be changing to one doorway panel instead of the two-door panel to prevent people from forcing themselves through the gate and will have fewer mechanical parts to reduce maintenance costs.

She shared there was positive feedback from the social media about the new Embarcadero station enclosure faregate. She mentioned riders expressed it is easier to get to the Muni platform instead of going to the concourse level to pay and go back to the elevator to the Muni platform and this saves time.

Wendy Wheeler mentioned with the enclosed faregates, this will also reduce fare evasions.

Stations with elevator enclosure and Accessible Faregates Gates (AGFs):

- Platform level elevator enclosures:
  - Embarcadero BART Station
  - Montgomery BART Station
  - Balboa Park BART Station
  - Bay Fair BART Station
- Concourse level elevator enclosures:
  - Concord BART Station
  - Coliseum BART Station

Projects scheduled for future elevator enclosures (Accessible Faregates Gates (AGF)):

<b><u>Stations</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Installations</u></b>
El Cerrito Plaza (2)	April 2022
Rockridge	May 2022
Walnut Creek	June 2022
North Berkeley	July 2022
Civic Center	August 2022
Orinda	September 2022
Powell	October 2022

Roland Wong thanked Wendy Wheeler for the presentation. He stated he was at the Embarcadero BART Station and really liked the single door plexiglass and it is much quieter than other faregates. Roland Wong asked if there will be a taller faregate at Embarcadero Station to prevent fare evasion. Wendy Wheeler mentioned jump over bars will be installed to prevent fare evasion and there has been discussion to increase the height of the door.

Roland Wong stated the lighting at the Embarcadero Station is not as bright as Montgomery Station especially at the elevator enclosure location area and he would like to see more bright lights at the platform level. Wendy Wheeler mentioned there has been some light improvements at the other BART stations and she will bring Roland Wong's feedback back to the engineering department.

Valerie Buell mentioned in the past, members has expressed concerns how long it takes to go through the faregates, or faregates closing on service dogs, or faregates closing too fast and she would like a future presentation on the timing of the Accessible Faregates (AFG) as an agenda item. Wendy Wheeler mentioned new sensor technology is being tested on the faregates. She also mentioned this would be a good future agenda.

Laura Timothy had two comments:

- There has been questions from the blind and low vision community wanting to know the location of the disk when processing your ticket or Clipper Card and asked if there is a way to have the disk location be consistent throughout the BART stations
- For future enclosed faregates is to identify which ones are on the platform level and which ones are on the concourse level

## **6. Warm Springs BART Station West Access Bridge and Irvington BART Station – Project Update**

Paul Medved introduced Zhiming Fan who gave a presentation of the newly completed west access pedestrian bridge at the Warm Springs station and introduced David Silva who presented Irvington Station project update. Paul Medved also thanked BATF members for their feedback over the years with the Warm Springs and Irvington station projects.

Zhiming Fan, Project Manager, went over the layout of the west side access bridge at Warm Springs and highlighted its accessible features:

- Directional tile pathways
- New elevator
- American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Paratransit and bus drop offs on the west side of the station
- Truncated domes
- Braille signages

Clarence Fischer wanted confirmation if there is an ADA drop off zone on the East side and one on the West side of the Warm Springs Station. Zhiming Fan confirmed there is an ADA drop off on the East side but, there is no actual ADA drop off on the West side. Clarence Fischer would like BART to consider adding an ADA drop off zone on the West side.

Herb Hastings expressed there should be more directional signage on the West side of the Warm Springs Station for the elevator, stairs, and escalator locations.

David Silva gave a presentation on the Irvington Station, an update since the last presentation in 2019.

David Silva shared the first phase was the planning and environmental phase and now it is in the second phase which is the design of Irvington Station. Third and fourth phases will come at a later date.

Randall Glock asked if the elevators on the platform level will open parallel to the tracks. David Silva confirmed the elevators will open parallel to the tracks.

Herb Hastings requested to see the interior elevator diagram to get a better idea of the location of the buttons. He mentioned button locations have been an accessible concern in the past.

Roland Wong stated he is glad to hear the elevator will be larger where it can accommodate a hospital gurney.

## **7. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland BART Station Modernization Update**

Michael Wong presented an update of the 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland Station modernization. He highlighted updates of current and future construction on the concourse level:

- Restrooms will reopen February 25, 2022.
- Construction barriers throughout the station to install new glass fare barrier
  - Southwest faregate installation and reconfiguration – including Accessible Faregates (AFG)
- North end of station
  - Reopen Northwest entrance and close the Northeast entrance
  - New faregate relocation – including Accessible Faregates (AFG)
  - New station agent booth
  - New elevator – concourse level to platform level

Michael Wong mentioned the South end elevators remain the same with one elevator from street to concourse and another elevator from concourse to platform level. The North end elevator will not have access from the concourse to the street level, only the concourse to the platform level.

## **8. Member Announcements**

Valerie Buell announced the next State Council Regional Advisory meeting will be the last Wednesday of April.

Marjorie McWee informed members if you ride the public transportation in Contra Costa County to think about joining the County Connection Advisory Committee.

## **9. Staff Announcements**

Bob Franklin announced the restrooms at Powell Station reopened on February 2, 2022. He let members and the public know there will be a presentation about BART reopening restrooms update at the next scheduled BATF meeting.

Robert Raburn gave a formal invitation to all to attend the reopening of the restrooms at 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland Station on February 25, 2022.

## **10. Chair Announcements**

No Chair announcements

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

- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Project Introduction
  - Introduction to three brand new BART stations in San Jose
    - VTA and BART Staff to present
- BART Public Restrooms Re-Opening Update
- Ramps to be build up to the platform level
- Sound barriers at noisy BART stations
  - Near freeways

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **March 24, 2022.**