

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE**  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2022

**1. Roll Call of Members:**

1. Alan Smith
2. Anita Ortega
3. Catherine Callahan
4. Chris Mullin - ABSENT
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
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 - ABSENT

**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)  
Susan Poliwka (BART Staff)  
David Pultz (BART Staff)  
Daniel Cooperman (BART Staff)  
Tian Feng (BART Staff)  
Ahmad Rassai (BART Staff)  
Lisa Raffetto (BART Staff)

Patricia Nelson (BART Staff)  
Erica Roecks (VTA Staff)  
Doug Moody (VTA Staff)  
David Loftus (VTA Staff)  
Crystal Barriscale (VTA Staff)  
Bernice Alaniz (VTA Staff)  
Marissa Sanchez (VTA Staff)  
Mayra Perez (Captioner)  
Farrell Kopecky (Captioner)  
Sonika Saraiya (Guest)  
Warren Cushman (Guest)  
Anh Nguyen (Guest)  
Eric Petrie (Guest)  
David Fritz (Guest)  
Aaron Marrow (Guest)  
Jon Spangler (Guest)  
Erik Zandhuis (Guest)  
Roger Acuna (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

Roger Acuna asked if feedback from last month's agenda item "Accessible BART Faregate Update," was received from the disability communities and if the accessible faregates were tested by the committee members of BATF. He wants to ensure the accessible faregates are feasible and usable.

Eric Zandhuis from Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) introduced himself as the new Regional Services Manager that works with Paratransit within Santa Clara County.

David Fritz would like BART to consider having two distinct color-coded signages for elevators and escalators. He mentioned it is difficult to locate either the elevators or the escalators.

Aaron Marrow introduced himself as the Chair of VTA CTMA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Committee for Transportation Mobility and Accessibility) and stated CTMA is an advisory body of the VTA Board of Directors just as BATF is an advisory body of BART Board of Directors.

Jon Spangler introduced himself as the recently elected chair for the BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force (BBATF). He agreed with David Fritz's comment about two distinct color-coded signages for elevators and escalators and this should really be looked into but, for elevators and stairs since bikes are not allowed on escalators.

### **3. Approval of February 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Herb Hastings moved approval of the February 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Shay Roberson seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, zero (0) against, two (2) abstentions.

### **4. Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) BART Silicon Valley Phase 2 (BSVII) Project Introduction**

Multiple VTA Staff presented and introduced four new BART Stations. There will be three BART Stations in San Jose and one BART Station in Santa Clara. VTA staff stated that VTA will be leading the project just as they did for Berryessa and Milpitas BART stations.

Bernice Alaniz, VTA Staff, stated the presentation relates to access and specific features at the four new stations.

The four new BART stations:

- 28<sup>th</sup> Street/Little Portugal BART Station - Underground
- Downtown San Jose BART Station – Underground
  - Near San Jose State University
- Diridon BART Station - Underground
  - Near the SAP Stadium (home of the San Jose Sharks)
  - Near historic Caltrain Station
- Santa Clara BART Station – Ground Level
  - Near Caltrain Station

VTA Staff went over project overview, delivery approach, schedule of the new stations (completion: 2028), and project features and station access for each new station. The public may stay involved by attending VTA Board meetings and visiting [www.vta.org/bart](http://www.vta.org/bart), Facebook and Twitter. VTA Staff shared there will also be periodic meetings with the BATF. Bob Franklin mentioned updates will also be under bart.gov.

Roland Wong asked if elevator doors will open parallel to the train tracks instead of facing the tracks for safety reasons.

VTA was asked why the underground stations seem so deep from the street level to the platform level. VTA staff mentioned at some stations there are some historical buildings, especially in Downtown San Jose BART Station, that cannot be configured but this can change and added the layout for all stations are not final.

Clarence Fischer asked about seating for seniors and people with disabilities on the platform level while waiting for trains and he asked if there will be an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) drop-off for all four new stations. VTA Staff will look into seating on the platform levels and the ADA drop-off for all four stations.

Jon Spangler stated he would like to see good lighting throughout all of the four new stations on the concourse, platform level, and around the stations to feel safe, especially with connections to Caltrain and to the SAP Stadium.

Warren Cushman mentioned he hopes there will be good wayfinding throughout the four new BART stations.

David Fritz mentioned the escalators at the Downtown San Jose BART Station have too many switchbacks from street level to platform level.

## **5. BART Public Restrooms Re-Opening Update**

Daniel Cooperman gave an update about the reopening of BART restrooms.

Daniel Cooperman shared that the restrooms at Powell Street in San Francisco reopened first, followed by the 19<sup>th</sup> Street in Oakland a few weeks later. He mentioned a few hundred people have used the restrooms per day and that they have attendants during business hours to ensure safety and cleanliness. He stated that all reopened restrooms comply with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

Daniel Cooperman mentioned the next two underground restrooms that are slated to reopen in June 2022 are the Montgomery and Lake Merritt BART stations and that both will also have attendants.

Randall Glock asked if there has been any negative feedback about reopening restrooms. Daniel Cooperman mentioned feedback has been positive and riders has been calling the customer service line to share their positive feedback about the reopening of the restrooms.

## **6. BART July 2022 Fare Increase**

Lisa Raffetto, Principal Financial Analyst in the Financial Planning Department, presented on the proposed 3.4% fare increase which is slated to go in effect in July 2022.

Lisa Raffetto mentioned BART has an existing fare increase program that calls for regular increases every two years. She mentioned people with discounted Clipper Cards similar increases.

Lisa Raffetto stated fare increases are important to have funding sources keep up with the cost of providing reliable and safe services.

Lisa Raffetto went over the next steps:

- Conduct public outreach at several BART stations to gather rider feedback
  - collect survey responses
- Complete Title VI analysis to see if there are disproportionate burdens and disparate impacts on minority, low income, and limited English-speaking riders
- Submit to BART Board of Directors for consideration and approval for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 budgets, which are scheduled for June 9, 2022.

Clarence Fischer mentioned there are a lot of anomalies that BART needs to address and he has mentioned this in the past BATF meetings. Lisa Raffetto shared there is a 2019 Fare Structural Report that BART published for the public to read.

## **7. Discussion – Ramps to Platform Levels at BART Stations**

Randall Glock introduced Shay Roberson who led the discussion in building ramps to platform levels. Shay Roberson shared having ramps to platform level would be useful if elevators are out of order or as an alternative to taking an elevator.

Tien Feng stated that building ramps to platform level would be difficult at existing BART stations. He also mentioned that when trains go below the street level, the station is fixed and there is little room to expand to build a ramp between the platform level to street level. When the platform is elevated above the street level and the possibility might be there, it still needs a lot of space.

Herb Hastings mentioned Oakland Coliseum has an exterior switch back and forth ramps for all levels for the Capitol Corridor train. Roland Wong shared there is a ramp from ground level to the top floor at Costco in Downtown San Francisco which is also

a switch back and forth ramp, and Ahn Nguyen mentioned there is an inside ramp from the ground floor to the second floor at Ed Roberts Campus adjacent to the Ashby BART Station.

Ahmad Rassai mentioned his department will need to ask for more funds due to his department has a set budget every year. He shared this idea to build ramps to platform level is a good idea and added Tian Feng thought this was a good idea but, this would be quite costly for the size of its structure.

Tian Feng thanked Shay Roberson for bringing this agenda item up for discussion and would like to continue to have this conversation to explore future options.

## **8. Member Announcements**

Janice Armigo Brown shared she has been riding BART more often and was recently on a Fleet of the Future train. She mentioned that 90% of the time she is able to access the announcements through hearing loops, but in some trains she is not able to access it. She would like to know how to proceed to let BART staff know when the hearing loops are not working. Tian Feng asked her to write down the train car's number and email either Bob Franklin and/or Elena Van Loo and BART will look into this for repairs.

Herb Hastings asked to make audio announcements at transfer station points.

Roland Wong commented that he has been experiencing crowded trains last week from San Francisco to the East Bay. He mentioned it was nice to see much more riders and also this may be attributed to high gas prices. Robert Raburn confirmed with Roland Wong that there was a problem on the red line last week and trains were reduced due to power problems.

## **9. Staff Announcements**

No staff announcements.

## **10. Chair Announcements**

No Chair Announcements

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

- Lighting update throughout BART System
  - Lack of lighting in the new elevator enclosures
- Third door marking update
  - Fleet of the Future
- New platform level monitors update
  - Lake Merritt

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **April 28, 2022.**