

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

Committee Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2022

1. Roll Call of Members:

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

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:

Christopher Simi (BART Staff)
Scott Smith (BART Staff)
Tian Feng (BART Staff)
Ahmad Rassai (BART Staff)
Katie Arioli (Captioner)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)

David Fritz (Guest)
Roger Acuna (Guest)
Patricia Negrete (Guest)
Daveed Mandell (Guest)
Helen Walsh (Guest)

2. Public Comments

David Fritz was at the Bay Fair BART Station and he was concerned how the enclosed elevator at the platform level was constructed. He stated when he was at the station, the plexiglass fare was broken and suggested that metal faregates would be better due to durability. David Fritz also stated the fare machine at the elevator enclosure area was broken and there was no notice of this.

3. Approval of May 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Clarence Fischer moved approval of the May 26, 2022 meeting minutes. Shay Roberson seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with thirteen (13) in favor, zero (0) against, one (1) abstention.

4. BART Fiscal Year 23 and Fiscal Year 24 Budget Update

Christopher Simi, BART's Budget Director, gave an update on BART's Fiscal Year (FY) 23 and FY24 budget and its main points:

- BART will continue to deliver reliable, safe frequent service with a focus on ridership experience
- Ridership Outlook
 - Assumes average weekday ridership of:
 - 140,000 by the end of FY22
 - 210,000 by the end of FY23
 - 240,000 by the end of FY24
- Operating Revenue
 - Rail Passenger Revenue includes CPI-based 3.4% fare increase effective July 01, 2022
- Financial Assistance
 - Sales tax FY22 year-end estimate is \$36M (14%) above FY22 budget; lower growth projected for FY23 or FY24 due to economic uncertainty (inflation outlook, strength of durable and consumer goods spending)

- Operating Revenue & Financial Assistance
 - Total operating revenue budget (excluding federal assistance) increases 11% in FY23 and 13% in FY24
 - Sales tax remains largest single regular revenue source
- Labor Expense
- Budget FTE Changes
- Non-Labor Expense
- Debt Service and Allocations
- Total Expense
- Net Result and Federal Emergency Assistance Need
- BART's Fiscal Runway
- Changes Since Budget Adoption
 - September 2022 50% off fare promotion
 - District negotiating with BART's labor union over potential pay increase
 - Each of these will impact the District's fiscal runway

Janet Abelson asked if ridership in the suburbs versus ridership in the urban areas may contribute to the upcoming Fiscal Years budgeting. She stated ridership between the suburbs and urban areas are not the same volume. Christopher Simi mentioned as part of the new, upcoming Fiscal Years budgeting, ridership numbers are factored between suburbs and urban ridership.

Helen Walsh had a question to clarify if the budget include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) maintenance like fixing accessible faregates and or improve ADA within the BART System. Christopher Simi mentioned fixing or improving goes under the Capital funds, which set aside funding for faregates along with various accessibility improvement programs. He shared Operating and Capital are two different funds that BART uses.

5. Introduction to Goodmaps Smartphone App for the Visually Impaired

Scott Smith, BART's Architect Project Manager, presented on a pilot project with Goodmaps, at MacArthur BART Station, which is partnering with Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco. Goodmaps is a free app for people who are low vision or blind.

Scott Smith shared that Goodmaps was implemented at airports and public transit stations in the United Kingdom and various locations here in the Unites States. He mentioned the pilot program is funded by Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Scott Smith stated the pilot will use a camera to digitally scan and then develop 360-degree virtual maps which can be accessed through the app.

Scott Smith stated a person who is blind or a person who is low vision can audibly request to navigate throughout the BART Station to elevators, stairs, platform locations, etc. He mentioned there are sighted volunteers to assist customers by being “their eyes.”

Clarence Fischer asked if the elevator is out of service, will customers be aware of this with Goodmaps and asked will there be updates available when using the app when there’s a construction project because path of travel will change. Scott Smith mentioned during the pilot programming testing at MacArthur BART Station, his team will look into both out of service elevators and construction projects that affect path of travel.

BATF members expressed interest in working alongside with BART Staff piloting Goodmaps to give their insights and present on updates at future BATF meetings.

Marjorie (Marji) McWee would like to see a range of people who are low vision or people who are blind with different skill levels in how they navigate while using the smartphone. Scott Smith mentioned he is working with Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco, who will engage a variety of stakeholders.

Janice Armigo Brown thanked Scott Smith for his presentation and thinks Goodmaps is an amazing app for people who are visually impaired riding BART.

Daveed Mandell, member of the public, mentioned he is blind and he heard about Goodmaps and expressed that he would like to be involved with the pilot program.

6. BATF Member Recruitment Discussion

Elena Van Loo shared two members of the public were interested to be BATF committee members. David Fritz has attended three meetings out of the four months and completed the BATF application and Daveed Mandell who has also attended three meetings out of the four months but, needs to complete the BATF application before the next scheduled meeting.

Randall Glock clarified the agenda item is to discuss how to recruit new BATF members and mentioned at the next meeting new applicants will be considered.

Valerie Buell mentioned one way is if BART staff will let BATF members advertise within the BART System and on the trains for new members.

It was discussed amongst members that there should be a balance of members among the accessibility community.

7. Member Announcements

Marjorie (Marji) McWee stated that she is part of the County Connection Services in Central Contra Costa County that provide Paratransit services. She mentioned there is a pilot to jointly join with other Paratransit services around Tri Valley area for services with an app to schedule rides.

Valerie Buell announced the next State Council of Developmental Disabilities (SDD) meeting will be held on June 30, 2022 and going back to in-person meeting, as well on Zoom.

Valerie Buell mentioned the Accessible Fare Gate (AFG) at 12th Street/Oakland City Center has been broken for a few days.

Herb Hastings announced Alameda County Fair is back in Pleasanton.

8. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo announced starting July 01, 2022, per BART's District Secretary's Office, Zoom will switch to a Webinar format. She stated all BART Advisory Task Force Committees under BART's Board of Directors will now be recorded for public records.

9. Chair Announcements

Randall Glock announced Alan Smith has chosen to retire as a BATF member effective immediately.

10. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- BATF Member Nomination (s) and Election (s)

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **July 28, 2022**