

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE**  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2021

**1. Roll Call of Members:**

1. Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)
2. Anita Ortega
3. Catherine Callahan
4. Chris Mullin
5. Clarence Fischer – ABSENT
6. Don Queen – ABSENT
7. Emily Witkin
8. Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair)
9. Hale Zukas – ABSENT
10. Herb Hastings
11. Janet Abelson
12. Janice Armigo Brown
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 (s), and members of the public:**

Jumana Nabti (Staff)  
Ahmad Rassai (Staff)  
Erika Prociado (Captioner)  
Sophia Hernandez (Captioner)  
Helen Walsh (Guest)  
Kacei Conyers (Guest)

## **2. Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **3. Approval of October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Shay Robertson moved approval of the October 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Herb Hastings seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with fourteen (14) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention

## **4. Station Access Signage and Wayfinding Update**

Jumana Nabti gave the presentation on “Station Access Signage and Wayfinding Update.”

Jumana Nabti shared an update on the signage program that was previously presented at a BATF meeting and shared that there have been changes and did an overview of the changes. She mentioned the changes to the signage that is being developed are for the curb zones, parking areas, bus stop location areas, and bicycle parking areas.

Jumana Nabti announced she will be posting draft designs for the BART website for the public to see and to make comments. She mentioned when the draft signage is ready to be posted online, she will let BATF members know and added she would love to get members’ feedback.

Janet Abelson expressed it was hard to get a sense of the actual size of the signs. She also asked how high the signs are from the ground.

Valerie Buell asked about the color contrasting on some of the signs and she stated she really likes what she’s seeing. Jumana Nabti stated the signs are at seventy percent color contrast and her team is finalizing this for review now.

Valerie Buell wanted to know if the new signs will be done to help draw someone’s eye to the new installed signs and added there are times when using the path of travel that signs are hard to read.

Marjorie (Marji) McWee thanked Jumana Nabti for her presentation. She expressed concerns that the font on some of the signs can be pretty small to where you almost have to be right in front of the sign to read.

Helen Walsh stated the signs can be “overcrowded,” to where there can be too much information on one sign and this can be difficult to read for people with low vision.

## **5. BART Accessibility Improvement Plan Update**

Ahmad Rassai (AR) presented “BART Accessibility Improvement Plan Update.”

AR updated on Accessibility and Improvements in two components:

1. The “Accessibility Improvements Program (AIP)- Phase One” is contracted for five stations: North Berkeley, Castro Valley, Rockridge, Richmond, and Lafayette. The Request for Proposal received one bid that was over AIP project budget. AR is working on repackaging the contract for rebid and on strategies for attracting more bidders, hopefully leading to more competitive bids that would fall closer to his budget.
2. For the second component on hearing loops, AR said 85% to 95% of the BART Stations have hearing loops. There are seven BART stations that still need to install hearing loops in the station agent booths: Orinda, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Concord, North Concord, Pittsburg/Bay Point, and El Cerrito del Norte. AR noted that the hearing loops on hand were used to replace damaged units. Additional hearing loops and new parts need to be ordered for completing the remaining BART stations and to stock up for future replacement needs.

AR also shared he had a meeting with both San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MUNI) staff and BART Staff to collaborate about putting hearing loops in the Muni Station Agent booths. He mentioned they should be installed hopefully in the next few months, after it is determined which agency will perform the work and procure the hearing loops sets and equipment. AR will order additional replacement sets for unfinished BART Stations and possibly for Muni Stations, pending any agency agreement(s).

Helen Walsh was happy to hear that hearing loops are being installed within the BART System and is aware that this is still work-in-progress.

## **6. BATF Yearly Nominations and Elections of Officers: Vice-Chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**

Randall Glock reminded members he was elected Chair at the last BATF meeting, October 28, 2021 and thanked the members. He also stated at last month’s meeting

there was a tie for Vice-Chair and we are here to nominate and elect the Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair.

Elena Van Loo led the agenda item, “BATF Yearly Nominations and Elections of Officers, Vice-Chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair, with assistance from Laura Timothy and Bob Franklin.

### **Vice Chair**

Herb Hastings nominated himself for Vice-Chair.

Gerry Newell nominated himself for Vice-Chair.

Randall Glock nominated Janice Armigo Brown for Vice-Chair. Janice Armigo Brown accepted.

Herb Hastings, Gerry Newell, and Janice Armigo Brown each gave a short speech about why they would be a good candidate for Vice-Chair.

#### **Voting results for Vice-Chair:**

Herb Hastings – four (4) in favor, zero (0) against

Gerry Newell – three (3) in favor, zero (0) against

Janice Armigo Brown – seven (7) in favor, zero (0) against

Abstention (s) – zero (0)

Janice Armigo Brown will be the Vice-Chair from November 2021 until the next nomination and elections of officers.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair**

Herb Hasting nominated himself for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair.

Gerry Newell nominated himself for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair.

#### **Voting results for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair:**

Herb Hastings – eight (8) in favor, zero (0) against,

Gerry Newell – five (5) in favor, zero (0) against

Abstention (s) – one (1)

Herb Hastings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair from November 2021 until the next nomination and elections of officers.

Elena Van Loo announced the Officers:

- Randall Glock, Chair,
- Janice Armigo Brown, Vice-Chair
- Herb Hastings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair

## **7. Member Announcements**

Valerie Buell announced the next Regional Advisory Committee meeting will be on December 1, 2021 and all is welcome to attend.

Alan Smith mentioned there was an article in the Bay Area news complimenting BART about its new restrooms.

## **8. Staff Announcements**

Elena Van Loo had three staff announcements to share:

1. She is working with Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Policy Advisory Council committee to introduce themselves at the next scheduled BATF meeting, January 27, 2022 and mentioned she will email the Policy Advisory Council website link to members.
2. Two different support letters have been sent to President Foley, "Installation of Sharps Containers at BART Stations," and "Station Agents at all BART Stations." She informed members she has not heard from President Foley nor from other BART Board of Directors. Elena Van Loo let members and the public know as citizens, you are welcome to email the BART Board of Directors with any questions and/or statements.
3. She gave an update regarding the station agent's booth at the Pittsburg Center BART Station and also having a Station Agent at Pittsburg Center BART Station. Elena Van Loo mentioned she spoke to Shane Edwards, acting Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Operations, and shared that his team is continuously working on getting a booth with Station Agent(s) at Pittsburg Center and will inform her of any updates.

Bob Franklin announced he will be sending out new guidelines about how agendas are set and he has been working with BART's District Secretary and General Counsel. He

also shared he will be writing a memo to share with all BATF members which will be coming soon.

## **9. Chair Announcements**

Randall Glock thank the past Officers for their service and is looking forward to working with the new Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair.

Randall Glock reminded the members and the public that there will be no scheduled meeting on December 8, 2021 and the next scheduled BATF meeting will be on January 27, 2022.

Janice Armigo Brown thanked the committee for voting for her as the Vice-Chair and said she is ready for the challenge.

Herb Hastings thanked the members and the public for giving him an opportunity as the second vice-chair.

Alan Smith thanked the members for being the second vice-chair for the last few years.

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

Valerie Buell would like to discuss the Regional Transit Card (RTC) Discount Card and Clipper Card and have a question-and-answer session with Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) staff and BART staff, especially how to process and streamline the two different cards.

- RTC Discount Card and Clipper Card Update and/or Discussion

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **January 27, 2022.**