

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

Committee Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2020

1. Roll Call of Members:

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

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Laura Timothy - ABSENT
Bob Franklin

Director(s), Speakers, Staff, and Guests of the Public:

Robert Raburn (BART Board Director)
Deborah Allen (BART Board Director)
Val Menotti (Staff)
Deputy Chief Angela Averiett (Staff)
Wahid Amiri (Staff)
Norie Corpuz (Staff)
Abigail Thorne-Lyman (Staff)
Rachel Factor (Staff)

David Coggshall (Staff)
Judy Jacobs (Captioner)
Alicia Garispe (Captioner)
Ian Blakey (Guest)
Helena Chang (Guest)
Larry Bunn (Guest)
Patrisha (Pat) Piras (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Director Robert Raburn wanted to share a brief public comment. He wished to invite everyone from the committee to visit the Oakland Coliseum BART Station to test out the newly installed a high swing-gate style faregate at the elevator location. He added it is similar in design to the swing faregate at the Richmond BART Station.

Director Deborah Allen stated she had no comment other than to thank the members for recognizing her and to say “hello,” and listen in.

3. Approval of October 22, 2020 Draft Minutes

Herb Hastings moved approval of the October 22, 2020 meeting with the amended minutes. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

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

4. Concord Station Plaza Renovation Project

BART staff members Wahid Amiri and Norie Corpuz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Concord Station Plaza Renovation Project. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Wahid Amiri confirmed that Concord Station Plaza Renovation Project is different than the Concord Modernization project, which is just beginning and will be presented to this committee down the road.

Wahid Amiri and Norie Corpuz went over the slides showing the areas of the completed renovation of Concord Plaza, highlighting the landscape and an accessible pathway to and from the Concord BART Station.

Janet Abelson voiced concerns that some of the ramps are not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and should be looked into to make sure the ramps do comply with the ADA. Wahid Amiri stated he and staff will look into this.

Marjorie (Marji) McWee mentioned she uses a manual wheelchair and agreed with Janet Abelson's comment that some of the ramps may not be ADA compliant. She mentioned she would like to test out the new ramps to give her feedback.

Marjorie (Marji) McWee also mentioned some of the landscapes are difficult, especially where the planters are placed, to see from various distances. She suggested to have signs placed to let pedestrians know there is a planter nearby. Roland Wong agreed with her.

Alan Smith asked about the progress of the Concord Modernization project and asked to have a presentation on it. Wahid Amiri mentioned this project is being worked on and will later return for a presentation.

Valerie Buell shared that sometimes she rents a scooter and has a difficult time going up the ramp's incline, especially when there are tactile domes present. She suggested BART staff to try different kinds of tests for wheelchairs and scooters and have people of different body weights test out the ramp, and maybe BART will come up with a better idea. She also added, it is good the ramps are ADA compliant, sometimes it is good to go the extra mile.

Clarence Fischer asked if there will be seating while waiting for a bus or waiting for a ride. He mentioned there is a lack of seats at other BART Stations. Wahid Amiri confirmed that there is seating near the bus stops.

Roland Wong shared that sometimes the tactile domes do not have contrasting colors which could be unsafe and difficult to see where the curb cuts are located from a distance. Having the yellow tactile domes helps to know where the curb cuts are located.

Randall Glock thanked the presenters and the PowerPoint presentation will be forwarded to the members.

5. Texting BART Police to Report an Incident

Deputy Chief Angela Averiett introduced herself and went over "Texting BART Police to Report an Incident."

She went over how you can get in touch with the BART Police Department. There are many ways to get hold of BART Police to report an incident:

- In all trains, there is a call box. Push the button and the call will go directly to the train operator. Provide the train number and what direction the train is going (i.e: Antioch bound, Millbrae bound, etc). The train operator then can get hold of the BART Police Department. The train operator is also there for other forms of assistance, such as calling for medical attention if needed.
- Call 911
- For non-emergencies, you can call 510-464-9000
- Text BART Police
 - This is a new initiative that gives riders another way to request assistance from officers while in the BART System
 - Text BART police 510-200-0992
- BART App for smart phones
 - Can be anonymous
 - Send photos
 - You do not have to speak into the phone
 - You can text your reporting
- Flag down any BART employees
 - Does not have to be a BART Police Officer
 - Station agent
 - System service worker
 - Train operator
 - Anyone with a yellow vest with a “BART” logo.

The Deputy Chief briefly described a new feature that BART Police has launched called “Text BART Police.” She commented that this is not an app and it is a function where you can text like you do when texting to friends and family. You can use the phone number to be directly connected to BART Police, the service is opened 24 hours, and you are able to send pictures to BART Police.

Clarence Fischer asked about the BART app. He stated the app does ask what train you are on and he suggested to add a feature where the train started from and announce the end of the line station. Deputy Chief Angela Averiett will look into if this can be done.

Clarence Fischer also suggested if the train numbers inside the trains can be placed at the center of the cars because people who are visually impaired may have a difficult time seeing the numbers at the ends of the cars.

6. BART Police Department Progressive Policy Outreach

Deputy Chief Angela Averiett announced the BART Police Department Progressive Policy Outreach is a newly formed bureau with its primary goal to strive to direct change management initiatives and to develop strategies to advance police training with a focus on strengthening transparency and trust within communities.

Patrisha (Pat) Piras suggested, from an environmental justice, equity, and inclusion perspective, the term “Citizen Academy,” which implies that some people are not included or invited, should be changed the term to “Community Academy.” Deputy Chief Angela Averiett appreciated the feedback.

Randall Glock thanked Deputy Chief Angela Averiett for the very informative presentation.

7. Transit-Oriented Development at Urban Stations with Parking

Abigail Thorne-Lyman and Rachel Factor gave a PowerPoint presentation on Transit-Oriented Development at Urban Stations with Parking. Members were allowed to ask questions and/or share any concerns they had after the presentation.

Abigail Thorne-Lyman shared PowerPoint presentation with the overview of the program:

- Review BART Policies and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Work Plan
- Share Findings from 2018-2020 Caltrans Grant Work
- Discuss the Upcoming Richmond Line Access Study

Abigail Thorne-Lyman shared Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy Goals:

- Complete Communities
 - Contribute to neighborhood vitality
- Sustainable Communities Strategy
 - Support Greenhouse gas reduction
- Ridership
 - Increase BRT ridership
- Value Creation and Value Capture
 - Enhance BRT’s financial stability

- Transportation Choice
 - Encourage non-auto transportation choices
- Affordability
 - Link housing affordability with access to opportunity

Abigail Thorne-Lyman added that the key question that BART had to address for its grant from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program back in 2018 was “How should BART approach station access at Urban with parking stations when building Trans-Oriented Development (TOD)?”

She shared that BART owns over 250 acres of land, 27 stations, and 22 jurisdictions. The goal is to build 20,000 homes with at least 35% affordable housing and 4.5 million square feet of office space by 2040. Not all stations are created the same when it comes to station access and we should treat each station differently based on performance, access and accessibility.

Rachel Factor went over access to and from at the El Cerrito Plaza, which a grant has been approved. She shared there has been community outreach in the city of El Cerrito to focus on station access, parking reduction, increased housing, especially affordable housing, creating a vibrant city center, and potentially building a new library near the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station.

Rachel Factor shared El Cerrito Plaza BART survey done in 2019:

- 42% of respondents were pedestrians
- 36% of survey respondents drive alone, many within one mile
 - Bike parking, including the accommodation of adapted bikes and trikes
- Nearly half of respondents indicated a willingness to try new mobility services to access the station
 - Micro transit, electric-assist mobility options

She shared the Richmond Line study will continue with community outreach and station access improvements in the coming years.

Marjorie (Margi) McWee thanked the presenters and is really excited about the new grant and upcoming studies. She informed the presenters that when they do the Richmond Line Access Study, there are a lot of riders coming in from the outside of the Richmond Line areas and this should be included the study along with riders who live on the Richmond Line areas. Rachael Factor thanked Marjorie (Marji) McWee.

Janet Abelson stated she lives in the Richmond Line area and mentioned the local people are very enthusiastic about the new upcoming developments. She shared if

there could be better public transportation services for people who live in the hills instead of using their vehicles. She also added that it would be great to have a library near the BART station.

Randall Glock thanked the presenters and requested staff to share the presentations.

8. Member Announcements

Valerie Buell shared and mentioned she will forward to Elena Van Loo the next Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting on December 2, 2020.

Roland Wong shared he has been riding more often and would like BART to increase the frequency during non-commute hours, so you don't have to wait another half hour when passengers miss their train.

Herb Hastings commented that he started riding BART trains to go back to work and he felt relaxed on the new and legacy trains. He mentioned station agents are doing a good job making sure riders are wearing masks and he added BART staff is doing a really good job on the cleaning efforts at the stations and in the trains.

Clarence Fischer suggested for staff to email PowerPoint presentations before the scheduled meetings, as some members do not have easy access to computers during the meeting.

Clarence Fischer shared he would like scheduled meetings back at the East Bay Paratransit facility if and when possible. He suggested having some members be on video/phone conferencing and some members meet in person at the scheduled meeting location.

9. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo shared she will be sending two different emails to members. The first email is from Jumana Nabti to give an update on bus stops and accessible pathways at El Cerrito del Norte Station. The second email is from Scott Smith to give an update on the Accessibility Improvement Program (AIP) projects.

10. Chairperson Announcements

Randall Glock reminded members that when riding BART to stay safe, wear a mask, and keep your hands clean.

11. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- Concord BART Station Modernization
- Fiscal Year 21 Budget Update
- El Cerrito del Norte Bus Stops and Accessibility Pathways Update
- Transit-Oriented Development at Urban Stations Update
- Sound Wall Barrier Projects Along High Traffic Freeways Update
- Refresh of Bike Rules While on BART
 - What Bikes are Allowed in the Trains Update

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **December 09, 2020.**