

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
2150 Webster Street, P.O. Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94604-2688

BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE
Committee Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2023

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Anita Ortega
2. Catherine Callahan
3. Clarence Fischer
4. Daveed Mandell
5. Don Queen - ABSENT
6. Emily Witkin
7. Janice Armigo Brown
8. Randall Glock (Chair)
9. Roland Wong
10. VACANT
11. VACANT
12. VACANT
13. VACANT
14. VACANT
15. VACANT
16. VACANT
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

Quorum of six (6) in-person BATF members. “Just Cause” was used for Emily Witkin for the first time.

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Bob Franklin

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

Director Robert Raburn
Kamala Parks (BART Staff)
Sabrina Baptiste (BART Staff)

David Coggshall (BART Staff)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Bridgett Nolot (Captioner)
Jerry Grace (Guest)
Alex Tiphayachan (Guest)
Bruce Yow (Guest)
Danny Kodmur (Guest)
Corvin Bazgan (Guest)
Roger (Guest)
Natalie Maxwell (Guest)
Annie Koruga (Guest)
Aleta Dupree (Guest)
Hilary Brown (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Alex Tiphayachan introduced himself and expressed interest in joining the BATF.

Aleta Dupree mentioned she is a veteran and she was not aware if there are any other veterans on the BART Accessibility Task Force. She mentioned she doesn't know if there's ever been a veteran who has served on the BART Accessibility Task Force. She asked for the group not to think just about their own issues, but to welcome those who are veterans who have disabilities, too.

Danny Kodmur introduced himself and expressed interest in joining the BATF.

3. Approval of July 27, 2023 meeting minutes

Clarence Fischer moved approval of the July 27, 2023 meeting minutes with amendments. Roland Wong seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with six (6) in favor, zero (0) against, and two (2) abstentions.

4. Safe Routes to BART, Cycle 3

Kamala Parks presented on, "Safe Routes to BART, Cycle 3."

She listed BART Station Access Policy Goals:

- A. Safer, healthier, greener
- B. More riders
- C. More productive and efficient

- D. Better experience
- E. Equitable services
- F. Innovation and partnership

She mentioned intended allocation is about \$135 million through the Measure RR funds and is invested to meet station access policy goals and mode share targets.

She stated the overview for Safe Routes to BART Program is to fund active access capital projects on city and county streets that support BART's Station access policy.

She listed Safe Routes to BART Program goals:

- **Project readiness** – to quickly deliver projects that help riders access BART
- **Leverage** – funding from other sources
- **Connectivity and mode shift** – that transitions rider away from driving in favor of walking and biking
- **Customer experience** – enhancements that enrich rider comfort, personal safety, and sense of place
- **Equitable** – access for disadvantaged communities
- **Complete communities** – that promote transit-oriented development
- **Partnership** – with local agencies to create more sustainable communities

She went over the projections, awards, and added requirements. She mentioned Cycle 1 was done in May 2020 and Cycle 2 was done in January 2023. Cycle 1 was for Iron Horse Trail Bridge (Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station area), 5th Street Improvements (Powell Street BART Station area), Pedestrian/Bike Connectivity (Pittsburg Center BART Station area), and Walnut/Liberty protected Intersection (Fremont BART Station area). Cycle 2 was to complete streets improvements (El Cerrito del Norte BART Station area) and the Walnut Avenue Bikeway (Fremont BART Station area).

She went over the next phase of Safe Routes to BART, Cycle 3. She mentioned funding is about \$16 million with funding awards between \$0.5 million to \$3 million and added funds must be used for construction or construction management.

She went over Safe Routes to BART, Cycle 3 schedule (Tentative):

- Inquiry forms were due on August 10, 2023
- Call for projects: late September 2023
- Pre-Application webinar and Q & A period for October 2023
- Application deadline due November 2023
- Award notice around winter 2023, 2024
- Funding agreements around winter/spring of 2024

Kamala Parks shared anyone can visit www.bart.gov/sr2b to get updates on Safe Routes to BART, Cycle 3 or for more information and anyone can email questions, comments to sr2@bart.gov.

Annie Koruga was particularly interested in the bike access in the Fremont area. They asked if there are any difference in the eligibility between Safe Routes to BART, Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 and Kamala Parks stated Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 eligibility are the same but with different due dates.

5. Title 6 overview

Sabrina Baptiste from BART's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) presented on "Title 6 Overview."

She went over the agenda list: OCR team, division purpose, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI & Environmental Justice Policies, Link21 Megaregion Program, and discussion.

She listed BART's OCR Team Staff:

- Maceo Julio Wiggins, Director
- Sabrina Baptiste, Senior Manager
- Javieree PruittHill, Manager Title VI Environmental Justice
- Tim Lohrentz, Acting Equity Program Administrator
- Jay Jackson, Senior Title VI & Environmental Justice Analyst
- Trent Alvarado, EEO Analyst II

She stated the purpose is the equity division of the OCR strives to provide access and compliance to internal and external stakeholders of the BART Community.

Sabrina Baptiste read, Civil Rights Act of 1964 – Title VII:

- Equal Opportunity - Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, protects employees and job applicants from employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. Title VII protection covers the full spectrum of employment decisions, including recruitment, selections, terminations, and other decisions concerning terms and conditions of employment.

She read, Title VI & Environmental Justice Policy:

- Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits BART from spending federal funds on projects in a way that causes discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin.
- The Title VI division ensures all of BART's programs and initiatives are accessible to all of our customers, regardless of race, color, national origin, socioeconomic status, or access to language proficiency. Whether it's a major schedule change, a fare increase, a planned service disruption, or even the purchase of BART's new fleet of train cars, BART's goal is to make sure every person we serve has the ability to participate in BART's decision-making process.

She shared Link21 Program is the New Transbay Tunnel Program, which is transportation through or across San Francisco Bay, is a major project to regional transportation.

Daveed Mandell mentioned accessibility is a civil and human right that needs to be addressed more with the public and within public transportation.

Alex Tiphayachan suggested BART Station Agents have sensitivity training on how to interact with people with disabilities and diverse BART riders.

Clarence Fischer mentioned BART Station Agents used to hand out, "trip vouchers," and wanted to know if this is still being handed out.

Annie Koruga asked why disability was not listed under the Civil Rights of 1964. Sabrina Baptiste mentioned Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) passed many years after Civil Rights of 1964 was passed.

6. Accessible transportation overview

Daveed Mandell presented the item "Accessible transportation overview," to share his personal experiences.

He introduced accessible wayfinding and expressed accessibility is a civil and human right. When a transit network is fully accessible, anyone should be able to navigate it without assistance. He stated that no transit network in this country is fully accessible or universally designed.

He went over what to consider on fixed-route transit:

- Is fixed-route transit available whenever you want or need it?

- Is fixed-route transit easily reachable?
- Is fixed-route transit easily rideable?

Daveed Mandell list questions if riders can easily access:

- Locate subway station entrances?
- Navigate the concourse to the fare gates?
- Pay for your ride and enter the area that leads to the platforms?
- Go from the concourse to the platforms?
- Find where to catch your train?
- Enter the train and find a seat?
- Exit the train and find the correct escalator, staircase or elevator?
- Locate the exit gates?
- Locate the correct station exit?

He stated it is important to remember that a transit network starts from your door or origin and ends at your destination's door and it does not start or end at the bus stop or subway station.

He went over what is accessible wayfinding:

- Websites, mobile applications, printed materials and/or signage, including tactile and large print maps, that provide information and schedules regarding the location of bus stops or routes, subway and train station entrances and exits, and the location and/or status of transit vehicles.
- Textures, electronic beacons, design concepts, or any other product, service or procedure that is utilized to provide navigational assistance to, from or within a transit network.
- Websites and electronically prepared documents must meet all applicable provisions of Section 508 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act, or Level AA success criteria set forth in the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), whichever offers the greatest accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Printed information that is designed to be public-facing, or that is likely to be requested by a member of the public, must be made available upon request of a person with a disability in an alternate format that is accessible to that individual in accordance with ADA requirements.
- Facilities and signage must meet applicable guidelines set forth in the ADA Accessibility Standards.

7. New committee member nomination

Randall Glock introduced Annie Koruga who is interested in becoming a BATF member.

Annie Koruga introduced themselves and expressed interest in joining the BATF.

Clarence Fischer moved to recommend Annie Koruga as a BATF member. Daveed Mandell seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with seven (7) in favor, zero (0) against, and one (1) abstention.

8. Member Announcements

Daveed Mandell suggested hiring more BART Station Agents to assist riders more quickly as part of wayfinding. He added it can be difficult to get assistance when they are not easily available.

Roland Wong stated after Director Robert Raburn shared two new initiatives about the new fleet plan that he was concerned overcrowding would make it more challenging for someone who uses a powerchair to enter and exit the train with fewer number of train cars in consists starting September 11, 2023. He also expressed when the number of shorter trains are implemented, the safety of passengers may be impacted with the rise of COVID-19.

9. Staff Announcements

Under public comments agenda item, Director Robert Raburn gave a brief report on two new initiatives that will start on September 11, 2023:

1. Eliminating 30-minute wait at the platform levels on weekends and evenings
 - a. Schedule change will be provided
2. Changing the number of trains to be shorter
 - a. During the pandemic, BART was running 10 trains to provide social distancing that resulted in an unintended consequence that was a lot of anti-social behavior going on in the cars that were basically empty for most of the day
 - b. Consideration with the idea that BART can save money on power and on maintenance of the trains cars by running shorter trains
 - c. Yellow line will run eight car trains and green, blue, red, and orange lines will run six car trains
 - i. This can change depending on number of ridership

Elena Van Loo reminded BATF members that next month is Nominations and Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair. She mentioned if members are interested and have questions to reach out to her.

Elena Van Loo announced Daveed Mandell is an official elected BATF member effective 08-24-2023 passed by the BART Board of Directors.

Elena Van Loo announced Herb Hastings and Larry Bunn resigned as BATF members. She mentioned both will be missed and hope to see them return as BATF members. She mentioned there are nine (9) appointed members and nine (9) available spaces.

Bob Franklin shared Customer Access Department hired an intern to go to BART Stations that have detectable paths of travel and he is documenting what those paths are. Hopefully, the intern can report at a future BATF meeting and Bob Franklin expressed how exciting this project is and looking forward to working with the intern.

Director Robert Raburn mentioned that he is always available to answer any questions.

10. Chairperson Announcements

No Chairperson announcements

11. Future Agenda Topics – Member Suggest Topics

- Nominations and Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair
- New committee member nomination
 - Bruce Yow
- New generation faregates update
- Door marking update
- Wayfinding
 - Path of travel
- Link21 Program

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, September 28, 2023, at 2pm.