

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
June 27, 2024

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Anita Ortega
2. Annie Koruga (Vice-Chair) – ABSENT
3. Bruce Yow
4. Catherine Callahan
5. Christine Arseneault
6. Clarence R. Fischer
7. Danny Kodmur
8. Daveed Mandell
9. Emily Witkin – ABSENT
10. Herb Hastings
11. Hillary Brown
12. Janice Armigo Brown (2nd Vice-Chair)
13. Roland Wong (Chair)
14. VACANT
15. VACANT
16. VACANT
17. VACANT
18. VACANT

Quorum of seven (7) in-person BATF members. Christine Arseneault used her first “Just Cause,” out of two.

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
Kevin Reeg (BART Staff)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Anastasia Ward (Captioner)

Sam Buman (Guest)
Sara Desumala (Guest)
Gerald Cauthen (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Gerald Cauthen expressed concerns about what to do in an event of an emergency at the platform level when the escalator and elevators are out order, especially for persons with disabilities or the elderly. He is aware that VTA is leading the project adding four new BART Stations in the Downtown San Jose area (28th Street/Little Portugal BART Station, Downtown San Jose BART Station, Diridon BART Station, and Santa Clara BART Station).

3. Approval of May 23, 2024 meeting minutes

Clarence R. Fischer moved approval of the May 23, 2024, meeting minutes. Daveed Mandell second the motion.

- Motion passes with ten (10) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstention

4. K-Line construction project update

Kevin Reeg presented on the K-Line Interlocking Construction Project Update.

He defined interlocking as a combination of switches that allow trains to move from track to track and line to line.

Kevin Reeg went over the K-Line construction timeline (subject to change):

- 2016-Renewal of legacy 1972 special track work identified as a major need in preparation of Bond Measure RR
- 2016-Bond Measure RR approved
- 2017-Planning begins
- 2018-Designs begins
- 2020-2023-Analysis of construction options, route options, bus bridges
- 2021-Design completed
- 2022-2023-Board procurements
- 2024-Finalize K23 Bus Bridge Operations Plan
- 2026-Construction complete

He mentioned that K23 has 13 switches and K25 has 4 switches. He mentioned there will be additional work done, like cable and rail replacements.

He went over the bus bridge operations during weekend project for next two years at Rockridge, MacArthur, and 19th St. BART stations. Notices will be posted throughout the BART stations and under [BART news](#). There was an article about which weekends the [K-Line Construction](#) will take place.

Additionally, he mentioned East Bay Paratransit will be supporting BART in the event that accessible vans are required to transport passengers between portals and shuttle buses.

Hillary Brown asked if K-Line interlocking construction will take place during the upcoming Pride Weekend. Kevin Reeg confirmed the K-Line construction is not scheduled for June 29-30, 2024 and he mentioned the next scheduled construction date is July 20-21, 2024.

Daveed Mandell asked how people who are visually impaired or blind will know when the K-Line construction will take place. Kevin Reeg will reach out to BART staff to work on how to communicate to all riders.

Danny Kodmur asked if the construction will happen every four-five week and Kevin Reeg confirmed the construction will take place every four-five weeks and added during the wintertime, there will be no construction due to weather. Construction is planned for a two-year project but construction dates and project timeline may change.

Danny Kodmur asked what bus agencies are helping with the bus bridges. Kevin Reeg said AC Transit, Muni, and East Bay Paratransit are part of the bus-bridge contract with BART. He also added there will be additional BART Staff at the three stations to assist to use the bus bridge service or other travel options.

Herb Hasting and Clarence R. Fischer recommended improving communications and having better accessible pathway signages within the three stations.

5. Discuss potential changes to the BATF By-Laws

Elena Van Loo and Bob Franklin led agenda item, “Discuss potential changes to the BATF By-Laws.”

1. Membership, Article IV, under “Nominations and Selection Process,” to potentially change from “must attend three (3) of four consecutive meetings,”

down to “must attend two (2) of three consecutive meetings,” and then apply for membership.

Herb Hastings motioned to change the BATF By-Laws to attend two out of three consecutive meetings and then apply for membership. Clarence R. Fischer second the motion.

- Motion passes with ten (10) in favor, one (1) against, and zero (0) abstention

2. Termination of Membership, Article V, to potentially increase missed meetings per calendar year from four to five.

Herb Hastings motioned to change the BATF By-Laws to increase the number of absences from four to five with excused reasons. Janice Armigo Brown seconded the motion.

- Motion does not pass with nine (9) no’s, one (1) in favor, and one (1) abstention.

3. Term Limits for Officers, Article VI, under “D,” Election of Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair, item #1, “Term of Office.” Potentially change from, “The officers of the BATF shall serve for one year or until the next election is held,” to change to, “the officers of the BATF shall serve for one year or until the next election is held. Officers shall serve for no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office, unless no other member is interested in serving in that role. After one-year break, members may serve in any officer role again.”

Herb Hasting motioned to change this BATF By-Law and Clarence R. Fischer seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with ten (10) in favor, zero (0) against, and one (1) abstention

4. Agenda, Minutes, Rules of Conduct and Accommodations, Article VIII, to potentially change from, “members may contact the chair to have items on the agenda and also each meeting agenda shall have an item when members may ask to put items on future items,” to change to, “to have both Officers and BATF members to put on future agenda while BART liaisons shall be responsible to work with BART Officers, BATF members, and BART

departments to schedule items on the agenda along with prepare the agenda, compile the associated agenda materials and distribute the final agenda for each meeting.”

Herb Hasting motioned to change the BATF By-Laws to, “have both Officers and BATF members to put on future agenda while BART liaisons shall be responsible to work with BART Officers, BATF members, and BART departments to schedule items on the agenda along with prepare the agenda, compile the associated agenda materials, and distribute the final agenda for each meeting.” Hillary Brown seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstention

5. Responsibilities, Article III, to potentially adding to complete ethics training required by the State of California within six (6) months of being appointed to the BATF and take ethics training every two (2) years for active BATF members.

Clarence R. Fischer made the motion for this change and Hillary Brown seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with eleven (11) in favor, zero (0) against, and zero (0) abstention

6. Discussion of BATF annual update to the BART Board of Directors

Roland Wong led the agenda item, “Discussion of BATF annual update to the BART Board of Directors.”

Elena Van Loo mentioned there has been discussions with the BATF members about presenting a report or writing a memo to the BART Board of Directors about the BATF’s accomplishments and goals. Hillary Brown, Herb Hastings and Clarence R. Fischer liked this idea.

Clarence R. Fischer added that since the BATF members are appointed by the BART Board of Directors, it would be a common courtesy to report back on the BATF’s accomplishments.

Daveed Mandell suggested having an annual meeting with all the BART Board of Directors.

Danny Kodmur asked if all advisory committees report to the BART Board of Directors. Bob Franklin mentioned it varies by advisory committee.

Roland Wong mentioned it is up to the BATF committee to decide how frequently members wish to report to BART Board of Directors.

Roland Wong mentioned this item can be discussed further at a future BATF meeting.

7. Member announcements

Hillary Brown shared they have been selected as a MTC Accessibility Working Group for Improvement Transit Wayfinding.

Herb Hastings shared Alameda County Fair is happening until July 07, 2024.

Danny Kodmur shared that he was stuck inside the train at Richmond BART Station as it headed to the Richmond service yard. He stated no BART employee did a walk through to check if the train was clear of riders. He mentioned he couldn't reach the call box in the train and called the non-emergency number to let BART staff know that he is in the train at the service yard. He mentioned there needs to be ways to reach out to staff on how to address this issue.

8. Staff announcements

Elena Van Loo informed BATF members second quarter travel reimbursement will take place after June 30, 2024.

Elena Van Loo announced the BART Board Room has been reserved for December 12, 2024, for the scheduled BATF public meeting and Holiday Reception.

New committee member nomination for Sam Buman will be scheduled for July's BATF agenda.

Elena Van Loo shared nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair will take place in September's BATF meeting. Members who wish to know more about these positions should reach out to staff.

9. Chairperson announcements

Roland Wong thanked the BATF members and members of the public for their valuable input.

10 Future agenda items – member suggest topics

- Update to VTA/BART of the four new BART Stations in San Jose location project
- Riders using Braille
 - more clarification
- Presentation from Center for Independent Living (CIL) how their program works with traveling training within BART
- Update of LED monitors
 - pilot at Lake Merritt BART Station

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm until the next regular meeting, Thursday, July 25, 2024.