

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
October 24, 2024

1. Roll Call of Members:

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

Quorum of eight (8) in-person BATF members. Roland Wong used his first “Just Cause.”

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Bob Franklin

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

Ahmad Rassai (BART Staff)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Marie Villarreal (Captioner)
Aleta Dupree (Guest)

Sara Desumala (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)
Julie Molinari (Guest)
Joshua Saunders (Guest)
Vi Iberra (Guest)
Marc Hedlund (Guest)
Katherine Kreft (Guest)
SFMTA Mobility Management representative (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Bob Franklin summarize Aleta Dupree's email message addressed to the BATF members and members of the public. She mentioned the email goes over Aleta Dupree's background and encourages other BATF members to attend more BART Board of Directors meetings.

Marc Hedlund introduced himself and shared he is a member of the BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force (BBTAF). He shared that his task force has received complaints about the new faregates and is working with other members to learn more about this. Marc Hedlund asked if BATF members received comments relating to the new faregates and if you have concerns about them inhibiting accessibility on BART. He shared he would like any information that BATF members can provide for their research by emailing him. He thanked the members of the BATF.

Joshua Saunders introduced himself, shared he is legally blind, and shared he uses his smart phone to pay to enter and exit the faregates. He mentioned that he also had issues with the new faregates. He mentioned at Civic Center/Union Plaza BART Station, sometimes he gets an audio chime and sometimes he does not get an audio chime, which indicate the faregates are opening and this concerns him if he doesn't know if the new faregates are opening or not.

Katherine Kraft introduced herself and wanted to share an experience while riding on the train. She mentioned she has a disability that requires her to use a wheelchair walker and she was trying to transfer from her wheelchair walker to a BART seat to sit comfortably. Katherine Kreft shared that the train suddenly moved which threw her forward headfirst, causing her to bump her head into a seat. She was fine and thanked her staff who was with her and was able to help her get back into the seat. She suggested having a push button to alert the conductor that there is a rider that needs more time to transfer to into a seat.

3. Approval of September 26, 2024 meeting minutes

Clarence R. Fischer moved approval of the September 26, 2024 meeting minutes. Hillary Brown second the motion.

- Motion passes with nine (9) in favor, zero (0) against, and two (2) abstention

4. BATF Advisory Committee Member roles and responsibilities

Elena Van Loo presented on the agenda item.

Elena Van Loo read the BATF Advisory Committee mission statement, “To advise the BART Board of Directors and staff on ways to maintain and approve the accessibility of the BART system for people with disabilities and for seniors.”

She listed the activities of the committee members:

- Make recommendations on issues, policies, and projects that affect people with disabilities and seniors who use BART.
- Ensure compliance with ADA legislation.
- Provide a public forum for discussion of all BART-related issues concerning people with disabilities and seniors.
- Act as a resource group to BART staff, which may address complaints, develop new programs, solve architectural problems, and conduct staff on disability trainings.

Elena Van Loo listed the BATF member responsibilities:

1. Stay current about the BART system, the budget process, the administrative process, the ADA as it relates to transportation accessibility issues, and the Brown Act
2. Establish annual goals for BATF
3. Make reports or recommendations to the BART staff liaison
4. Report to the BART Board of Directors and send additional reports or recommendations as needed
5. Recuse themselves from any matter in which they have a financial interest.
6. Complete ethics training required by the State of California

Danny Kodmur asked what the difference is between “task force,” and “advisory committee.” Bob Franklin mentioned the BART Accessibility Task Force is the advisory committee, which happens to have the name Task Force in its title.

Annie Koruga would like to have more of an active role instead of giving information to the BART Board of Directors. Daveed Mandell agreed with Annie Koruga and added he would like to work more closely with BART staff.

Christine Arseneault thanked the members for their feedback and agreed 100% with what has been said. She believes BATF members should be more involved, and she mentioned she plans to attend one of two BART' Board of Directors meetings per month and share a quick update. She, too, suggested inviting the Board members to the BATF meetings.

5. Discuss a date to report to BART Board of Directors BATF annual report

Christine Arseneault led the agenda.

Elena Van Loo clarified the agenda item. She asked how often BATF members should reach out to the BART Board of Directors to give a report: quarterly or annually.

Hillary Brown asked who is responsible to present the BATF's annual report to the BART Board of Directors. She asked if Officers do the reporting or can the members participate. Elena Van Loo mentioned a discussion is needed with all appointed BATF members to see what works best to present the BATF's annual report to the BART Board of Directors, but stated in the past the Officers present the report.

Herb Hasting suggested inviting Directors to attend BATF meetings. He acknowledged that Director Robert Raburn attends BATF meetings and supports the task force but would like to see other Board members attend.

The majority of the BATF members say that quarterly annual BATF reports works best. Roland Wong agreed with other BATF members.

Sam Buman also suggested doing a "crash course," on disability awareness to new and current BART Board of Directors.

- 6. Discuss hosting the BATF Holiday Reception on December 12, 2024**
- **Review and approve the BATF Holiday Reception flyer (if BATF members approve to host)**

Christine Arseneault led the agenda item.

Christine Arseneault went over the BATF Holiday flyer and discussed having BATF host the event on December 12, 2024.

Herb Hastings clarified the day's event by sharing BATF meeting will take place at 2:00 pm and following the meeting the Holiday Reception from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm with light refreshments provided.

Elena Van Loo mentioned five BART Board of Directors are up for election, and will be seated in December 2024.

The majority of the BATF members agree to have the scheduled BATF Holiday Reception on December 12, 2024. They mentioned that having the reception keeps the tradition going and should continue to invite BART staff. There was also discussion to invite the BART Board of Directors that are stepping down to say their goodbyes and invite the new BART Board of Directors to welcome them.

7. Review and approve 2025 BATF Accessibility Task Force (BATF) scheduled meeting dates

Christine Arseneault led the agenda item.

Hillary Brown motioned to approve the 2025 BATF Accessibility Task Force (BATF) scheduled meeting dates. Sam Buman seconded the motion.

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

8. Member announcements

Daveed Mandell expressed concerns about the sounds from the new faregates that are not user friendly for people who are blind or visually impaired.

9. Staff announcements

Elena Van Loo shared she will be emailing the link to the updated www.BART.gov website under Accessibility Services and is looking forward to any feedback.

10. Chairperson announcements

Christine Arseneault thanked Roland Wong for taking the Chair position last year. She thanked Elena Van Loo, Bob Franklin, Ryan Green-Roesel, and BART staff who presented for their time. Christine Arseneault thanked the BATF members for attending the once-a-month meeting and providing valuable comments.

11. Future agenda items – member suggest topics

- New faregates sound
- Accomplishments done within BATF
- Update on wayfinding
 - Jumana’s wayfinding report
- 5 five major accessibility related projects

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm until the next regular meeting, Thursday, November 21, 2024.