

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE
Committee Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022

1. Roll Call of Members:

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

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Laura Timothy
Bob Franklin

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

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)
Ahmad Rassai (BART Staff)
Rachel Russell (BART Staff)
Damini Mathur (BART Staff)
Tatiana Wells (BART Staff)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Alicia Garispe (Captioner)

Aaron Morrow (Guest)
Daveed Mandell (Guest)
Annmarie W. (Guest)
David Fritz (Guest)
Kacei Conyers (Guest)
Helen Walsh (Guest)
Roger Acuna (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)
Sara Desumala (Guest)
Sid Goldstein (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Daveed Mandell announced that BART is working with a company called Good Maps on audio mapping at the MacArthur BART Station. He believes MacArthur is a good choice for a trial, but he also believes that a more typical BART station like 12th Street/Oakland City Center BART Station or the Civic Center/UN Plaza BART Station near the Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco would also be good choices because they are inside stations. MacArthur BART Station is an outside station where it may be hard to hear audible queues because of the noise coming from the freeways. He expressed that he is excited to work with BART to assist and consult on wayfinding issues.

Kacie Conyers mentioned that the BART Board of Directors voted to reinstate wearing masks while riding BART and stated BART has shared oversight of East Bay Paratransit and asked if this decision will filter to East Bay Paratransit bus riders. Kacie Conyers strongly urged to have East Bay Paratransit riders and drivers wear masks.

Helen Walsh appreciated and thanked the BART Staff for the new BART meeting posts under the BART Board of Directors, bart.gov and her screen reader works with the new postings.

Tatiana Wells introduced herself as a representative of BART's Transportation Department.

3. Approval of March 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Alan Smith moved approval of the March 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Gerry Newell seconded the motion.

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

4. **Lighting Update Throughout BART Stations**

Ahmad Rassai shared some general lighting updates, as well as specific projects in BART stations:

- **El Cerrito Del Norte Station Modernization:** Completed
 - There is a new LED lighting system throughout the station, platforms and paid concourse level. Additionally, there is LED lighting in the southern concourse area and outside parking lot, which includes 42 LED lighting bollards along Ohlone Greenway. There are also new elevators and new lighting at bus islands and shelters.
- **Powell Station Modernization:** 65% complete
 - There is new LED lighting at the following locations: throughout the platform level, along trackside, at stairwells, inside renovated public restrooms, and throughout station.
- **Concord Station Lighting Modernization & Emergency Power System Project:** Currently in design phase
 - Plans is to replace with a completely new LED lighting system at the platform level and concourse level and install an emergency power system which includes lighting.
- **19th Street, Oakland Station:** Just started
 - New lighting will be added in the concourse, along the trackway, at both platform levels, and in the stairwells.
 - Most of concourse level, trackway and upper-level platform lighting have already been installed.
- **Elevator Lobby Lighting Improvements:** Complete
 - Work involved replacing and adding new LED light fixtures in front of elevators at 10 BART stations:
 - Fremont, South Hayward, Bay Fair, Coliseum, Lake Merritt, Walnut Creek, Downtown Berkeley, Civic Center/UN Plaza, 16th St./Mission, and 24th St./Mission
- **Parking Garages:** 80% complete
 - Replaced almost all the lights at 12 garages in the past 14 months, with two more garages planned to be completed later this year.

- Lights were replaced throughout the garages, including along the parking aisles, the roof of parking structures, the stairwells, and the elevator lobbies. Lights were changed to brighter, longer-lasting, and energy-efficient LED lights.
- Installed occupancy sensors in most areas that dim and brighten the lights depending on if there is traffic in the garage.
 - Garages completed:
 - Hayward, Walnut Creek, Millbrae, Fruitvale, Daly City, Pleasant Hill, San Bruno, Colma, Concord, Dublin/Pleasanton, South San Francisco, MacArthur
 - Garages scheduled to be completed later this year:
 - Richmond and El Cerrito Del Norte

AR mentioned that BART Staff are also surveying to determine what lighting is remaining throughout the system that may still need to be upgraded.

Clarence Fisher asked about the South Hayward BART Station at the bridgeway going from Berryessa bound to Richmond bound. He thought the bridgeway was dark, especially in the evening hours. AR stated he will reach out the appropriate BART staff to look into getting more bright lights at the bridgeway area at South Hayward BART Station.

Roland Wong expressed the elevator enclosure is very dark at the Embarcadero BART Station at the platform level and would like to see the elevator enclosure have bright lights installed.

Helen Walsh stressed lighting is very important at all BART Stations, especially for people with low vision and for safety reasons.

5. Walnut Creek BART Station Elevator Enclosure

Rachel Russell introduced herself as the new BART's Engineer for the Strategic Planning and presented on BART's Station Hardening Project, which is the project to address fare evasion. She mentioned she will be addressing the elevator enclosure at Walnut Creek BART Station.

Rachel Russell shared three types of enclosures:

- San Francisco International Airport BART Station faregate is an example having a buzzer to enter and exit

- Balboa Park BART Station is example having high fences in the paid area perimeter
- Embarcadero BART Station is an example of enclosed elevator with either metal bars or Plexiglass installed

She shared the plans for the Walnut Creek BART Station elevator enclosure. She mentioned Walnut Creek BART Station will have metal bars enclosing both elevators and the faregate will be between the two elevators, which lead to two different platforms. There will be a swing gate in case the faregate does not work. The timeline for completion of the Walnut Creek BART elevator enclosure is June 2022.

Randall Glock asked if Walnut Creek BART Station will be the only elevator enclosure project or will there be other BART Stations. Rachel Russell stated after the Walnut Creek elevator enclosure project, her next elevator enclosure project will be at North Berkeley Station.

Randall Glock asked if lighting will be addressed with the elevator enclosure at Walnut Creek BART Station. Rachel Russell explained lighting is a different project scope.

David Fritz stated that he is happy that fare evasion is being addressed. He asked why elevator enclosures are focused on enclosing elevators instead of enclosing stairways or escalators. Rachel Russell mentioned the district-wide project scope does include bus bays and the paid area. At this time, the current scope does not include stairways, as many are within the paid area already enclosed.

Roland Wong asked if the new elevator enclosure fare gate will have one panel or two panels. Rachel Russell will ask BART Staff and provide an answer. Roland Wong also mentioned fare gates should be standard or be consistent throughout the BART System, including elevator enclosures.

6. Discussion with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) – Committee for Transportation Mobility and Accessibility (CTMA)

Randall Glock introduced Aaron Morrow to discuss topics about the VTA railway, bus system, and any other questions.

Aaron Morrow introduced himself and said he is a public advocate for people with disabilities and seniors. He mentioned he sits on many policy boards, including as the chair of the CTMA. He has been with VTA for about 25 years as a non-paid employee and wanted to clarify that he is not representing VTA staff.

Aaron Morrow thanked the BATF members for the invitation. He mentioned he would like to hear about any outstanding issues with VTA services. If anyone wishes to share comments or questions, they can reach out to BATF Officers and/or Staff and they will forward to Aaron.

Herb Hastings mentioned in March of 2022, there was a presentation on four new BART Stations in Santa Clara County which VTA will be leading. He mentioned he wished the underground tube would be side-by-side instead of stacked in the Downtown San Jose area.

7. BART Hybrid Meeting Update

Elena Van Loo gave an update on BART's hybrid meetings.

Elena Van Loo shared background on Brown Act Law:

- Ralph M. Brown Act Law was signed into law in 1953
- Requires local government business to be conducted at open and public meetings
- Hybrid meetings (in person and virtual) are allowed under the following conditions:
 - A quorum of the members participate from locations within the boundaries of the agency's jurisdiction
 - Locations must be identified in the meeting's notice and agenda and must be accessible to the public
 - AB1944-would delete the requirement to disclose a private location
 - Pending legislation (has not passed)
 - Public may attend and submit comments either in-person or through video/audio conferencing

Elena Van Loo shared BART public meeting guidelines:

- BART's Legal Department and District Secretary will define District procedures, and guidelines will likely change over the upcoming months
- Hybrid public meetings begin at BART
 - BART Board of Directors is tentatively scheduled for late May 2022, but is subject to change
 - BART Advisory Committees to begin at the same time as BART Board

- Travel Reimbursement for BART Advisory Committee members
 - Policy remains the same
 - Must attend meetings in-person to receive reimbursement
 - No reimbursements for attending by video/audio conferencing

Elena Van Loo mentioned BATF hybrid meetings may start after BART Board of Directors meeting scheduled May 26, 2022.

Herb Hasting asked if BATF meetings will continue to be at East Bay Paratransit facility. Elena Van Loo stated BATF meeting will continue to be at East Bay Paratransit due to easy access to the elevator at 19th Street BART Station. Bob Franklin mentioned on Thursdays, BART Board of Directors have their public meetings on the same day as BATF and can be difficult to reserve the Board Room for meetings.

8. Member Announcements

No member announcements.

9. Staff Announcements

Director Robert Raburn introduced himself and he was excited that BART is moving forward in enclosing all of the elevators. He mentioned six elevator enclosures have been done and seven, including Walnut Creek BART Station, are in the planning stages and will be done soon.

Director Robert Raburn stated the big issue right now at BART is the budget for the coming two Fiscal years, Fiscal Year 23 and Fiscal Year 24.

10. Chair Announcements

No Chair announcements

11. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- VTA project updates (in the coming months)
 - Four brand new stations in Santa Clara County
 - Side-by-side tube instead of two story
- BART Fleet of the Future trains
 - Number of new trains coming to BART

- Tri Valley Project
 - as an introduction
- Budget update
- Elevator Attendants
 - Concerns with lack of disability awareness
 - Lack of spatial awareness
 - Remove stool from elevator for more space
 - Elevators in Downtown San Francisco are already small; limited space
 - Attendants can be confrontational

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **May 26, 2022.**