

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Minutes

October 23, 2014

1. Self-Introductions of Members, Staff and Guests

Members present: Janet Abelson; Randall Glock; Peter Crockwell; Don Queen; Hale Zukas; Clarence Fischer; Herb Hastings; Alan Smith; Larry Bunn; Megan O'Brien; Roland Wong; Gerry Newell; Janice Armigo Brown;

Members not present: David Jackson; Marina Villena; Brandon Young,

Staff: Bob Franklin; Ike Nnaji

Directors, Speaker(s), Guest Staff, and Guests of the Public: Director Robert Raburn; Carl Orman; Elena Vanloo; Crystal Raine; David Weiss; John Fechter; Jerry Grace; Michelle Taylor Lagunas; Steven Buhur, KH Architects; Ann Smith & Shivani Sanders, ASL Interpreters; Marvin Fisher; Steven Beard; Denise Jacobson, Linda Drattell

2. Public Comments

Steven Beard commented that for the past several years since October of 2011 our commission has teamed to address the concerns raised by BART patrons with disabilities regarding sanitation and operation. Denise Jacobson said I raised this issue about the BART elevators in 2011.

Linda Drattell commented that it came to her attention a couple of days ago for people who regularly ride BART that all the TTY's have been removed from the phones. And if there's a disaster, you need a land line to communicate. Texting is not going to work. Other methods of communication are not going to work. People don't use them, but in a disaster people that are deaf need something like that to be able to communicate to call 911 or whatever.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were not ready at the time of the meeting.

This item will be added to the December meeting for approval.

4. Video Phone Presentation

After the PowerPoint presentation given by David Weiss and John Fechter, people were allowed to ask questions.

Carl Orman asked is this 711 service good for out of country? Can somebody call out of the country? The answer is, no. It's only for the United States.

Hale Zukas asked how usage was different from what we have in the 1990s. How many people are using it? David Weiss answered that there has been a big change from the

past say 1990. The TTY was extremely popular and it had quite an enormous usage. I would say about 1 million conversations per minute per month. It was about 8 hundred thousand calls per month from various areas all over California. So with technology, of course, it changes and things adapt. TTY is analog and land lined and land connected. We have internet based. It's faster, its wireless. You can use video relay service encompasses using a videophone with a camera so the deaf person can make a call and sign-in ASL to the communications assistant. There's land based as well. If you have speech impairments we have visual aids so you can actually see the receptionist on the screen in front of you so a lot of this has changed and our volume has gone down.

A motion passed unanimously to recommend continues to explore this equipment.

5. Lion Blind Center

Michelle Taylor Lagunas, CEO, the Lion Center for the Blind was founded in Oakland about seven decades ago, it is meant to open pathways to independent living for blind and visually impaired individuals. For those born without sight and our organization delivers state certified services for clients to live independent lives. Primary offices in Oakland and satellite location in Fairfield serves the entire nine counties in Bay Area helping clients adjust and regain self-sufficiency in all areas of life.

6. Station Accessibility Improvements

Hearing Loops, Detectible Path of Travel, Tactile Map at Stations and 3 Feet Bar Tiles at Platform Train Door Location presentation was given by Carl Orman, members were allowed to clarify, ask questions and/or share any concern they had.

Do people get waivers? Is it possible to get a waiver?

Carl, they cannot just give you a waiver on the phone because this is a code and this is what they do.

Is there a difference between California and Federal requirements?

Federal required domes range from 1.6 to 2.4. California is 2.3 to 2.4 spacing, so if you go 2.3 to 2.4, we comply with both.

Members commented that:

- A five feet minimum clearance is required at the platform, clear space for wheelchair to turn around.
- I trail the detectable edge along the platform so I'm not walking on it but you do run into people waiting so you cannot find the escalator and the edge.
- Wheelchairs need to use the platform and other people.

7. ADA Upgrade Process

A short presentation given by Bob Franklin, members were allowed to clarify, ask questions and/or share any concern they had.

Is this station only or is this train as well? It is mainly focused on stations but if there's improvements for the trains, that's part of it as well.

Are they going to go out to all the stations? Yes.

I suggest that we get with them at each station because there are some stations that we all know better than others.

Members commented that:

- I would make a suggestion rather than looking at it from the point of view from the station, you look at it from the point of view of the riders. Interview the riders who have a variety of disabilities. Bob, that's a great suggestion.
- A consultant would be great if they can really communicate with the deaf community and understand best how -- what those specific needs are. Bob, different users and different stations and how people interact with those stations.
- I think the District needs to do a self-valuation transition plan. Not just a list of projects but we have to have a, you know, transition plan on how to implement some of those.
- We have a Capital Wish List. We have a list of needs and the things that we think we want. We need to see some of the things we do come to fruition. This committee is used to things taking years to get done.

8. Project Status Reports

Alan Smith reported below updates.

MacArthur Garage

That red line in the crosswalk at the garage has been erased. The stairs have not been taken care of.

20th Street Entrance Canopy

[See below item]

Stairs and Lighting

Since the 20th street exit has been closed I've been using the 18th street entrance and the center of the stairs which are reasonably well lit and I've also used the southern concourse to platform at 12th street. You should see how well lit those stairs are and the stripes look brand new. What it suggests is that BART really can make interior

stairs well lit and I have pointed out to Bob Powers a couple of weeks ago one of the escalators was out in concord and we are having to use the stairs which have lights that have not been replaced and I told him the stairs at Fruitvale at night have better lighting than Concord stairs in the daytime.

Oakland Airport Connector (OAC)

Are you ready? It's the 14th of November. That is a Friday. That will be our time to go kick the tires literally. We will get to explore both stations. We will take a train ride from Coliseum to the airport and guess what, they will bring us back.

Are they going to charge us or is this free of charge?

No. We will meet at the southern end of the Coliseum platform. The door will be open down there. It's not open for the public yet, but what we need to decide is what time to do it. Can I have a show of hands who all wants to take a joyride on OAC?

Everybody.

eBART

The Pittsburgh Civic Center station has been designed. Pittsburgh has put in 6 million dollars more or less and there's roughly 7 million dollars left to be funded.

Crystal Raine, per Chief Rainey, it's still too early to determine what the police staffing is going to be yet.

General Disability Awareness

Crystal Raine, the next step that happens since we have overwhelmingly agreement that these cards should be used, the cards will now go to our command staff meeting, the second meeting, that will be voted on by all of the executives at BART Police Department and then from there we will determine how many we should order.

Berryessa/Milpitas Stations

We had a great news from Santa Clara DOT, and as you can see on the new street they are building, Berryessa we have yellow truncated domes. That is probably one of the hardest things we have worked on.

The EIR process for the South Bay Extension beyond Berryessa is expected in the Winter of 2015.

Union City Station Remodel

Larry Bunn and Randall Glock and Alan Smith met with the Project Manager, reports that the path of travel will get you through the fare gates and all the way to the stairs not leave you halfway to the stairs and so forth.

El Cerrito Del Norte improvement

El Cerrito del Norte had an outreach event for about 3 days on the remodeling project. This was an article in the paper. I presume you were mistress of ceremonies.

No updates were given for the following projects:

Fleet of the Future

Richmond Intermodal Project

Station Hearing Loop

Concord Station Upgrade

Berkeley Station Upgrade

Joint Meeting with Valley Transportation Authority Committee for Transit Accessibility (VTA CTA)

9. Chairperson Announcements

Alan Smith, I'll put up the invite for the December Reception. It starts at 2:00 p.m. We already have two presentations. The reception is at 3:00 p.m.

Randall Glock said he looked at the BATF page on the BART website. It was talked about a couple of meetings ago that it was going to be improved and within the last week it was. It has a much cleaner background. The font is much darker. If you look at the normal BART website, you would not believe you are looking at the same genre.

10. Staff Announcements

[No staff announcements.]

11. Member Announcements

Roland Wong announced that MUNI is putting out a survey regarding their new future trains. And so maybe we can forward that link to maybe Randall Glock or I can distribute it to the members there. I think it's worthwhile to at least address it because they also address accessibility issues too and make public comment about it.

12. Future Agenda Topics

Gerry Newell announced that he was approached by one of the BART staff, Lynette Tony. She's in charge of elevator, escalator maintenance. She would like to come to our meeting and talk to us at some point in time. I said she could probably go through Bob Franklin.

Clarence Fischer suggested what about for people with disabilities boarding in a first car when you need to sit down before the train takes off. Some sort of a communication with the operator or extra holding of the door time.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next regularly scheduled meeting of **Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.**