

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Draft Minutes

November 16, 2011

1. Self-Introductions of Members

Members present: Janet Abelson; Jan Armigo Brown; Peter Crockwell; Linda Dratell; Mary Fowler; Randall L. Glock; Jim Gonsalves; Herb Hastings; David Jackson; Jane Lewis; Katrina McCurdy; Gerry Newell; Don Queen; Carmen Rivera-Hendrickson; Roland Wong; Hale Zukas

Members not present: N/A

Guests of the Public: Shawn Ebersole; Jerry Grace; Janice Hoang, (Stenographer); Debbie Taylor, (Sign Language Interpreter); Lisa Williams, (Sign Language Interpreter); Kellie Shanahorn, (Sign Language Interpreter); Ann Smith, (Sign Language Interpreter)

Staff: Laura Timothy

Guest Speaker(s) and Guest Staff: Carter Mau; Robert Raburn; Jim Gravesande; Carol Walb

2. Public Comments

Shawn stated that he would like to see improvements made to the West Dublin station.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

No opposition to Herb's motion to approve minutes of the October 27th, 2011 meeting, (second by Gerry). Motion carries with one abstention from Carmen.

4. Rescheduled BATF Meetings

The December meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th at 2:30pm. The meeting will take place at BART's offices located at 300 Lakeside Drive, Second Floor Conference Room, in Oakland.

The meeting is scheduled to end at 3:30pm, after which a meet-and-greet holiday reception between members, guests, and BART staff will take place.

5. Station Updates

Ashby

Laura reported that the Hale Zukas plaque has been ordered, and staff is working with fabricators to get the plaque done as soon as possible.

She added that Kevin has been working with elevator staff in order to put together a better control system where each elevator will have its own set of buttons for the station agent to control. It has been designed and is expected to be in use by the end of December.

The last concern she talked about was having a tactile pathway from the elevator to the fare gates, as well as from Ed Roberts to the fare gates. She shared that this is not a requirement in the current BART Facility Standard. In order to have these tactile pathways, BART needs to get the variance for the BFS as well as find funding for it.

After a short discussion regarding inadequate signage, Laura said that Tian Feng, the district architect for BART, is interested in getting feedback regarding the signage.

Lafayette

There is now a ramp which provides pedestrians access from the parking area.

Herb commented that there is inadequate lighting at the downtown area sidewalk. Carter replied that there are many different owners of that section property aside from BART. He added that BART will contact the party responsible for that section of sidewalk to work on upgrading the lighting.

West Dublin/Pleasanton

Jim Gravesande updated members regarding the some of the concerns that were brought up at the February visit to the station.

<<Bathroom doors>>

BART Facility Standards do not require automatic doors for bathrooms. Adjustments have since been made and doors are now within the acceptable range of having to use a force of five pounds or less to open

<<Request for tactile path to elevators>>

BART Facility Standards do not require a tactile path to the elevators

<<Electrical boxes intrude into pathway>>

Contractor has since lowered the boxes that intrude into the pathway on both Dublin and Pleasanton sides

<<Wheelchair caught on electrical outlet box approaching both ways>>

Boxes comply with BART Facility Standards and ADA requirements

<<Disabled access gate on side of elevator breaks down frequently>>

This comment has been passed on to the maintenance department in operations Kevin has been in contact with AFC maintenance regarding out-of-service gates as well

<<Disabled parking not located near elevators on Dublin side>>

Design of the facility provides a clear and safe access path and meets ADA requirements

<<Inadequate number of disabled parking spaces>>

- The number of accessible spaces in both garages is acceptable and meets all requirements

Carmen shared many issues that she is still facing at this station.

Carmen's Comments:

-bathroom doors are still over 12-pound pressure as she is not able to open them

-handicap parking is not very accessible

-oftentimes when accessible fare gate breaks down, agents just push the door open and let her through instead of fixing it

-broken or missing buttons on Pleasanton side elevator

-wants to see a tactile path to the elevator, not just the stairs

Jim responded that they have met all requirements, although he understands people wanting higher requirements. He said that the buttons in the elevator have been fixed and that the contractor does monthly maintenance on the elevators.

Randall suggested having adding "tactile guide" to Future Agenda Items. He also suggested revising the BFS.

Laura suggested finding a staff person work with a few members of the group to try to improve some conditions in the BFS.

Robert Raburn commented that according to the people who work at this station, the elevator buttons are frequently pushed in or broken.

6. BART Fare Issues

After the presentation, members were given an opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns, to which Carol addressed at the time.

Janet stated that she often has trouble using her Clipper card at the accessible fare gate. She added that she is also unable to see the screen that tells whether your card has been accepted. She also would like if people can be allowed to have a duplicate card.

Carmen requested on behalf of the committee that an informational video be made with regard to reloading the RTC card.

7. New ADA Rail News About Wheelchairs

Laura responded to Carmen's inquiry and shared that funding is used only for intercity and high-speed rail, so BART will not be eligible.

She passed out handouts to members which contained the Department of Transportation's changes to the existing policy that pertain to BART.

8. Chairperson Announcements

Randall reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 at 300 Lakeside Drive, 2nd Floor in Oakland. Everyone is welcome to bring a guest.

9. Staff Announcements

BART would like members to participate in focus groups for projects, like new signage.

Laura stated that BART is moving ahead with the video relay interpreter pilot project. This project is a six-month project taking place in five stations and will begin in March 2012.

10. Member Announcements

Gerry said that the deaf/blind seminar has been postponed.

Carmen touched on a Federal Transit Administration meeting she attended and asked for members to share as many comments as possible so as to represent all types of disabilities.

11. Future Agenda Topics (projected)

- BART Facility Standard requirements

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the next specially scheduled meeting of Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.