

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
2150 Webster Street, P.O. Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94604-2688

BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

DRAFT Committee Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2025

1. Roll Call of Members:

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

Quorum of eight (8) in-person appointed BATF members.

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Ryan Greene-Roesel
Kevin McDonald

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

Ahmad Rassai (BART staff)
Sarah Worth O'Brien (Guest)
Sara Desumala (Guest)
Jerry Grace (Guest)

Mussie Gebri (Guest)
Masooma Afgan (Guest)
Dorene Giacomini (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Mussie Gebri introduced himself and voiced interest in returning as an appointed BATF member.

3. Approval of May 22, 2025 meeting minutes

Clarence R. Fischer moved approval of the March 27, 2025, meeting minutes. Hillary Brown second the motion.

- Motion passes with twelve (12) in favor, zero (0) opposed, and one (1) abstention.

4. Tactile walking surface indicators for wayfinding

Sarah Worth O'Brien presented on the agenda item. The full presentation was included in the BATF July's 2025 agenda package.

The committee discussed the item. A few concerns and suggestions were provided:

- Roland Wong mentioned that some curb cuts do not have colors that stand out and that he finds it challenging to see the depth of these curb cuts, which usually have yellow markings to help indicate how deep they are.
- Clarence R. Fischer voiced concerns about accessible pathways with the bike warning indicator locations when crossing to get to a bus stop and when crossing the street. It is confusing to determine where you are located, whether you reached the other side of the street, or whether you have reached a middle area where there is a traffic lane on both sides.
- Joshua Saunders believed that tactile wayfinding could be a very helpful tool to create accessible tactile pathways to the faregates.
- [RG1] Mussie Gebri mentioned in the past, using the Clipper Card to go through the old faregate doorways was easier, but now the Clipper Card doesn't always work and makes it more difficult to go through the new faregate doorways. He suggested having staff available to assist with the Clipper Card when going through faregates and this would be part of wayfinding efforts.

- Mussie Gebri mentioned that the train does not always align with where the train doors open to enter the train.

5. Accessibility Improvement Program update

Ahmad Rassai (AR) presented on the agenda item. The full presentation was included in the BATF July's 2025 agenda package.

The committee discussed the item. A few concerns and suggestions were provided:

- Danny Kodmur mentioned the importance of ensuring the correct slopes on ramps.
- Janice Armigo Brown suggested that call boxes should be made accessible for those with hearing impairments by adding a hearing loop component.
- Janice Armigo Brown mentioned that not all trains display the hearing loop logo.
- Herb Hastings asked about the status of door markings at the platform level that indicate where wheelchairs can enter the train.
- Mussie Gebri asked about the trip planner on the BART app and wanted to know how to make it more accessible for people who are deaf, hearing impaired, visually impaired, or people who are blind.

6. Second quarter: BART's compiled and analyzed customer complaints related to accessibility

Elena Van Loo and Kevin McDonald presented on the agenda item. The full presentation was included in the BATF July's 2025 agenda package.

Elena Van Loo mentioned that quarters that have been reported so far are numbered Q1 and Q2, which is based on the calendar year, January to December 2025, rather than the Fiscal Year, July 2024 to June 2025.

The committee discussed the item. A few concerns were raised:

- Roland Wong mentioned that some stations need better lighting, and he will report when there is a lighting issue in the stations.

- Herb Hastings stated that in future quarterly reports, he would like to see a comparison of the current versus previous quarterly complaints.
- Catherine Callahan suggested when there are two elevators at a BART station, BART should note which elevator is out and inform riders that there is a second option to use the second elevator under the BART's elevator status.
- Dorene Giacomini asked if it is possible to have a drop-down option for accessibility complaints in the online form. Elena Van Loo mentioned she will reach out and see if this can be added to the online Customer Service complaint form.

7. Member announcements

Hillary Brown informed the committee that the Community Advisory Council is looking for applicants and have extended the application deadline to October of 2025.

Roland Wong shared that there will be a celebration to celebrate thirty-five (35) years of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) in San Francisco on July 26, 2025.

Clarence R. Fischer voiced concerns that AC Transit will undergo significant service changes as part of its Realign Project and asked whether these changes would be reflected in BART's website, station signage, and trip planning tools. Ryan Greene-Roesel indicated she would confirm the process.

Sam Buman mentioned that when any BATF meeting gets cancelled, he would like to understand the reason behind the cancellation.

8. Staff announcements

Elena Van Loo mentioned that July 26, 2025, marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Elena Van Loo shared that the final, approved minutes for the month from the BART Accessibility Task Force are posted on the BART website, <https://www.bart.gov/about/bod/advisory/accessibility>.

Kevin McDonald shared that staff is still planning to test the new faregate tones and will inform BATF members and invite them to visit the piloted stations to listen to the tones at the faregates and give feedback.

Kevin McDonald informed BATF members about BART's process for recording the BATF meeting minutes and stated that staff listens to recorded meetings and writes down the main points and summarizes what was discussed for each agenda item.

9. Chairperson announcements

Herb Hastings shared that he is a member of the Contra Costa Transportation Planning Council. He also shared that he has remained involved with the new Clipper 2.0 project.

10. Future agenda items – member suggest topics

- Assisting people with low vision or people who are blind in finding the faregates

11. Adjournment

Clarence R. Fischer moved to adjourn the July 24, 2025, meeting and Daveed Mandell second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, August 28, 2025.