

Agenda item #2-Public Comments

Aleta Dupree's original email message dated November 15, 2025, 9:19 PM for the BATF November 20, 2025, agenda. Added to the December 18, 2028, BATF meeting under agenda item "public comments."

Subject: BATF Meeting 20 November, 2025

Elena Van Loo, with thanks, please forward this message to the full BART Accessibility Task Force for the General Meeting of 20 November, 2025.

Greetings Chair Herb Hastings and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record, she, her, with Team Folds.

I bring you my comments pertaining to the work and mission of the BART Accessibility Task Force.

I first share on matters of Clipper. This material before you is being presented in a number of places, and I am attending as many of these presentations as I can. Even though the presentation is basically the same each time, because there are different people in the room, and different questions asked, I learn new things each time. I know Clipper to be an inclusive program, which allows me to effectively navigate fare payment on different systems, even with me having profound disabilities. I mention to you that am able to access basic financial tools, even in my disability and fixed income, such as payment cards and direct deposit. I have also found that every branch of my credit union that I have visited, is also fully accessible. It is rare that I go to the credit union, but sometimes I do, such as to get a roll of quarters for the Pinball Hall of Fame (4925 Las Vegas Blvd South, Las Vegas, NV, 89119).

I have practiced the open payment protocols on BART, and this works quite well. I did have to pay the full adult fares, and I did so of my own choosing, so I could gain experience and relate that to others. This is not new to me as I have used open payments on New York City Transit, which operates North America's largest bus network, and the famous rail transportation system that is the Subway. I have also used open payments on Capitol Corridor, which is a commuter rail system that is administratively managed by BART. And more systems are adopting open payment protocols for the payment of appropriate fares.

I am one of a few who is advocating for Reduced Fares being available for open payments. MTC is supportive of enabling open payment protocols for Reduced

Fares, but that might come a little bit later. In order for Reduced Fares to work with open payments, the card used for payment has to be linked with a piece of data that verifies that the cardholder is indeed eligible for Reduced Fares. This is challenging to implement, yet in New York, open payments for Reduced Fares are in effect, and I have used that often.

I can only share things as I know them. I do not know if any of you have used Capitol Corridor, and enrolled in the open payment pilot program. I do not know if any of you have been to New York City, and used the Subway. Yet I have experience on the Subway going back to 1970. And some of my forebears surely used the Subway in its opening year of 1904. These things of open payment I have done myself, in order that I can share my testimony thereof. I do know that the Clipper team has always been responsive to my needs, especially when it comes to accessibility. I ask of you to inquire respectfully in your Meeting, in order to help inform the Clipper program going forward.

I share on matters of Meetings. I would like to see Meetings proceed more smoothly. I recall some times when my name would be called, yet there would be a long delay in being unmuted. I wondered at times if I would be allowed to speak. I was able to speak but there should never be an undue delay in my doing so. Yet how to I signal my intent to speak if I am not unmuted, even if I raise my hand? And how do we ensure that Public Comment is called for given that we do not have a representative of the District Secretary or General Counsel to ensure that the Brown Act rules are being adhered to? Such requires focus and attention to detail. I ask that you not see Public Comment as an intrusion or interruption of your space. I ask instead that you welcome the Public to share, with the goal that we can all learn from each other.

I share with you that it is not easy being in a disability space, even with me being disabled myself. I once went to a Public Transportation Meeting in another city, and I conversed with people who are part of disability advocacy groups. I asked questions pertaining to inclusion and welcoming. I showed one of the people a picture of me in a skirt and I asked, "is this welcome in your group?" I also asked if veterans and out of town visitors would be welcome. To all of these questions this person responded with a yes. I would like to see this same level of welcome in your group. Yet how do I know unless it is first of all said, and more so a matter of policy? I ask that you not treat BATF as a private club, where only people who meet certain disability criteria are welcome. I think people who do not identify as disabled should also be welcome, as I believe in the importance of allies, and with

equal standing. I do not live in the BART district so I am not qualified to serve on your panel. If I did live in the BART district I would probably be running for the Board anyway, given the many different things of BART that I engage with.

I ask that none of you be angry, whether in your Meetings or out on the System. Anger has no place in BART, and absolutely no place in the conversations we have to help build a better BART. I ask that you work together, hold each other accountable, and not sow division. I ask of you to treat our visitors, whether they be BART Directors, BART staff, visiting presenters, and the Public with respect. I expect our BATF Meetings to be respectful forums, and for you to never forget that you are accountable to the BART Board of Directors. More so I ask this of you, to first and foremost remember and practice the ideal that BART is The Peoples System.

Thank you.