

San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

2150 Webster Street, P. O. Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94612-2688



BOARD OF DIRECTORS DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 1,937TH MEETING FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023

Members of the Board of Directors

Janice Li, President (District 8)

Mark Foley, Vice President (District 2)

Debora Allen (District 1)

Rebecca Saltzman (District 3)

Robert Raburn (District 4)

John McPartland (District 5)

Elizabeth Ames (District 6)

Lateefah Simon (District 7)

Bevan Dufty (District 9)

MEETING DESCRIPTION

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on June 30, 2023, convening at 2:09 p.m. via simultaneous teleconference at the BART Board Room, 2150 Webster Street, 1st Floor, Oakland, California 94612; 4624 Goldcrest Way, Antioch, California 94531; and 20047 Meadowlark Drive, Castro Valley, California 94546. President Li presided; April B. A. Quintanilla, District Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Li called the Meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

A. Roll Call.

Directors Present in Oakland: Directors Allen, Dufty, Saltzman, Simon, and Li.

Directors Present via Teleconference: Vice President Foley.

Absent: Director Raburn. Directors Ames and McPartland entered the Meeting later.

B. Pledge of Allegiance. Director Saltzman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 3 ONLY

President Li called for Public Comment on Item 3 only.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

Raayan Mohtashemi

Director Ames entered the Meeting in Oakland.

Victor Flores
Adina Levin

Director McPartland entered the Meeting via teleconference in Castro Valley.

Chance Boreczky
Marc Joffe
Andrea Horbinski
John Minot
Jahan Byrne

3. LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION: SENATE BILL 532 (WIENER)

President Li brought the item before the Board, addressed the urgency behind Senate Bill 532, and expressed the direct impact the Bill would have on BART addressing its fiscal cliff.

Alex Walker, Manager of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs, and Amanda Cruz, Director of Government and Community Relations, presented the item.

Discussion

The item was discussed, with the following highlights:

Director Saltzman expressed support for the Bill as it brings revenue in and prevents the reduction of staff and services.

Director Saltzman moved that the Board of Directors supports Senate Bill 532.

Director Dufty seconded the motion.

Director McPartland expressed how strongly BART needs this stop-gap measure to provide a reasonable amount of service to the public that BART serves. Director McPartland also expressed support for the Bill.

Director Allen acknowledged the fiscal crisis that BART is facing and commented on the approach of addressing the crisis through acquiring more funding instead of reducing the cost of the system. Director Allen expressed opposition to the Bill, indicating that it is an unfair regressive tax that will further contribute to the inflation cycle and make it harder to live and work in the Bay Area. Director Allen also noted that the Bill is not sustainable for BART nor for the economy of the Bay Area and does not facilitate long term sustainability of Bay Area transit.

Vice President Foley thanked Senator Scott Weiner for his continued support of BART, commented that the way people use BART has changed and therefore BART must evolve its service to survive, and expressed support for the Bill.

Director Ames inquired about the long-term financial plan and the inclusion of an amendment to the Bill regarding pilot programs and a study of consolidating transit agencies. Director Ames expressed concern about supporting the Bill without knowing the long-term strategy for long-term viability for transit agencies. Director Ames also requested that additional studies be conducted.

Director Dufty expressed support for the Bill and acknowledged the negative impact of prior Board's refusal to raise the fare, leading to this fiscal problem. Director Dufty noted that future generations will depend on public transit even more and that BART deserves to have these subsidies much like other transit agencies.

Director Simon indicated that all agencies are experiencing challenges and need to come together to solve the Bay Area transit issues and thanked staff their efforts to be efficient and find avenues to reduce the cost of the system. Director Simon also expressed support for the Bill.

Action

Upon motion by Director Saltzman and second by Director Dufty, the Board of Directors supported Senate Bill 532 by roll call vote.

Vote Summary:

Moved / Seconded: Director Saltzman / Director Dufty

Aye: Directors Dufty, Foley, McPartland, Saltzman, Simon, and Li.

No: Directors Allen and Ames.

Abstain: 0.

Absent: Director Raburn.

Result: 6-2-1, motion carried by roll call vote.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

April B. A. Quintanilla,
District Secretary