



Remembering **Hale Zukas**

1943-2022

[Access and Accessibility Department](#) – January 26, 2023



About Hale J. Zukas



- An American disability rights activist
- One of the co-founders of the Center for Independence Living (CIL)
- Active in working for accessible streets and public transit
- Founding member of BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) – created in 1975
- Played a major role in the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that passed in 1990
- BART recognized Hale Zukas for his remarkable, life-long commitment to accessibility within the BART system with a plaque that hangs proudly placed in the passageway between Ashby BART Station and Ed Roberts Campus
 - On December 1, 2022, at the request of Director Robert Raburn, the Board of Directors adjourned its regular meeting in memory of Hale Zukas.

Hale J. Zukas

In Appreciation for
Outstanding Leadership and Service to the
Bay Area Rapid Transit District and the Disability Rights Movement

- As one of the founding members of the BART Accessibility Task force and in recognition of the decades of service that Mr. Zukas has been one of the principal liaisons between BART and the Disability Right Movement.
- Hale J. Zukas has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He was a co-founder of the Center for Independent Living in 1971 and has worked at the World Institute on Disability since 1983. For almost 40 years, he has worked tirelessly at the local, regional and national level to make public transportation and the built environment more accessible to persons with all types of disabilities.
- This is in recognition for his work in the area of architectural and transportation barriers which is exemplified in this passageway between the Ashby BART Station and the Ed Roberts Campus.

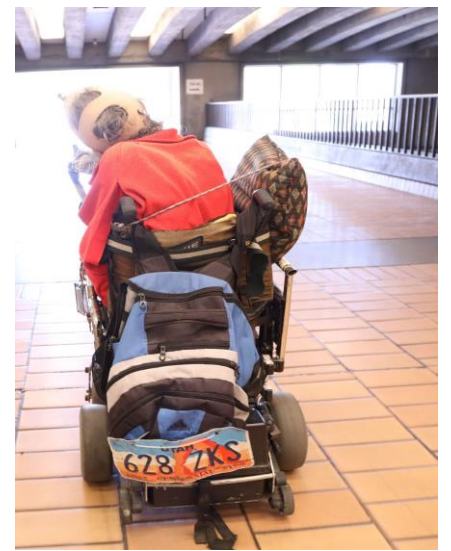
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District
Ashby BART Station - Ed Roberts Campus, Berkeley Ca
2011

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San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District
Ashby BART Station – Ed Roberts Campus, Berkeley, CA
2011



**“Disability is not a tragedy,
it is a tremendous hassle.”-**

Hale Zukas

Thank you

References (additional information):

- “Hale” – Hale Zukas documentary, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY_BYyK1ArE
- “BART honors disability rights activist, Hale Zukas” – BART article from 2012, <https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2012/news20120418>
- “BART recognizes disability rights activist, Hale Zukas on anniversary of ADA” – BART article from 2020, <https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2020/news20200721>
- Hale Zukas – Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hale_Zukas
- Remembering Hale Zukas, daring visionary of the disability rights movement” – article from Berkeleyside.org website, <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/12/06/hale-zukas-obituary>



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

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December 19, 2022

The Family of Hale Zukas
c/o Tim Zukas
2801 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94703

Dear Tim,

This is to inform you that, at the request of Director Robert Raburn, the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District adjourned its regular meeting on December 1, 2022, in memory of your loved one, Hale Zukas.

Hale will be remembered for his dedication as a civic leader for people with disabilities, especially through his work on local and national disability policies. He will also be remembered for co-founding the Center for Independent Living where he advocated for the implementation of those policies, which included the installation of sidewalk curb cuts in Berkeley, California. Hale will also be remembered for his contributions as an original member of the BART Accessibility Task Force and his influence in making BART elevator cars accessible for wheelchair users. Hale's work as an advocate, leader, and selfless volunteer will continue with his legacy.

With a profound sense of civic and personal loss, the Directors are conscious of the many fine qualities that made Hale a truly special person. The Board realizes that mere words can mean so little to you during this time, but they do want you to know of their heartfelt condolences.

Sincerely,

April B. A. Quintanilla
District Secretary

cc: Director Robert Raburn