

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 2/26/2024

Less Fares - Less Headaches

Public transit systems all over the country are facing a serious crisis to regain their pre-pandemic ridership. Agencies are scrambling for ideas on how to attract more people. But there are some 22 cities in particular that have recovered the amount of passengers or gained more. Of these 22 cities, 14 of them have charged no fare for rides for part of the year. One of these cities is Richmond, Virginia where they charge no fare.

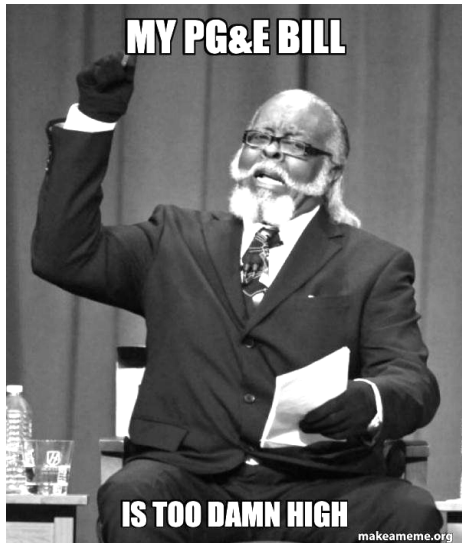
Perhaps more importantly, drivers report much fewer confrontations with passengers. What a surprise! Removing the power struggle over the farebox and having to haggle over the fares can cut down on the contentious interactions with passengers and headaches!

Driver Shortage?

Also coming out of Richmond, Virginia, in response to the driver shortage, what was proposed? A 43% pay increase and making it easier to get hired on. As we look to the contract expiration in summer 2025, what do we think is necessary to address the driver retention crisis here at AC?

PG&E - WTF!

If you are looking at your PG&E bill and saying “WTF”, you are not alone! All of our bills have been skyrocketing with a 13% increase this year and more proposed on the way. To add insult to injury, PG&E just announced \$2.2 billion in profits for last year which was a 24.6% increase from the previous year. This is ridiculous! Our hard-earned money is going to enrich some shareholders! WTF!



New Signup, Old Story

With the signup complete, and our new signup schedule on the way, one can hope things will get better. Maybe we'll be able to get a break this time, maybe there will be enough buses for us to not pick up double the load. Maybe traffic won't be that bad on the days that we work? We hope for something better. A better run. Better traffic. Better restrooms. Better break room access.

But the thing is, many of us have been working here a long, long time. We have seen minor progress occur, but we have also seen the progress that didn't occur. More heavy lifting, for less pay. More cars on the road, rougher streets, and a more rambunctious public to deal with, to say the least. More homeless encampments on the side of the road, along with less support for people struggling mentally.

Nothing will change, unless we come together to make the changes that need to be done. We shouldn't wait for management or union officials to come and save us. Only us, working together can improve things for all. Every signup and schedule should be good, we shouldn't be looking for a way to save just one schedule.

Working Peoples' Sample Ballot

The primary election is around the corner and we are getting bombarded with political ads wherever we look. But if we even bother to vote, why does it always seem to feel like we are stuck choosing the least bad option, rather than anyone or anything to get excited about? What if we could start to create our own options about things that actually impact our lives?

Here is a sample ballot for what one could look like:

Paid parental leave for workers:

Yes No

Raise workers' wages to keep up with inflation:

Yes No

Fund schools for smaller class sizes:

Yes No

Universal healthcare:

Yes No

Something you feel strong about:

Yes No

*Take A Picture Of Your Completed Sample
Ballot And Send It On Instagram @sonsocialists*