

Speak Out Now at BART (March 3, 2026)

Information Please!

BHQ has its Tuesday patrols on the lines, and hopefully, they are collecting some useful information. Are they aware of the sign over the booth that says "INFORMATION"? Do they know that the people who are in the booth are responsible for the safety of passengers in the station and are expected to provide relevant information, like when the trains are running?

So, when there is a delay, who should be among the first to be given information about the nature of the delay? A hint – Station Agents and Train Operators. They need to relay information to passengers. They shouldn't have to wait for an announcement to come through the station that may not come through clearly. Or to be told by passengers who are getting information through social media. That's no way to run a railroad.

Not a Good Look

BART is explaining that it can now run trains at pretty much the same speeds when it rains, so passengers shouldn't have to experience the same delays they have been facing. According to the SF Chronicle, trains get flats because the wheels slip when the rails are wet? Really?

Did the reporter get this wrong, or does someone not know what they are talking about? A T.O. or workers in the yard could explain the problem with the braking system these new trains came with? But that might reflect on the fact that the people who ordered the trains ignored the reality of Bay Area weather.

Playing Tetris With Trains

Their broke BART system is suffering from an embarrassment of riches. New deliveries of FOTF cars are arriving, and there is no place to store them. Some yards are so full that moving them to build new consists is next to impossible.

It's like playing Tetris, except it's difficult to see where to make the next move.

Maybe BART will buy some drones to help workers on yard duty position those trains?



ICE and Passenger Safety?

One way BART deals with reality is to ignore it. And developing a real response to the possibility of ICE invading the system is one. Many schools and other public facilities have protocols if ICE troops attempt to enter the property. Many of them didn't months ago. It was often a simple – call a supervisor or someone. And that person would do what? And that is assuming they would be nearby.

Now, as a result of some experiences with ICE and the response of people who work at those places, there are more explicit protocols that involve notification of everyone on site and an organized response as well as a response by management.

Because of this awareness, there are many restrictions placed on students. One that has been put in place by some schools is the elimination of field trips that would involve taking BART. Some teachers and administrators don't feel that their students would be protected. And there is no indication that ICE wouldn't have the same access to children in a BART station as they would if the students were on the street waiting for a bus.

Facing Reality

BART's well-publicized doomsday scenario, which will lay off more than 1,100 workers, close stations, cut hours, and reduce the frequency of service, was passed by the BART Board last week – big surprise. It's supposed to scare Bay Area voters into approving an increased sales tax bond in the election this fall.

Last week, Gov. Newsom made an appearance, announcing a \$590 million emergency loan to BART, Muni, Caltrain, and AC Transit. This presidential campaign gesture may buy a little time and also get him some votes. But how will underfunded agencies ever be able to pay the loans back, with interest? And why should they? It is our tax dollars.

BART, like so many other public agencies, faces mismanagement. But that isn't the whole story. The money that should be used for public services is flowing into the hands of the super rich. Our tax dollars subsidize the corporations, the wars that defend their interests around the world, and the profits they get from producing the weapons used to fight them.

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March 2, 2026

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No to U.S.-Israel War on the People of Iran!

Together with Israel, the United States began its murderous bombing campaign against the people of Iran. A day after the strikes began, Trump announced that Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed along with several other key military and political leaders of Iran. Thus far, the U.S. and Israel have bombed over 2,000 targets in Iran, with the promise of many more attacks to come.

For days, the U.S. military was building up its forces in the region, while carrying out its sham negotiations about Iran's nuclear energy program. The U.S. has used this program as the excuse to impose harsh economic sanctions on Iran for years, aimed at weakening the regime. But none of this has worked at stopping the Iranian regime from being a major thorn in the side of U.S. imperialism in the region. And now with Israel, its partner in genocide, the Trump administration has decided to escalate its attacks on Iran in an effort to weaken and possibly remove the leadership in Iran in order to impose U.S. dominance of the people and resources of the region.

The existence of the current regime in Iran has stood as an obstacle to the domination of the U.S. in the Middle East since 1979, when a popular revolution overthrew the dictatorial Shah of Iran. The Shah was put in power in 1953, when the CIA overthrew the government of the democratically elected prime minister, Mohammad Mosaddegh, whose government challenged U.S. and European interests throughout the Middle East after he nationalized the Iranian oil industry.

The right-wing Islamic dictatorship that took power in 1979, and continues to rule, has stood in the way of the U.S. exerting its total control over the region. And with the U.S. wars on Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Libya, and more, Iranian opposition to the U.S. has been an obstacle to the total U.S. domination of the region.

This war is the latest attempt by the U.S. to crush Iran's influence in order to try to assert its control over the Middle East. This is not a war about Iran's nuclear energy facilities. This is a war about U.S. imperial domination in the Middle East. For decades, U.S. administrations, from Bush and Obama to Biden and Trump, have tried to weaken and replace the Iranian regime with one that would bend to U.S. imperial interests. These attacks on Iran represent the latest attempt by the U.S. to achieve this goal.

Already, the initial strikes on Iran have hit two schools, one an elementary school for girls, killing at least 153 people. This is just the beginning, as strikes inside Iran in heavily civilian populated areas continue. In response, Iran is targeting Israel and U.S. military bases in the region. They have also launched attacks into countries in the region that are allied with the U.S. Thus far, three U.S. soldiers have been killed and Trump has already warned that others will be killed by Iran's retaliatory strikes which could last for weeks.

Being opposed to this unjust war on innocent people does not mean we should support the brutal Iranian regime. The regime in Iran is a violent dictatorship that has oppressed the working class and the population of Iran for decades. But that does not give the U.S. or Israel the right to wage war on the people of Iran.

And we can't believe their lies when the Trump administration claims to care about the people of Iran. The U.S. can't pretend to be upset about the mass murder of Iranian protestors by their regime, while the U.S. and Israel bomb Iranian civilians, and the Trump administration murders protestors here. Similar to the Iranian dictatorship, the Trump administration wants to crush all opposition and protest inside the U.S. They use their ICE thugs to go after those who stand up, and call those who resist and speak out against ICE terror and Israel's genocide "domestic terrorists."

There is a direct link between their military aggression abroad in Iran and Venezuela, and their threats against Cuba and Greenland, and their brutal policies of repression here in the U.S. The Trump administration is saying loud and clear that they are prepared to use the violence of the U.S. military to impose U.S. dominance all over the world. And it is building up its ICE terror campaign here in the U.S. to try to crush resistance from the population.

Neither the people of Iran, the U.S., nor the Middle East have anything to gain from this war. Their wars are a threat to us all. Our future is linked with the majority of the people around the world. We must oppose those who wage these wars to increase their domination over the people and the resources of the world. We cannot allow their wars of mass murder to be carried out in our name.