

Speak Out Now at BART (3/11/2024)

Regular Schedules?

BART Management is looking for Station Agents to help with the new schedules. There should be one simple guideline – don't have a schedule that puts so many people at two or three stations. Some people do like to move around and would rather have a couple days at a station that is more convenient to get to than a full week at a distant station.

But overall, being in the same station works for everyone – riders and Station Managers (aka SAs). Regular passengers like to see a familiar face and maybe exchange greetings. The same goes for Train Operators and System Service workers. And knowing a station, with its various problems, including regulars who come through bringing their troubles, often means real problems can be avoided.

At BART HQ do they work on different floors every other day? If not, why not? And where they sit has nothing to do with the operation of the system.

If It's Not Broke...

The new gates at West Oakland still have some kinks – timing and sometimes reading apps on phones. But progress is being made. EXCEPT, who decided that an override button for the gates is no longer a necessary feature?

West Oakland is a good station to test that out at, especially with regular morning riders who are on the clock. Many have their day timed, from the moment they leave home and deal with their commute, pay an arm and leg for parking, hit the gate, and get up to the platform. But if there is a problem at the gate and with their phone app, then what?

It's not just a matter of simply hitting the override button and the passenger is in and catches the train. These new gates have screens that work sometimes and other times may take a few tries. And for that rider – there goes their train. And a bad start to their day.

As the saying goes, *"If it's not broke, don't fix it."*

Join us at Speak Out's April Event!

Reports and discussion about the struggle against "Sacrifice Zones" where people and the surrounding environment is being poisoned by chemical and industrial pollution..

More info is at speakoutsocialists.org

Saturday, April 13th, 4pm

2727 California Street, Berkeley

Closing Time

When it comes time to close a station, Station Agents know this can be dangerous. BART PD may have a presence at some stations when it's time to close. But in most stations, Station Agents are forced to close alone.

This may mean waking up people on the platform who have nowhere else to go and don't want to leave. These interactions can get aggressive even if you try to handle them carefully. No one should have to close a station alone.

Uniform?

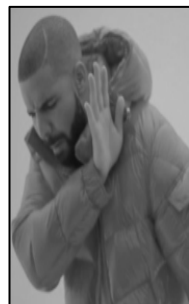
We've heard enough about all this uniform stuff. There are some frontline workers who still haven't received what they ordered almost a year ago. And now another order? And then more "back order" responses?

If regulation colors are required and that BART color isn't in our wardrobe, then what? No one will be wearing wild colors and glitter. So give it a rest.

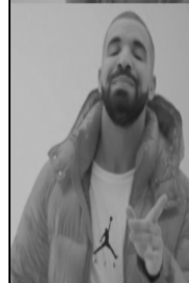
And, really, who is so interested in what workers are wearing? It's not like the riders care. They just want to get where they are going.

There are enough challenges with malfunctioning gates, people having problems with their phone's app, or visitors who need a lot of guidance. Some days it's chaos, whether it is heavy rains and wind, someone on the trackway, a shooting outside the station, or another unwelcomed deposit on the platform.

The people in BART HQ don't seem to understand the only thing uniform at BART is the BART uniform, so get over it and let people work.



Prioritize
worker
safety



Nitpicking
worker
uniforms

If you like this newsletter, reach out to us to get involved. We've been waiting for things to get better and we've waited long enough!

Talk to the Speak Out person who gives you the newsletter or DM us on Instagram @sonsocialists