

Speak Out Now at BART (4/22/2024)

One of These Days

Line bids for SA's and yard bids for TO's are being finalized for the summer ahead. As always, it works out for some and not so good for others.

There were discussions among workers, some of which were brought to Management, about schedules that would make more sense - especially in staffing the stations. Some bids jerk people from station to station with different start times.

Of course, people with enough seniority can find workarounds with PTO when they need to. But why go through all that? How about the people who do the work coming up with the schedules and seeing how that works?

Public Transit is a Necessity!

German bus drivers have conducted one and two-day strikes, joining bus drivers from different companies together across the country in a common fight for living wages, safe working conditions and other demands.

They have also begun to build alliances with environmental activists. Some activists learned about the conditions bus drivers are facing and joined the bus drivers in a petition campaign in support of the workers and more funding for public transit.

Climate disruption is a reality and we need investments in public transit that can help take as many cars off the road as possible to cut carbon emissions. For that to happen, we can't wait for those in power to respond to the realities of workers' lives or the environment.

Transit workers have allies everywhere. We are essential to a livable future! (And the BART and AC Transit contracts expire at the same time next year.)

BART in the News

To read local newspapers you would think that to ride BART is to take your life in your hands or is like riding in a rolling dope house. And the "fiscal cliff" awaits - right around contract time next year.

Are there stories about all the car crashes on Bay Area roads every day that hold people up or injure them? Or about the amount of time it takes to cross the bridges and other choke points on Bay Area roads?

A train out of service causes delays and sometimes hysterical responses from some passengers. That's because people have the expectation that BART Train Operators will get them to their destination on time.

Can they have the same confidence in the driver coming up on them at 80 mph?

Escalators Fixed?

Disability rights activists won a victory last week regarding BART escalators and elevators. They filed a lawsuit in 2017 arguing that BART is inaccessible for people with disabilities given that many escalators and elevators are constantly out of service. After a 7-year legal battle, they agreed to a settlement in the case, but it only mandates that BART make all escalators and elevators operable in 15 years!

That is hardly a solution. If BART workers could make decisions about what needed to be prioritized and had adequate staffing, would it take 15 years to fix the elevators and escalators?

Staffing is a Choice

With summer approaching and people participating in all sorts of things from social gatherings, kids' camps and sports activities, to just taking some much-needed time off, it often means fewer people to staff the stations - especially System Service. Now, when one person is out, even for a scheduled vacation, workers are called on to cover another station. Often that doesn't mean just picking up the work at another station. That means covering two stations!

With summer ahead, and tourism picking up, and people here heading to the airports, there is additional traffic. It doesn't take much foresight to know what will happen. And it won't mean cleaner stations.

BART Math

Some part time Station Agents have been on 5-day/4-hour schedules. This works out for some, especially if they have children needing childcare or other obligations. But for others, it means driving long distances 5 days a week for 4 hours of work each day.

That doesn't add up - from a worker's point of view or thinking about the impact on the environment, having those cars on the road one more day every week. But that's BART Math.

Luckily they aren't in charge of math programs in the schools.

