

Speak Out Now at BART (June 15, 2026)

Fare Increase ≠ Increase in Riders

One way, supposedly to raise revenue for the system, is to raise fares. For some reason, the BART Board has shifted its strategy. The 26-27 budget doesn't include a fare increase.

What happened? Did they realize that raising fares and trying to convince people to vote to increase retail taxes doesn't make sense? Or did they do the math and realize that making BART even more expensive will result in fewer people riding BART?

Up or Down (Grade)?

The media has been calling the fare machine outages "glitches." Where do they get that word? The story about the first outage was that Cubic didn't pay its bill with AT&T for the dedicated lines to the BART fare system.

Recently, GM Bob Powers said, "That's ridiculous. BART is so done with Cubic right now. You have zero credibility, Cubic. Zero."

In the weeks that followed, there were two more, shorter, system-wide outages. Still an unpaid bill?

Why not ask the techs who really know a thing or two about this system? Was it another system upgrade that didn't work? Word is that there was a "communication" problem between the old and new systems. (Sounds like BART management and frontline workers.)

Medic!

Has BART management gotten medical attention for their shoulders? From the big media gathering at Powell Station last week to all the self-congratulatory press releases, are they feeling the wear and tear on their shoulders as they pat themselves on the back?

An Injury to Us All!

Management at Alameda Health System is carrying out massive attacks on the public health system in Alameda County. This includes cuts to Highland Hospital – the ONLY Level-1 trauma center in the East Bay. Getting to a trauma center is a matter of life and death for anyone suffering a severe accident or health episode while in the county.

Other AHS facilities include: San Leandro Hospital (which might be closed);, John George Hospital, which may be transferred to the County to run, disconnecting it from other AHS services, including wellness centers, and two other hospitals that are also facing cuts.

The old phrase of the workers movement - "*An injury to one is an injury to all*" was never so true! Go to saveahs.org/ for more information and join people spreading the word.

Those "Upgrades"

Hey BART management! Take a hint from anyone who has been around computer-based systems. There is an approach that is called "debugging." You test the program to see if it has any internal problems. THEN you TEST it on whatever equipment it is guiding. One piece, not an entire system – fare gates, trains or whatever. Run it under all sorts of conditions and THEN put it in the real world, maybe one station or a couple trains (consists), rather than the entire fleet, if that is possible. It's simple, test first and then deploy.

All About the Look

BART is trying to put its best foot forward during the FIFA games. It has added trains, and extended hours. For the opening game at Levi Stadium on Saturday there was 160 plus percent increase in ridership at the Milpitas Station compared with the previous Saturday,

Hopefully they won't think it's all taken care of for the games to come.

This is BART and you know what that means.

Supervisors or Assistants?

What are supervisor or a managers supposed to be doing? Some check in to make sure that things are functioning ok. Others seem to be looking for problems with Station Agents, not with the functioning of the station. How about doing some useful work, like following up on RFM's that have been ignored for months, which can mean better service for passengers and a better work environment?

Signage

With FIFA fans in town, BART management says, "... directional signage will be posted in stations to help visitors and occasional riders navigate the system."

Wow! What a new idea? Have the brilliant folks who dreamed this up even spoken with a Station Agent? Have they ever asked what would help ALL RIDERS navigate the system?

It shouldn't have taken FIFA coming to town to get them to understand this. Lesson learned? (Prolly not.)



DON'T LET MANAGEMENT DECIDE ON THE SIGNS!



Speak Out Now

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The World Cup Reflects the Common Struggles of Workers Everywhere

The 2026 World Cup finally kicked off across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. It is the biggest sporting event on the planet, watched by billions, unified by their love for the game of soccer – the most popular sport in the world, a game that belongs to working class people everywhere. But wherever we look, that beauty has been stained by the corruption of FIFA – the international soccer federation that oversees the World Cup – and the racist practices of the U.S. government, who have organized this whole tournament in the interests of the rich and at the expense of working class fans.

This World Cup has the most expensive tickets of any tournament ever. FIFA has imposed so-called dynamic pricing, meaning costs rise with demand. The best seats for the final are on sale for nearly \$33,000. Affordable group-stage tickets are nearly impossible for ordinary fans to find, and the lucky few who got any likely paid several hundred dollars each. The result? Tens of thousands of tickets sat unsold days before the first kickoff, but rather than lower its prices and face refund demands from fans who paid full price, FIFA is dumping unsold seats onto resale sites at a discount, a scheme now being investigated for fraud.

Even getting to a match is a racket. New Jersey Transit announced it would charge fans \$150 for a round trip to MetLife Stadium, host of several games and the final, a ride that normally costs about \$13, before public outrage forced the fare down to around \$100. Hotels are gouging visitors. Parking and concessions cost a fortune. Ordinary supporters are shaken down at every step to getting a seat.

And, the U.S. government is using its hosting of this event to carry out open, racist exclusion. The Trump administration previously imposed travel bans on several countries that qualified for the tournament – including Ivory Coast, Haiti, Iran, and Senegal – meaning most, if not all, fans from these nations have been barred from attending matches on U.S. soil.

Iranian supporters who waited years to cheer on their team have had their visas denied on the ridiculous claim that Iranian fans pose a security threat because of the ongoing U.S. war on Iran. And, the Department of Homeland Security has put its agents in U.S. host cities, spreading fear and making immigrants think twice about leaving their homes near a city that is hosting matches.

And the exclusion reaches right onto the field. Iran's team has been forced to run its camp out of Tijuana,

Mexico because it is not allowed to operate its team camp inside the U.S. – they are only allowed to enter the U.S. for its games and must leave the country immediately after – and more than a dozen of its staff were denied visas days before kickoff. All because the U.S. military launched an unprovoked war on the people of Iran!

Omar Artan, Africa's referee of the year from Somalia, slated to officiate his first World Cup, was turned away at the border because Somalia is on Trump's racist travel ban list and he has been falsely linked to "terrorist activities." And FIFA has done nothing to defend these players and referees because FIFA's president, Gianni Infantino, likes his cozy relationship with Trump and supports this blatant display of the racism of society.

The World Cup is a reflection of the world we live in, where the interests of the rich come first and working people pay the price. All while the players and the thousands of workers behind the scenes working at the stadiums, hotels, in transportation, and more are the ones who make this World Cup happen. The same forces squeezing fans out of the stadiums are squeezing working people everywhere – inflicting ICE terror on our communities, and funneling wealth to billionaires and corporations, while waging wars that working people pay for in money and blood.

But the World Cup shows us something else too – something they can't sell and can't ban. For one month, billions of people across every border will watch the same matches, celebrate the same goals, and share the same joys and heartbreaks. Working class fans around the world will be united by something far deeper than anything that divides them. That is no small thing – it is a glimpse of the common interests of workers around the world.

Our real power lies in exactly that unity across borders. The billionaires and warmongers depend on keeping us divided by nationality, while they organize internationally to serve themselves. If working people can come together across every border for these games, we should be able to see the common interests of workers across borders too. The World Cup doesn't have to just be a time to celebrate our love of soccer, it can also be a reminder of the international working class and our common struggle against this capitalist system of exploitation.