

Speak Out Now at BART (July 27, 2026)

Clipper/Cubic – The New Matrix?

It has been more than six months that passengers and Station Agents have been caught in the Cubic web. Day after day and week after week, there are minor changes in the Clipper/Cubic system. Some are fixes, and then there are other problems.

For passengers, new and old, it is a real headache, with missed trains and unnecessary distress for visitors to the area. And for Station Agents it can be a constant headache trying to solve the problems people are encountering. Some try to be understanding, as if there is something to understand. And others take their frustrations out on Station Agents, who have just figured out the latest update.

As is usually the case, the hardest hit by this are the poorest members of society and young people. Often, the Clipper card machines are out, so they can't buy one. And they don't have a credit or debit card they can use to enter. So what are they supposed to do?

What's the reason for this? Is each update aimed at trapping people in the BART/Clipper/Cubic Matrix?

That New Bid

The bids are over. Now it's wait time. And hopefully no glitches. For those in new stations or yards, it can be a new commute, and sometimes parking.

For Station Agents, it's the same system. But a new station can mean big changes, with new problems working with a new population. For passengers who have built a relationship with an agent who is no longer there, changes the feel of the station.

Why organize bids that have Station Agents working in more than one station with different starting times? The ripple effect meant that some Train Operators had to change yards to keep their schedule, which often isn't just a want, but a need, due to other obligations in their lives.

There can be all sorts of excuses about the scheduling systems being used. But people program those systems. This is not an AI-run world – yet. There can and should be more input into scheduling and not what suits those who are making the decisions.

Save the Date

Speak Out Summer BBQ in San Leandro

September 20, 12-4:30pm

Good food, political discussions, arts & crafts, kids' area and more. Potluck style.

Tickets, in advance only, \$5 adults, kids under 10 – free. Get tickets from your Speak Out person.

10-Car, 9-Car, 6-Car...5-Car???

A while ago, BART made a big deal about saving money by running shorter trains – less electricity use, less wear and tear on rolling stock, fewer cars to clean, etc.

Now, they are running 10-car trains on lines that were running 9 or 6-car trains. And recently, there have been 5-car trains. Who decided this? And would they tell Train Operators anything? Believe it or not, BHQ patrons do ask TOs what is going on. And like most frontline workers, they have to rely on the “grapevine” to get the news.

What's the reason? Ridership is a little more than 50% of pre-pandemic. So why the longer consists (trains)? And let those who decided this explain to passengers trying to transfer from a 10-car train to a 5-car train what a great idea this is.

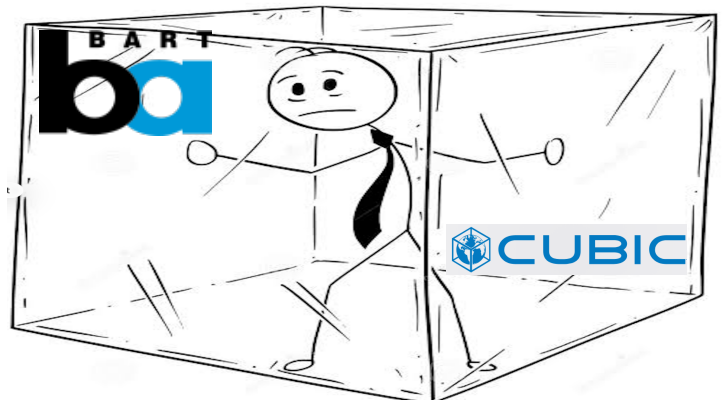
July is Disability Pride Month

BART likes to remind everyone of the month that acknowledges members of our community. In reality, it is **P.R.** for management to publicly congratulate themselves on what a great job they are doing.

There are accommodations for people with varying abilities. Elevators and escalators – if they are working. Automated announcements – for the hearing; and apps for those who need them. At some stations, there are braille instructions.

But some stations are seriously not accessible. One well-known problem station is the del Norte station, that was remodeled some time ago. It is a large station, and one booth has never been staffed. It is difficult for new riders to gain access to the station from the north. But for people who need assistance, any kind of assistance, it is a nightmare. The braille instructions, if a person discovers them, don't direct people to anyone who can provide assistance.

Drop the **P**ublic **R**elations and **P**rovide **R**eal service.



CAUGHT IN THE BART/CUBIC MATRIX



Speak Out Now

July 27, 2026

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The Enormous Costs of the US War on Iran Continue to Grow

The U.S. claims their unjustified war of destruction on Iran is pausing in order to negotiate new terms of a settlement. But how is anyone supposed to believe anything the U.S. administration says? They started their war on Iran back in February in the middle of negotiations. And this recent bombing of the last two weeks started when they claimed to reach a new settlement. Their announcements mean nothing!

Instead of winding down, this war has escalated in the last two weeks. U.S. forces have bombed Iran night after night, openly targeting civilian infrastructure, bombing roads, bridges, power plants, a desalinization plant for drinking water, and many more sites, killing some 6,000 people in Iran since February, mostly civilians. Iranian forces have struck several U.S. military bases, killing at least 18, including four more in the last two weeks, and injuring many more U.S. soldiers.

The threats coming from the Trump administration are blatant violations of international law. Trump has threatened that every time Iran fires at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. will destroy one bridge or one power plant — including bridges and power plants inside Tehran, a city of nine million. Trump has also threatened a new attack that is bigger than anything the U.S. has ever done. Trump makes these blatant threats, which would lead to the death of thousands of innocent civilians, live on social media for all to see.

Now the fighting has spread further in the region. The Houthis, an ally of the Iranian regime that control the western part of Yemen, have now declared a naval blockade in the Red Sea. They are doing this because Saudi Arabia, one of the U.S.'s main allies in the region, ships much of their oil and other goods through the Red Sea. The Houthis have struck Saudi oil tankers and a refinery with missiles and drones. Tankers are now turning around before they reach it. So, in addition to the Strait of Hormuz, a second chokepoint in the global oil market is being closed off, sending global prices soaring even further.

Iran and the Houthis, know they cannot match the scale of the U.S. military, the largest military power in world history. But the one real weapon to emerge from this war for Iran has been their ability to disrupt some of the world's major oil arteries. So, they are unlikely to surrender the Strait of Hormuz because it is now the main leverage

they have in negotiations. The U.S. on the other hand is totally unwilling to accept a world where their rivals can disrupt oil flows in the Middle East. So now, by the U.S. starting this war, they have created a new stand off that didn't exist before: a standoff for control of the Strait of Hormuz, and now possibly the Red Sea as well.

While the U.S. has claimed that one of their goals in bombing Iran was to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, the Trump administration just announced a multi-billion-dollar agreement with Saudi Arabia to develop a nuclear program — one that opens a path to develop nuclear weapons. The U.S. attacks on Iran were clearly never really about nuclear weapons. The issue was always about how the U.S. would try to dominate the Middle East, and dictate its interests to other nations in the region. Now it seems a nuclear-armed Saudi Arabia could be part of that agenda.

As the war on Iran has escalated, Israel has continued its genocidal takeover of Gaza with full U.S. backing. Last October, under the so-called "ceasefire," Israel agreed to pull back all of their forces to a designated "yellow line," which basically split the Gaza Strip down the middle. Instead they have pushed past that line and have completely destroyed and displaced the population in 65% of Gaza, and they are continuing to push further. Claims of ceasefire mean nothing to Israel either.

And to pay for all of this death and destruction, the Trump administration has already admitted to spending over \$37.5 billion on their war with Iran. But U.S. analysts estimate the actual costs could be as high as \$132 billion. On top of this, while they claim to be working towards a ceasefire with Iran, they just asked for an additional \$67 billion for their war, and a \$1.5 trillion military budget for next year, the largest request ever. This war money doesn't just appear from nowhere, but is being taken away from funding the services we rely on, like education, food assistance, public health and more.

This is the reality of their system — wars of chaos, death, and destruction. In their competition to dominate the globe, those who rule this society are a threat to all of us. The enormous costs from this war have already taken a toll on working people in the Middle East, and all over the world. It would cost a lot less to get rid of their whole system of exploitation and domination for good.