

# Speak Out Now at BART (September 5, 2025)

## Where's That 7-Minute Train?

BART needs to get more people riding BART – when they are going to work, attending events, going to the airport or other reasons. If BART can't deliver on its promise of reliable transportation, all its talk and advertising is just empty talk.

No one can guarantee that the trains will run on time. But information about delays can be relayed to passengers and Station Agents and Train Operators.

Maybe regular passengers know there's trouble when the arrival time sign for the next train is stuck on 7 minutes, or some other time. And it stays the same for five or ten minutes. But for other riders? What's up? Did they blink and miss their train? Is it coming?

For those representing BART, Station Agents and Train Operators (if the train finally arrives), it is frustrating. They don't know anything either. And what does that look like to frustrated passengers?

When BART decides to communicate and tells people to use "alternative transportation." What the \_\_\_\_! If alternative transportation had been available they probably would have been on it already.

BART is facing tough times. To get more riders it means being responsible to those who depend on the system. Those who face the public – the Train Operators, Station Agents, System Service Workers and others who are responsible for operations are under constant surveillance by Management.

Maybe it's time for a "discussion" with Management to make sure that they are keeping everyone on the lines informed – both workers and the riders.

## Warming Up?

A good test of BART's communication skills is the warm weather ahead and the brilliant engineering of the trains that have to be operated under different performance levels.

Let's see if they can do it.

## Speak Out End of summer BBQ

**September 7, Noon to 4:30  
in San Leandro**

*Get together with co-workers, people from around the Bay who want to see a better world for us all. Enjoy good food, conversation, music, sports, activities for kids and more.*

***Tickets in advance only.***

***Adults - \$5 Children under 12 - Free***

## Risky Business

On Tuesday, September 5, BART is selling \$930 million worth of municipal bonds. That money will be used to refinance outstanding debt and help fund the \$3.5 billion system renewal project, which is funded by a property tax increase passed by voters in 2016. Part of that includes 90 miles of track upgrades and control system replacements.

These are tough times for all public agencies, especially under the Trump regime that is slashing publicly funded agencies and programs. Public transit is on the chopping block.

BART Management is betting that the tax money will continue to flow in and cover these bonds. In addition, BART and other Bay Area transit agencies, and their representatives in Sacramento, are banking on Bay Area voters agreeing to a ½ percent sales tax increase that will be on the ballot in 2026.

Another tax increase? Why should working people pay for this? There are 82 billionaires in the Bay Area, and between 813 and 867 across the U.S.! All the savings from budget slashing in Washington D.C. is going into their pockets. The big Bay Area corporations have benefitted from being in the Bay.

It is time for them to pay up! Their profits levels are not our concern. Our concern should be the health and well-being of the people in the Bay Area and the health of our planet. This requires a reliable public transit system help reduce pollution from cars and trucks and the stress of traffic jams and accidents.



***Save the Date - Sunday, September 21, 4p***  
**Update on the situation in Palestine with Nora Barrows-Friedman, longtime activist and reporter.**



# Speak Out Now

September 1, 2025

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## Labor Day 2025: Their Future or Ours?

This Labor Day is happening during a time of enormous attacks on the population, especially on working people of all backgrounds. The Trump administration is waging a class war for the billionaires against the rest of us.

Trump's reckless tariffs have already started to hit workers' wallets and jobs. Price increases are returning, especially for everyday items like groceries, electricity, clothing, and other basic goods. And now the administration has removed regulations to open up workers' retirements to Wall Street speculators to gamble on risky investments like cryptocurrencies. And as workers' purchasing power decreases, these price increases are hitting small businesses hard, with many filing for bankruptcy so far this year.

There have been massive layoffs nationwide. In the first six months of 2025, there were about 745,000 jobs cut, the highest number since 2020 during the pandemic. A huge portion of these layoffs have been federal workers, with an estimated 300,000 job cuts. Small retail shops have laid off tens of thousands of workers. Layoffs have impacted the auto industry, and John Deere recently pointed to new tariff costs as the reason for its layoffs of 150 workers so far, with plans to lay off more soon. All of this is just beginning.

We are also seeing this administration escalate its attack on labor unions, unilaterally ending the collective bargaining rights for over one million federal workers, ripping up their union contracts with the stroke of a pen. And they have increased their attack on the National Labor Relations Board, further cutting some of the protections and rights workers have on the job.

At the same time, Trump's campaign of terror against immigrant communities has deepened. ICE has its largest budget in history and has been unleashed on our streets as a rogue, militarized police force. Workplaces are being raided, and entire families are being ripped apart. This has led to fear and huge shortages of workers in certain industries like agriculture and construction, which drives up prices even further. Just days ago, ICE

even arrested two immigrant firefighters while they were fighting a wildfire in Washington state.

Meanwhile, attacks on healthcare and government programs have intensified, with huge cuts to Medicare and Medicaid intentionally set to start right after the midterm elections, which will slash access to services for millions of elderly people and workers. Access to vaccines has been cut, putting people at greater risk of contracting preventable diseases. Programs such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have also been gutted, leaving working-class communities without even minimal protections against climate disasters that grow worse every year.

The message from those in power couldn't be clearer: this system serves the billionaires, and the rest of us are expendable. These are the real priorities of Trump's government: enrich the ruling class, attack the working class, consolidate their power, and intimidate the rest of us into silence through repression.

But there is a reason why their attacks and repression are so fierce. Trump and the billionaires know there is only one force that can stop them: the organized power of the working class. They want us divided by things like national origin, race, gender, and sexuality. They want us afraid of each other instead of united against them. They want us to be paralyzed by their repression. And they want us exhausted, so we will not fight back.

This Labor Day, let's reflect on the attacks we face today, but also the power of workers here and around the world to fight back and defend ourselves. The system they uphold is not invincible. We have fought back before and we are beginning to do it again. Recent examples of Boeing workers, flight attendants, nurses, autoworkers, and others give us a small glimpse of the kind of power workers could unleash if we can organize our forces together. We are the ones who make this society run, and we are the only ones who can bring it to a halt in order to defend our interests.

The future this system has in store for us is clear. But it is up to us to fight for our own future.