

# Speak Out Now at BART (September 30, 2024)

**22% Does Not = 2% + 2%**

Did BART put the police recruitment signs in the stations to recruit riders to the BART police force? Or was it to put frontline workers in their place?

BART police may have some impact on safety. But it is certain that BART cannot run without the workers who were pushed to take a 2+2+2+2% wage increase after the current contract expires.

## Optics - Do They Care?

BART Management seems more concerned about optics than reality. Installing new fare gates is one of those things. When they decided to install the new gates, there was a lot of publicity about testing them at West Oakland. (The last gates at Richmond didn't work out very well.)

In addition to seeing what would provide the best barrier, did they ask those who work in the stations what is needed to provide the best access for riders?

How about tagging in using a phone? Ask an Android user or people from Europe or Asia. BART will take their money. Try to use that phone to tag in. Not a very good reality – phones loaded and unusable. It's also a headache for Station Agents to apologize and try to explain and translate "That's BART" into Tagalog or French or other languages.

And the wide gates? Tagging in on the side is great for people in wheelchairs. Most people using walkers or pulling luggage try to tag in on the top on the big red X. And then are told to reach down, awkwardly and off-balance to tag in.

Would two card readers have been impossible?



If Trump loses the election, will BART reach out to Melania to join the Management team? Only if she wears her "I Really Don't Care..." outfit.

## BART in the News - Keep it on the Street

Every week BART is in the news. Management has their PR, but the news media likes the excitement. Someone is shot or attacked on the street. If it's within a block or two of a BART station, the station is the landmark for the story.

SFPD spots a guy in a stolen car with a gun on the seat, wakes him up and chases him down the street, like the Keystone cops, into the Powell St. station. And then opens fire on him – in the station.

It's no wonder some people are fearful of riding BART. If it's not in the system, then leave BART out of it and leave it on the street.

## BART's P.R. – Make Them Pay!

There's a lot of P.R. about BART losing money due to fare evasion. But how about the real evasion that has been ignored over the years? Many big companies located their offices in downtown SF, using their proximity to BART as part of the attraction of working there. Post pandemic, they took their money and ran to other parts of the country. And we see the loss of ridership.

A's owner, John Fisher, another billionaire did the same. He abandoned the fan base that helped build the team, first by selling players off and now he has deserted Oakland. BART provides thousands of people easy access to the stadium. We saw the big bump-up in ridership when fans turned out for the last games to be played in Oakland.

These rich and famous don't ride the trains but they ride the gravy train that comes with being able to depend on BART.

## Diddy - Not Like Us

More details have been coming out about the sexual violence and abuses of the rap star, Sean Combs, aka Diddy. Unfortunately, this problem isn't new. Names of other rich and powerful men like Jeffrey Epstein, Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, and Bill Cosby come to mind. The rich and powerful often feel that they can operate above the rules and use their money and power to buy silence.

But in a society set up in their interests, why wouldn't they feel this way? Whether it is Diddy or any of the rest of them, "They Not Like Us!"