

Speak Out Now at BART and Beyond (December 17, 2025)

Are They Serious? Or Are They Just High?

BART is always crying broke. It does have one of the worst funding models possible. And Management has never done anything to change that. It's been bailout after bailout from the State and Federal governments.

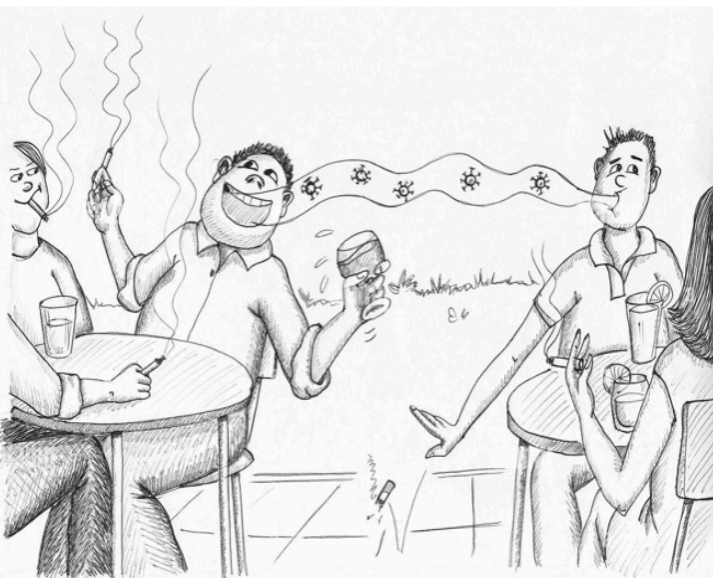
For years there was the idea to tax the rich developers and corporations that own property close to BART, especially in San Francisco. This allowed them to recruit people to work there because BART was reliable and an easy ride to work and you could get drunk after work and take the train home.

What did BART Management do to get that done? If they had put that on the ballot, it would have sailed through. But it's too late. Downtown San Francisco is like a ghost town now. It is starting to fill up but the City of San Francisco is offering a million dollar tax break to companies to move there,

BART has joined with other Bay Area transit agencies to put a .05% retail tax increase on the ballot next year. What are these people smoking?

We are facing a possible recession. The rising cost of just about everything is stretching people thin or putting them in the hole financially. So, how does BART plan to win support for people to vote to tax themselves? INCREASE FARES by 6.2% and parking fees by 30% starting January 1! Really? It's a repeat of 2025 that began with a 5.5% increase.

Whatever they are doing at those bond planning meetings it's putting them out of touch with reality. How could anyone think this is a way to gain support.



What are they smoking at those planning meetings?

Surveillance Camera Expansion in Oakland

The Oakland Police Department (OPD) is pushing the Oakland City Council to accept a \$2.25 million contract that would expand police access to Flock Automated License Plate Reader cameras. Through the Flock cloud database, cops have access to information tracking license plates all over the country without a search warrant. The OPD has already been sued for sharing this information with federal authorities, endangering immigrants and violating people's privacy.

Oakland community members opposed this attack in City Council committee sessions, but the committee sent the motion to purchase the contract to the City Council to vote on. This has nothing to do with keeping our communities safe. It is another step in expanding surveillance and letting law enforcement agencies violate our rights even more. What's next putting chips in us?

Now It's Illegal to Think?

In a memo dated December 4, that was leaked to the press, Federal Attorney General Pam Bondi directed the FBI to "compile a list of groups or entities engaged in acts that may constitute domestic terrorism." The memo broadens the definition of domestic terrorism to include those who support "political and social agendas" such as "opposition to law and immigration enforcement; extreme views in favor of mass migration and open borders; adherence to radical gender ideology" as well as "anti-Americanism," "anti-capitalism," and "anti-Christianity." That's quite a list!

In addition, the memo called for the FBI to establish a tip line with a "cash reward system", a snitch system which would provide payouts to people who help identify those engaged in these supposed "domestic terrorist" activities.

Who are these people who wrote this memo? They are trying to make thinking illegal? Just because they can't think, doesn't give them the right to make it illegal. If this wasn't real, it would be funny.

The Speak Out newsletter is taking a break for the holidays and wishes you a happy and restful holiday season. This has been a year of major changes and shake-ups. We know there are big challenges in the year ahead. We can make this year our year – a year where working people stand together and defend our interests and guarantee a future for ourselves. See You Next Year!



Speak Out Now

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Join In the Fight In 2026!

