**Just Another Board Meeting**

If anyone had time to attend the last board meeting, you would know they are talking about cutting routes. They had staff do a report about what routes had lower ridership and how much fare box recovery they get on others; basically, how much they make per passenger. This is basically telling the public they are gaining ridership on Transbay lines while other local lines are costing them money.

If you read between the lines, it sounds like they might be cutting service, a devastating thing to people who ride and depend on the bus. They mentioned being understaffed, and bathrooms at new BART construction, but if you sneezed, you could have missed it.

**UPDATE:** Still no concrete answers for when.

The last interesting bit was passed quietly: the District settled a contract with another union on the property, IBEW (electronic techs and electricians). They settled for a raise of 3% per year for 3 years with PEPRA for the new people, and CalPERS Medical. This contract was settled on time, and it looks like without too much issue. And for us? We really don’t know more than we did 7 months ago.

If the District can settle a contract with another group, and they have plans to cut service, we better start getting out talking points to the public! Otherwise the District is going to be pointing at us, as some greedy people who want too much, when all we want is what is fair!

**Mass Transit Jobs are Key to the Future!**

The fires in Australia have been raging across the continent since June of last year, burning 7,440,000 acres of land. Counted in the loss are homes, farms, well over a billion animals, cultural indigenous sites, and nature preserves essential to the biodiversity of the island. But an accurate estimation is hard to calculate because a fire of this magnitude has never been seen.

While these fires burn, Australians have been fighting the Adani Group’s coal mining project, a new project that will increase the global supply of this most carbon-intensive fuel, literally and figuratively adding fuel to the fires of climate change.

The prime minister of Australia, Scott Morisson, says that Australia needs this mine to “boost the economy” and add jobs. We’ve heard this before. What it will boost are profits for the Adani Group mining company, destroying more lives in climate disasters, and pulverizing miners’ lungs!

We are all for jobs! But what kind, for what purpose? Today the most useful work that needs doing is the work that will transition our society to one that uses widespread mass transit and alternative energy, run by the working people with our needs as workers as paramount.

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**Thank You, And…**

Thank you to everyone who made a donation before the holidays. All of the money goes into covering the costs of this newsletter. And, if you would like to make a donation or get more involved talk with your Speak Out distributor!