

Speak Out Now at BART (2/26/2024)

Safety?

When BART Management talks about safety, what are they talking about? Passenger safety? Passenger discomfort because there is someone riding in the car that is making them uncomfortable?

How about worker safety? Maybe now that the question arrived at their doorstep, like it did the other day, with a BART employee being confronted by armed men in front of BART HQ, they'll give some thought to the safety of frontline workers.

What does it mean to open or close a station? What does it mean to be operating the last train in? If those at BART HQ want to get a full understanding of the system, they could ask workers and give some thought to providing some security for them.

No Time For That

Does BART Management believe that doing uniform checks of those who actually run the system will improve the functioning of the system?

Now that it's cold, only an approved beanie is permitted, even if it's BART colors. Really? And where do these beanies come from? There aren't any on the uniform order list. Is this a way to mess with people or to give some business to the BART store?

This may seem important to people who make the decisions in their heated offices and can choose when they will be out in the cool weather.

The people who actually make the system run don't have time for this nonsense.

Public Transit: You Get What You Pay For

A recent study of transit systems in major cities around the U.S. found that there is a strong relationship between government funding and the average number of people in a bus or train.

Big surprise! When transit systems are well funded, people can rely on them. When they are poorly funded, buses and trains have fewer riders.

Funding public transit shouldn't take more money out of working people's pockets. The billionaires ride in their limos and private jets – tax them. At a time when we are facing a climate collapse, it is a no-brainer to fully invest in public transit systems. It gets cars off the road. And despite the bad rap that it has about being dangerous, public transit saves lives.

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Good Riddance

Steve Glazer, the state senator and declared enemy of BART workers, is not running for office again. That's good news, but it doesn't mean we can relax. There is probably someone waiting to fill his shoes, especially with the contract coming up next year.

Customer Satisfaction

BART Management just released a rider survey saying that they have the highest level of rider satisfaction since 2012. They are saying this is due to greater system cleanliness and having more police in the stations and on the trains.

Ironically, they released this data on the same day that 23 cars were broken into in the parking lot at North Berkeley station.

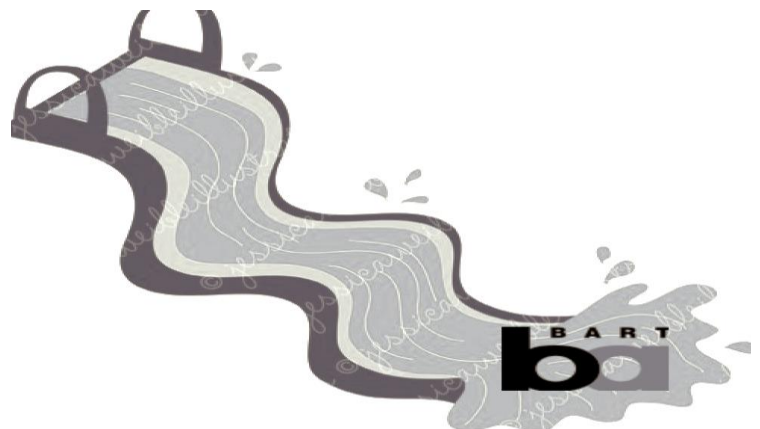
Their surveys say one thing, it's not reality. Maybe their solution lies in the development they have planned for N. Berkeley. No parking = no broken car windows.

Transit, Housing or Amusement?

Is there confusion at BART HQ about what the "RT" in BART stands for? Their "Transit Oriented Development" has resulted in a small-scale imitation of the "ghost cities" in China. How many people live in these large buildings with empty retail areas?

And the failure to focus on station maintenance has resulted in some stations continuing to have water dripping or pouring through the ceilings. When it rains, some stations look like an obstacle course with buckets set out to catch the water along with cones to warn people away from the wet floors. At 19th St., one stairway has been covered with tarps for months. It looks like a water slide.

People come to BART for transit, not housing or looking for a water park.



The "RT" in BART stands for "Rapid Transit," not "Recreation Time."