



June 25, 2026

BART Board Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ITEM

(Written public comments received
before June 24, 2026 at 3pm.)

From: aleta dupree <tsjoan@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2026 9:45 PM
To: Board Meeting <board.meeting@bart.gov>
Subject: [External] comments of recent subjects

District Secretary Bob Franklin, much appreciated, please forward this message to the full BART Board for the next Regular Meeting.

Good morning President Melissa Hernandez and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record, she, her, with Team Folds, representing the importance of skirt folds.

I bring forth to you my comments pertaining to the work and mission of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

Life on the east side.

I consider my recent visit to New York City, I found myself revisiting neighborhoods of my formative years. Perhaps that came about in the aftermath of my visit to The Frick Collection (1 East 70 Street, New York, NY, 10021). The day was relaxing, spending a few hours looking at fine art and partaking of a bowl of soup in the museum's restaurant. It was sunny out that day, and I was staying in downtown Brooklyn. I think I took the Q train from DeKalb Avenue, over the Manhattan Bridge, and I got off at 63 Street-Lexington Avenue, which is a deep station accessed by elevators. I admit that I am fearful of elevators in transportation facilities at times, in part because they are often subjected to wear and tear, and sometimes from abuse and vandalism. At least I did not ride alone in the elevator, it was quite crowded, and it performed well. I used a bathroom in the station, it was clean and in working order. And in that station I had no concerns about whether I would be allowed to use the elevator. You see, the Subway has made it very clear that the elevators can be used by anyone in their intended manner.

I did listen to some of the music of Mr Gerry Rafferty while on the train, including Home and Dry while going over the Manhattan Bridge. And East 63 Street has some historical significance to me. In the late 1970's I often visited a close family member who stayed at the Barbizon Hotel, I visited in the parlor as no guests were allowed in the rooms. At the time there was much construction activity on East 63 Street, given the work on building the new 63 Street Subway line. And in 2025, I was on the corner of 63 Street and Lexington Avenue, I think, and I dropped my reading glasses to the sidewalk and they broke. One lens survived and I looked up a place to buy a new pair around 86 Street and 2 Avenue, as I had plans to eat a meal there. And so I used the Second Avenue Line (Q service, B Division, BMT) to access 86 Street and 2 Avenue. I bought new reading glasses and then had my lunch.

And so on this last visit I checked out a laundromat, and it was getting quite warm, so I used the M66 bus to access the Frick Collection. I have much experience with the M66, going back to the early 1980's, given that my grandparents lived at Lincoln Towers, at 66 Street and West End Avenue. Perhaps the 1984 song West End Girls, by the Pet Shop Boys, was about life on West End Avenue in New York City.

This is Park Avenue, around 70 Street, not just a famous residential street, but underneath is the Park Avenue Railway, the main four track corridor for Metro-North.



And after my visit to The Frick, I noticed Fifth Avenue, and began my walk to the 68 Street-Hunter College Station for my return to Brooklyn. And I was reminded of my time in that neighborhood where I was introduced to the music of The Doors. And the 68 Street Station is located next to the Imperial House, the building where another best friend of mine lived. Daily we walked a mile to school, along Park Avenue, and I had recently come to understand about the trains that ran underneath that avenue, given my first visit to Grand Central Terminal in the fall of 1980. And after that first visit to that famous railroad station, and partaking of raw oysters for the first time, I rode on a train, where I experienced the idea of through the Park Avenue Tunnel and into the light.

And there are no stations on Park Avenue where the railway runs underground. There were small local stations in the tunnel in earlier times, they were closed in 1901. Yet the Subway is nearby, (4, 5, 6, services, A Division, IRT) on Lexington Avenue, which I still use often to this day. And the day after my visit to The Frick, I went over to the Asia Society, which is known for their displays of Asian art. I also enjoyed a meal in the restaurant. And a person working in the restaurant asked me if I was the person who did the Subway announcements. I mentioned that I was not that person, and that I had not lived in New York since the mid 1980's. I did share of my use and enjoyment of the Subway, going back to 1970, and my speaking at various kinds of Meetings. I shared of the ideals that the Subway is the System that is Legendary and Stately, and of BART being The Peoples System. I then pulled up a copy of a Metro-North schedule and I recited station names in order, ending with a long drawn out rendering of the words, Grand Central Terminal. I can see why some would think that I perform Subway announcements. I take such as a very high compliment. Perhaps I do look like someone who would perform train announcements. I often share of my passionate interest in OMNY and Train Time, which I use often when I am in New York. I made mention of the New York Transit Museum as well, especially of it being located in an actual Subway station.

And so I have much experience with life on the east side, even though I lived on the west side, except for a few months that I lived with my friend at the Imperial House. I had my 21 birthday at a bar around 77 Street and 2 Avenue. Two friends joined me, afterward I went back to the Imperial House with my one friend and spent the night, my car was parked in Weehawken, New Jersey, on the other side of the Hudson River. It is my hope that the Second Avenue Subway will be completed, allowing me greater access to the east side. And the Second Avenue Subway is of a smaller profile than other Subway lines. I often mention that the Second Avenue Subway looks like BART. Perhaps such is true. It certainly sounds like BART at times. And life on the east side is definitely founded in the importance of Public Transportation. And whether I use the one hundred year old Lexington Avenue Line, or the much newer Second Avenue Subway, I continue to be reminded of this most revered of ideals, that BART is The Peoples System.

On Matters of Indulgence.

I share with you on matters pertaining to Meetings, and my concerns about what I see as indulgence. Such is deeply disturbing to me, as I seek to have the fullness of standing when it comes to the things of BART. Yet it seems to me that Meetings devolve at times when some speak before you in disparaging ways. Such leads to me consider whether to attend your Meetings, as I am concerned about being heard. And these things occur in many different Meetings, not just in BART. And there are some Meetings that I no longer attend and speak at, generally for this very reason. You see, I am concerned about inertia, that after some speak before public bodies in these aforementioned ways, the mindsets of panel members might not reframe in time to adequately take in my comments that are of distinctly different style. And a strategy of the optimal time to speak can shift at times. Sometimes there are advantages to going first, yet also in "saving the best for last".

I do sense favoritism at times, especially when people are allowed to substantially exceed the allotted time. I always have more things that I want say, certainly I consider them to be important, even of great and profound importance. Yet I respect the clock, and in places such as the MTA in New York, the clock is strictly enforced. This is in fairness to all speakers, such is said in the introduction of procedures and ground rules before the Meeting begins. And adherence to these procedures and rules is not only expected but enforced as well. As respected as I am with Public speaking at the MTA, I am not just expected, but required to pay the Fare on their various service offerings as well. And that is because the MTA has an ordinance that requires the payment of appropriate Fare.

I am concerned about particular constituencies, and such might gain greater understanding and attention among you. Such is especially probable when such constituencies are able to cast votes for you. And some might threaten to withhold their votes, or cast votes for others. There have been cases of longtime incumbents losing elections and finding themselves no longer able to serve on your Board. Are particular constituencies involved in this, and to what extent? I enjoy the company of you all, and I fear that those who come after you might not afford me the respect and welcome that you have shown me over time.

And how do we address the insidious issues of favoritism in Meetings? Such seems endemic, even intractable. I am most at risk of being disregarded when it comes to the things of BART. I will not interrupt your Proceedings in order to remind those in charge of the expiration of the Meeting clock. However, if I was in one of your seats, as a duly elected representative of BART, I would call out the issue. I would say, “to the chair, I petition that in fairness to all speakers that you ask the person at the podium to please conclude their remarks”. I might see a need to stand up and vehemently advocate for procedures to be adhered to and respected. I might not be liked in the moment, and wearing a shirt that says Grand Central on it might not help in the matter. I would definitely remind everyone in the room of the importance of The Peoples System. And I would sit back down and finish the dessert that I brought from home.

Sometimes things are not easy. I remember the first time I attended the MTA Board Meeting in New York, in September, 2021. I mentioned that it was not easy being here. And it was not easy being at the Board Meeting of the Denver Regional Transportation District in September, 2018. And at times it is not easy being in the BART Board Room. And I do not know what I will say until I say it. Perhaps good public speaking is being able to form and convey thoughts in the moment. Sometimes all I can do is put my earphones on and listen to the relaxing violin strains of Love’s Theme, by Mr Barry White, released in 1974. Such is reminiscent of the “grandparents music” that I grew up with, as played on the WPAT, Easy 93. I do not know if Love’s Theme was ever performed in New York City. I think I would have enjoyed it even more if it was. And such things are contradictory, when I often say, “take your earphones off and put your earplugs on when riding BART”. I ask that you not stand in the way of your leadership team of Bob Powers and Michael Jones, who work daily to build the most inclusive BART that we can have. I believe in a BART that considers and serves everyone with equal standing. Favoritism in our BART needs to stop, and it needs to stop now. I do not want to worry about whether I will be seen or heard. I ask instead you to join me in the ideal of a BART that will welcome everyone who wishes to use the System in its intended manner.

Texas Radio and the Big Beat.

As seen in the nighttime, this is the lower level of the 34 Street-Herald Square Station (B, D, F, M services, B Division, IND), one of a number of “big stations” in the New York City Subway.



I submit to you on matters of Texas Radio and the Big Beat, a song by a quartet known as The Doors, and released to the world in April, 1971. As with many other songs by The Doors, I was introduced to this work in the later part of 1981. This was in New York City, at the home of a friend from high school, on Fifth Avenue near the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I can't say that this or any of the songs of Jim Morrison and the Doors reminded me of New York City at all, that distinction belongs much more to Mr Gerry Rafferty. I admit that at the time I didn't share much about Gerry Rafferty, though I often thought of Right Down the Line on my many visits to Grand Central Terminal.

And the music of The Doors takes on diverse styles, Texas Radio is certainly of a more blues like disposition than their earlier works. This is one of the few Doors songs that features a Hammond organ. The Hammond B-3 organ is one of my favorite instruments, though I have no idea how to play it. Hammonds are quite loud and heavy, housed in wooden cabinets of classic style. I have written about Hammond organs in some of my previous letters to you. I have mentioned that process of starting a Hammond organ is much like starting a BART train, or a Subway train for that matter. Yet for many years, Hammond organs were made in Chicago. To me, playing a Hammond B-3 is not much different from driving a Subway train, especially older vehicles such as the A Division Redbirds, or the B Division R-32's with fluted sides, the latter are reminiscent in hearing the works of Mr Gerry Rafferty. I do not know if a Hammond B-3 has ever been played in Grand Central Terminal. Such would be plugged into the electrical supply that also powers the trains of Metro-North. And Hammond B-3's built before 1976 used a complex mechanical system of spinning wheels to generate the sounds. Perhaps this has much in common with the earlier forms of BART, going back to 1972.

And during my time in New York, I considered Texas Radio, along with a number of other Doors songs. I can't really say or think that Jim Morrison was thinking of New York City in working on his songs. Yet Texas Radio has this sense of anticipation and foreboding. Such is reminiscent of walking around New York City in the predawn hours, especially in challenged and distressed neighborhoods. Such also could be true in riding on the Subway at such times, especially in the 1970's, when the trains were covered in graffiti and many of the stations had broken lights. Texas Radio is reminiscent of themes of being startled and surprised, when things come up suddenly. I think back to my time in the underground Queens Plaza Station around five in the morning. I was the only one on the platform for a time. Yet even in the darkness before the dawn, the Subway still operates fairly frequently, generally on twenty minute intervals. Such is expected in this city of eight and a half million people that is New York. Yet even with the Subway operating 24 hours, Grand Central Terminal does not. And in listening to Texas Radio, later in the song, there is a long period of the playing of Hammond organ. I sang to myself "cause we're in Grand Central", as that section played. I was reminded of the Main Concourse of Grand Central Terminal in the time before closing at 2:00 am. Such reminds me of when I sing Take the Money and Run, by Gerry Rafferty. I found myself changing some lyrics, in saying, "so I moved down to New York City, where I met a friend of mine. And I must admit he tried to warn me well, with all those Vietnam stories he could tell". I consider the end of Mr Rafferty's Sleepwalking, when he says "meanwhile back in the music business" for the second time, I say to myself, "meanwhile back in Grand Central". I consider Love on your Side, a 1982 work by the Thompson Twins. I think of a lyric that sounds like, "rat boy rat", and I'm reminded of the occasional sighting of rats scurrying between the rails of Subway tracks. And there is this distinctive drum solo, such is reminiscent of being startled when loud Subway trains enter big stations in the middle of the night. I was at the MTA (New York) Board Meeting this past April, and a senior leader shared of enjoying musical references in my Public Comments. I am sure a substantial population of MTA employees are familiar with and enjoy the music of Gerry Rafferty, and The Doors as well. And perhaps Texas Radio and the Big Beat is reminiscent of the challenges of navigating big Subway stations in the middle of the night. And big stations are pretty much unique to the Subway, given the many places where lines intersect. And yet the letters and numbers do not denote lines, but services. The works of Mr Rafferty seem to share most about the some of the lines of

the historical Independent System, such as Eighth Avenue, Sixth Avenue, Crosstown, and Fulton Street. Yet these are things not immediately apparent, given that Mr Rafferty generally does not share of the Subway directly. The Doors certainly seem to speak more of life in western places, such as California and Arizona.

And certainly BART has its challenges. But I want more people to use BART, and no one should ever be afraid to do so. BART needs all the help that it can get, and I hope the revenue measure passes. I simply seek for BART to work as intended, to offer the very best in basic transportation services for the People of the Bay Area. I feel that BART should not just be a service to be used, but to be enjoyed as well. Perhaps BART can become a destination in an of itself, much like the New York City Subway. I believe in the ideal of continuous improvement. Yet more so I believe in and practice this most basic of ideals, that BART is The Peoples System.

Wisdom of thoughtfulness.

“When you’re listening to nothing but the best of oldies, you’re listening to Magic 98.9, thank you so much”. - Ted Williams, the voice, from a video produced in January, 2011.

“And from the time I was only six years old. I never forgot what I was told. It was the best advice that I ever had. It came from my wise and dear old dad. He said sit down punk I wanna talk to you, and don’t say a word until I’m through”. - The Sugar Hill Gang.

“On a Subway train I hide from the rain and take a seat right next to the door. There’s a man with a case and as I look at his face, I’m sure I’ve seen him someplace before. He looks up and I look down and then we both look away. The train slows down and then my head spins around, it’s like a scene from a one act play”. - Gerry Rafferty sharing of rainy nights in New York City, of long trips on the “A” service of the IND Eighth Avenue line in the 1970’s.

Lunch!

GRAND CENTRAL

OYSTER MENU

OYSTER BAR RESTAURANT

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2020

COCKTAILS

OYSTER SHOOTER 17.50
 MARIANA SAUCE 22.25
 TARTAR SAUCE 20.25
 CRAB SAUCE 22.25
 CRABTAIL 16.55
 SPICY RED SAUCE 25.95
 MUSSELS WITH GARLIC 28.25
 CREOLE REMOULADE 27.25
 OYSTERS WITH ANCHOVY 24.95

OYSTERS WITH HABANERO 22.25
 CRISPY ONIONS 22.25
 RISOTTO 22.25
 ROASTED CORN AND 22.25
 MUSHROOMS 22.25
 POTATOES WITH PONS 22.25
 GARLIC AND 22.25
 TOMATOES, FRESH 22.25
 OLIVE OIL AND BALSAMIC 22.25
 WITH MUSTARD 22.25
 CORN, SAUTÉED 22.25
 (1/2) 22.25

SALAD 22.25
 FINE GRIND FOR 22.25
 SEASONED 22.25
 WITH MUSTARD 22.25
 CORN, SAUTÉED 22.25
 (1/2) 22.25

RAW BAR

*OYSTERS

GLOB BLUEPOINT (COPPS ISLAND, CT) 17.50
 BEAR TIDE (MASSACHUSETTS) 22.25
 BEAVERTAIL (RHODE ISLAND) 20.25
 GLIDDEN POINT (MAINE) 22.25
 ISLAND CREEK (MASSACHUSETTS) 16.55
 KUMAMOTO (WASHINGTON STATE) 25.95
 MOON SHOAL (MASSACHUSETTS) 28.25
 NISQUALLY (WASHINGTON STATE) 27.25
 PECONIC GOLD (PECONIC BAY, NY) 24.95
 PEMAQUID (MAINE) 20.25
 PENNY JUMBO (MAINE) 24.25
 ROME POINT (RHODE ISLAND) 22.25
 SALTY MAINER (MAINE) 22.25
 SHIGOKU (WASHINGTON STATE) 22.25
 SKOOKUM (WASHINGTON STATE) 22.25
 STANDISH SHORE (MASSACHUSETTS) 22.25
 TOTTEN INLET (WASHINGTON STATE) 22.25
 TOTTEN VIRGINICA (WASHINGTON STATE) 26.25
 WATCH HILL (RHODE ISLAND) 22.25
 WELLFLEET (MASSACHUSETTS) 22.25

*CLAMS

CHERRYSTONE (LONG ISLAND SOUND) 23.25
 LITTLENECK (LONG ISLAND SOUND) 19.75

*SHELLFISH PLATTER

MEDLEY OF SHELLFISH - 8 OYSTERS, 2 CLAMS, 2 SHRIMP, 3 N.Z. MUSSELS WITH 1/2 LOBSTER WITH WHOLE LOBSTER 21.25

SCALLOPS, SHRIMP, CRAB & PASTA

19.25
 10.25

PER PIECE

ARCTIC CHAR FILET, FARMED, BROILED 4.05
 BLACK COD FILET (SABLEFISH), PAN FRIED 5.05
 BLUE FISH FILET, BROILED 4.85
 BRANZINO WHOLE OR FILET, FARMED, WITH LEMONS, CAPERS AND EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL 4.85
 CATFISH FILET, FARMED, CAJUN GRILLED, SALSA 5.15
 DOVER SOLE, WHOLE, SAUTÉED, MEUNIERE 4.85
 LEMON SOLE FILET, BROILED OR PAN FRIED 6.15
 MAHI-MAHI FILET, BROILED 4.85
 MONKFISH (LOTTE) TORNEDOS, BROILED 5.15
 BEARNAISE SAUCE 4.85
 RAINBOW TROUT, FARMED, IDAHO WHOLE BONELESS, PAN FRIED, ALMONDINE 5.15
 RED SNAPPER FILET, BROILED 4.85
 SALMON FILET, FARMED (FAROE ISLAND), BROILED, HOLLANDAISE 4.85
 *SALMON FILET, KING, FARMED (NEW ZEALAND), PAN SEARED (MEDI), BEARNAISE 6.15
 SCROD FILET, BROILED 5.15
 SEA BASS, BLACK FILET, BROILED 4.85
 SEA BREAM (DAURADE), WHOLE OR FILET FARMED, GRILLED, LEMONS, CAPERS, EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL 6.15
 STRIPED BASS, BROILED 4.15
 SWORDFISH STEAK, BROILED 5.05
 *TUNA STEAK, BIGEYE, PAN SEARED 2.95

TODAY'S CATCH

FRIED SEAFOOD PLATTER

SERVED WITH VEGETABLES AND STEAMED POTATO 45.00
 FRIED GRAND CENTRAL OYSTER BAR BLUEPOINT OYSTERS WITH TARTAR SAUCE AND FRENCH FRICS 15.00
 FRIED JUMBO SHRIMP IN RICE BATTER WITH TARTAR SAUCE AND FRENCH FRICS 125.00
 FRIED BROWNIE CLAMS WITH TARTAR SAUCE 39.25
 39.25

BALANCE
 SINCE 1987
 NATURALLY CRISP
 Since made with
 is naturally crisp
 wind and moisture
 a French style
 in the shell
 FINE GRIND FOR
 See soft texture
 of fine grind



(This is from the Oyster Bar in the lower level of Grand Central Terminal which is located in New York City.)

Thank you.