



PUBLIC COMMENT

BART Board Meeting

April 11, 2024

Item 7

From: aleta dupree <tsjoan@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 12:02 PM
To: Board Meeting <board.meeting@bart.gov>
Subject: Comments from the signal

Secretary April Quintanilla, please forward this message to the full BART Board for the next Regular Meeting.

Good morning President Bevan Dufty and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record, she, her.

I bring you my comments concerning the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

What Happens Here Doesn't Stay Here.

I consider the old saying, "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas", and a newer saying, "what happens here only happens here." These messages were, and are, respectively, promotions for tourism in Las Vegas, created under the auspices of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA). I have engaged with the LVCVA on a number of occasions including attending and speaking at their various Public Meetings.

And so I consider the matters of BART, which has a worldwide constituency as I have said before. And so this saying of mine that I prefaced these paragraphs with rings very true for me, and I feel is very relevant to the matters of BART.

I think of Meetings, at BART and in other places as well. And I consider many who speak at such meetings, employees of such organizations, and the Public. You see, as an ordinary user of BART, I am always seeking safety. And I often think about the conduct of Meetings, and that things that are said can have profound effects out on the road.

It is unfortunate that many come to Meetings, and display various kinds of negativity, forms of disrespect and even vitriol. Such is extremely disturbing to me when I seek get my words in to engage with you as a Board in considerate and respectful ways. And so I came to this conclusion, that if one is mean and disrespectful in a Meeting, then they are going to be that way out on the System.

And so for me as a person who is very different, how can I be sure that I will be able to use BART in its intended manner, and without interference or interruption? And there are many good people who work for BART, and a few have gone to lengths to welcome me into the System. And so could people who work for BART, take out their negativity on people such as myself and deny us access to the System simply because of who we are? Such disturbs me deeply, for I think anyone who pays the fare and follows the rules of conduct should be able to use the System in the appropriate manner. I feel that I should be able to speak respectfully at Meetings, even in disagreement, and wear a Raiders t shirt, and a skirt, and keep up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations, and not worry about if I'm going to be denied service on BART. Yet I do, because what happens in Meetings doesn't stay in Meetings. I see this disturbing behavior in a number of different Meetings, both on the part of employees and the Public. I may not be understood, but I ask of you to continue to work deeply with your General Manager Bob Powers and the leadership team to build the best BART we can have. You see, Bob Powers and Michael Jones do translate the matters of BART in ways that are clear and understandable. I do take my New York City Subway very seriously, as I have since 1970, even with my incessant fare skipping in the early

1980's. At times even I still seek to understand the idea that "one can never have enough Grand Central Terminal". But there is one thing that I do understand, and very clearly so, a value that I know and practice, that BART is The Peoples System.

On participation.

I consider the practicing of the things of BART, to me, I seek more than simply speaking and writing about BART, and so I most enjoy the actual use of BART. I was in the West Oakland Station, and I thought to myself, I am here and able to practice the things of BART. I thought back to my time in the Seventy Fourth Street Station of the New York City Subway, where I experienced the ideals of things legendary and stately. And so in West Oakland, I said to myself, I am practicing the ideal of BART being The Peoples System. And when I engage with those who work for BART, I leave them with my verbal reminder, to go forth in the ideal of BART being The Peoples System. But what does it take for this most important ideal to take hold? I wonder if I am alone in this, in my witnessing on matters of BART, toward building the best BART we can have? I think I am very good at using BART, especially when it comes to the matters of Clipper. Yet I am one of a very rare few who engages on Clipper related items, and goes to Clipper Executive Board Meetings. I enlighten you that your General Manager Bob Powers continues in the work of chairing the Clipper Executive Board, which has various oversight functions of the Clipper program. And I did not learn the things of BART in a vacuum, but draw upon my experiences using the New York City Subway since early 1970.

An Axe to Grind.

I submit to you that I often have trepidations about attending Meetings, because of many things they are said from the Public Comment podium. You see, I am one of a very few who engage with public bodies with a sense of respect and decorum. And that is the method that I continue to use, even if it gets me nowhere, because I choose to stand on the side of right. Yet many approach you in Meetings simply because they have a proverbial axe to grind. Some will never be satisfied, no matter how well BART does. And so such behavior puts me at risk out on the System, because I am different and wear a skirt. And so I am always seeking safety, but are Meetings really safe when many approach you with a goal of trying to stir up the pot? I do not know if I am effective in my advocacy at BART, but what is more important to me is for my words to be welcomed and not dreaded, even if they are not understood.

I cannot claim to be an expert on the things of BART. Some might hold my history of fare skipping on the New York City Subway in 1980-81 against me, and I understand that. But today I make amends to the Subway by paying the fare, using the new OMNY payment system, following their rules of conduct, and speaking respectfully at their Meetings. And Metropolitan Transportation Authority Meetings are hard to attend at times, but their Board and District Staff consistently show me the welcome. I consider my last visit to New York, when a number of people in the MTA organization said to me, "welcome back to New York". And I often reflect on the welcoming stance that MTA in New York is practicing, especially with the construction of over three hundred accessible stations on the Subway. I ask that you ally yourself with respectful and thoughtful advocates such as myself, in wanting to build the best BART that we can have. I continue to share this most important ideal, that reflects the basic premise of what BART is all about, that BART is The Peoples System.

You know, I think this really does look like BART.



Thank you.

From: [Carina De Lorenzo](#)
To: [Board Meeting](#)
Subject: Public Comment : Screen UI's Changed for the Worse
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 3:21:37 PM

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for your consideration. There have been two changes that worsen the BART screen UI.

The Embarcadero BART station now displays by individual train. It used to group multiple trains by line. For example:

- I want to go to work by red line. One screen change later, I see the red train departs 3, 18 minutes from now.

Now:

- I want to go to work by the red line. I have a heart attack because the red line only comes 18 minutes from now. The screen changes 1, 2, 3 times and I see there is actually a red line coming in 3 minutes.

The new change means there is less information which takes longer to be delivered. Please change it back to the old display.

Second, the change to the individual displays inside the trains. This change happened longer ago so forgive my memory of it being worse. The location dot and the text describing the next station were bigger.

Now, the text is elegant and small, and infinitely worse for taking a quick glance and knowing what is happening and where you are arriving. Please change it back to the old display layout.

Thank you so much for your time and all you do.

Sincerely,
Carina