



**March 12, 2026**

**BART Board Meeting**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Item 9**

Comments from the following:

Aleta Dupree

**From:** aleta dupree <[tsjoan@icloud.com](mailto:tsjoan@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026 12:15 PM  
**To:** Board Meeting <[board.meeting@bart.gov](mailto:board.meeting@bart.gov)>  
**Subject:** comments from near Oakland

District Secretary Bob Franklin, with thanks, please forward this message to the full BART Board for the next General Meeting.

Greetings Board President Melissa Hernandez and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record, she, her, with Team Folds.

I share with you my comments pertaining to the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

All Over the World.

This is a screen capture.



This is an excerpt from a video of All Over the World, by Mr Jeff Lynne and the Electric Light Orchestra, filmed in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, in Mumbai, India.

I consider All Over the World, by Mr Jeff Lynne, released in July, 1980. I do not remember exactly when I first heard it, though it was around that time, and I was in New York. I made mention of this song previously in my letter to you dated 19 May, 2021. This came after my letter to you dated 12 May, 2021, where I shared with you about Mr Gerry Rafferty and his most famous work, Baker Street. Perhaps Mr Rafferty was thinking of New York City in working in his songs, especially that famous street in Manhattan that is Forty Second Street. And there are a number of videos of All Over the World that have been filmed in train stations, including the Antwerpen Centraal Station, Liverpool Street in London, and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus. I have never been to any of those places. Yet I

was instantly reminded of a place much closer to home, Grand Central Terminal, which is a legendary and historic railroad station that is located in New York City. Not long after I heard All Over the World, it was in the fall of 1980 that I found myself in Grand Central Terminal for the first time. I had just been let out of school and I didn't have anything planned and so I decided to visit Grand Central Terminal. I enjoyed my very first helping of raw oysters on the half shell and then I rode on a train. I enjoy watching videos of people dancing to All Over the World, especially in train stations, but I have never seen a video of that song taking place in Grand Central Terminal. I can't think of a better place to see and hear All Over the World than in Grand Central Terminal, especially in emphasizing its location in New York City.

I was going to use the title "Beyond the Lines", as the heading for this section of my letter. Some surely will ask, why do you write about people dancing in famous trains stations? Does this have anything to do with BART? Some could very well accuse me of being inebriated. Yet I do not consume alcohol in proximate time of my writings as I want to be fully in control of the things I share with you. I submit to you that I am not a smoker as well. Yet I think these things are germane. You see, there are things I learn about from many different transportation systems, and such things are often relevant to BART.

I consider matters of standing and particular constituencies. Yet I do not live in the BART District and therefore I cannot vote for you. I fully support the transit funding measure as prescribed by Senate Bill 63. Yet I cannot vote for that transit measure, because I do not live in the geographic region covered by such measure. I am not able to sign the petition being circulated in support of the measure, because I do not live in the specified area. Yet I do speak in support of the measure, and many other things pertaining to Public Transportation in the Bay Area.

It is absolutely essential to remember that a broad constituency exists beyond your electoral district lines. I am one of many who come from beyond the Bay Area, and part of that is using Public Transportation. The New York City Subway not only serves the People of New York, but millions more from around the world. And I am one who not only uses the Subway but I also attend and speak at Meetings of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). It is essential to remember that the MTA has a deep and broad portfolio of oversight, including major transportation properties such as the Subway, and Grand Central Terminal. Perhaps someday I will end up in London and I might be able to attend a Meeting of the London Underground Board of Directors. I'm sure I will share of the two very nice people I met who work for the London Underground as train operators. I met them in New York and I did ask them, "how do you like our Subway?" They mentioned to me that they enjoyed the Subway very much, especially in using the distinctive express routes. They also mentioned they planned to visit Grand Central Terminal before flying home. I might make mention of Mr Gerry Rafferty, and that surely he was thinking of New York City in working on his songs. Mr Rafferty seemed to share most on the express routes of what was once known as the Independent Subway. It is the Independent Subway that is known most for "big stations", often with long and wide mezzanines. I asked myself, what is the chance that I would run into people who work for the London Underground? It's happened to me a few times. This goes to show, for me, the depth of Public Transportation in our lives wherever we go. And I do not know how much of the world I will get to visit, that can mean many

different things. But in meeting many who are involved in Public Transportation, wherever they might be from, and wherever I might meet them, I am reminded of this most basic ideal, that BART is The Peoples System

On Matters Meticulous.

I reflect on your most recent Meeting, that which convened on 26 February, 2026. This was the first Meeting I attended in person in this new year. I consider the importance of procedure, both in Meetings and out on the System. That morning there was a service disruption, which I was affected by. Yet some of you mentioned being affected, given the need to cross from San Francisco to Oakland. I am sure tensions were high in that Meeting, though I chose not to let it get to me

I reflect on matters of Public Comment. You see, the Consent Calendar was being heard, and I submitted the appropriate blue speaker card. After the Board discussion a vote was taken, yet Public Comment was not called for. After the vote I was called to speak after the fact. Yet shouldn't Public Comment be asked for and taken before the vote? I think so but perhaps that is not required. But what if I have something to say that might shed light on an issue that might give cause for reconsideration? Yet if the comment is taken after the vote, the result has already been rendered and sealed. Perhaps a revote could be asked for but how many board members would want to go through the tedious process of asking to vote again. Does the process even allow for reconsideration? If so, such might make the board look indecisive in the eyes of staff and the Public, so reconsideration seems highly unlikely, and the original vote would stand.

And so what causes Public Comment to not be called for in Meetings? Perhaps is it due to my not having standing to share on particular items? It is true that Consent items are often considered routine but to me they are no less important. And the Brown Act does give the Presiding officer and those delegated by such officer wide latitude when it comes to the order and flow of Meeting business. Yet the Brown Act does not allow for viewpoint discrimination, and If I am not able to share my viewpoints, I am indeed concerned about that. Yet I speak not as a matter of right but framed in responsibility. And I think about the end of that Meeting, where an item was deferred and then general Public Comment was asked for. Yet no time was given to respond to the invitation, I had to stand up and request such verbally, given I had not yet filled out the speaker card.

I can understand that Meetings can be tense and some of you want to get going. Perhaps a much anticipated white table cloth lunch awaits or a chance to watch your favorite live streaming programs. For me, I enjoy watching plane spotting and participating in the associated live chat activities. This I first made reference to in my letter to you dated 15 March, 2022, titled, comments from the upper level. I made reference to watching plane spotting on TV. Yet such was not new to me, given that in the early 1980's I enjoyed train spotting in the New York City Subway and in Grand Central Terminal.

I do think back to a time when I attended a Meeting of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency also known as MUNI. And one of the members of that panel seemed to express disdain at

those who speak remotely, especially from far away places. I pushed back in Public Comment, and I mentioned that MUNI was important to me, even with me not living in San Francisco. Not long after that MUNI stopped taking remote Public Comment, though a disability accommodation is allowed. That particular aforementioned individual is no longer serving on the MUNI Board. Yet I felt my standing abridged, given that person's comments seemed to imply that MUNI was only interested in serving people who live in the City and County of San Francisco. Yet I can say that I have full and equal standing before the boards of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York City, and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada. And there are a number of boards and commissions here in the Bay Area that give me full and equal standing as well. I ask for that same equal standing from you, even with me not living in the BART district. I ask for meticulous practice of procedures in your Meetings, as would be expected of those who operate and maintain what is known as The Peoples System. It is through practice that it becomes natural to follow the appropriate procedures. And standing can be complicated at times. I am a person of profound disabilities but my particular situation does not qualify me for early boarding on airplanes, I'm in the main line along with everyone else. Yet I do often need to use the sideways facing seats on BART, and most of the time I am able to access them. I have been told by a person in a high level of BART leadership that I am allowed to use the elevators if they are available for service. This person who I feel speaks with appropriate authority emphasized that the elevators are indeed available for use by the general public in their intended manner. And so it seems to me that policy is on my side that I can freely use the elevators throughout the BART system. It is my hope that I will never be denied the appropriate and timely opportunity to speak in Public Comment in your various Meetings. I ask that you not forget about the importance of respectful Public Comment, and that Meetings should never be treated simply as spectator sports.

But how can I be sure of standing, especially when that seems questioned? I have to stand up and make my case when it comes to matters of standing. I assure you that I do not speak on different items to take up your time and delay your departure. I think back to when I attended a meeting with to on Zoom while having lunch in the Oyster Bar in Grand Central Terminal. I did not attend and speak at that meeting as a stunt for publicity but instead I wanted to share my time with you in a place that has held deep meaning for me since the fall of 1980. I do not get up and speak to grandstand and loudly attempt to make a name for myself. Instead I speak of things near and dear to me. I share on many topics, because really anything that we talk about in BART can potentially affect me. And I enjoy using the "tools of my trade" if you will, in sharing my thoughts with you from different places. You see, all I need is my phone, and charged, and a cellular connection, and trying not to be distracting to others. I have shared Public Comments from restaurants, hotel rooms, casinos, park benches, airports, buses, and Subway trains. A few times I've shared at Public Meetings from inside bathrooms, both in my home and in public facilities. There was a time that I shared at a Meeting of the MTC while I was in the dentist's chair, taking a two minute break from having my teeth worked on in order to give my Public Comment. Sometimes I've shared my Public Comment while walking down the street. You see, I want to make the most of my time, and sharing my time with you in Meetings is something that I enjoy very much. But how can I enjoy Meetings if I am not offered the opportunity to speak even if I raise my hand to do so? Such is deeply concerning and troubling to me. And so I ask this of you to

remember the importance of Public Comment, to ensure without fail that such is taken when asked for. Yet I ask of you most of all that you do not forget this most basic ideal, that BART is indeed The Peoples System.

Wisdom for all kinds of weather.

“I need a reason just to make me carry on, well I know better now I know where I belong. I can’t imagine how I ever let myself just give up trying”. - Gerry Rafferty reflecting on traveling express routes of the New York City Subway on cold and rainy nights.

“I said a hip hop, the hippie, the hippie, to the hip hip hop and you don’t stop the rocking, to the bang bang boogie say up jump the boogie to the rhythm of the boogie the beat.” - The Sugar Hill Gang.

This is a screen capture.



As seen in 1980, with the original track number signs, this is everyone’s Grand Central Terminal, which is located in New York City.

Thank you.