

# Speak Out Now at BART

## A Matter of Priorities

BART's problems - from the incompetence of management, to the lack of sufficient funding - reflect the priorities of those in positions of power today.

Despite all the talk about the environment and pollution from cars, there is very little funding for public transit.

Look at BART - 40 years old with a poorly maintained track system and only now getting new cars and an updated control system. It's the same throughout much of the country, but sometimes it seems like BART is a concentration of many of the worst aspects of public transit in the U.S.

## The Energizer Senator

At the mention BART, it seems that State Senator Steve Glazer can't control himself. When the California Transportation bill was up for a vote, he vowed to oppose it, unless it included a ban on BART workers' right to strike. He thought he could get his way, but it passed without his vote.

That hasn't stopped him. Now he wants to introduce two anti-worker bills. One bill would ban BART strikes. The other would allow non-qualified TOs to operate trains during a strike! Really!!! Didn't we see management try that during the last strike and kill two workers on the tracks?

Maybe Glazer would like to like volunteer for the scab track maintenance crew?

## Under-funded and Taxed

The new California Transportation bill will put about \$5 billion a year into California's worn out transportation infrastructure. Most will go into roads and bridges and a small portion to public transit. Of course we'll be paying for it, through gas and vehicle taxes. Five billion dollars a year is not nearly enough, but we shouldn't have to pay more.

But there are people who could and should pay. Last year 50 Bay Area billionaires made it onto the Forbes 400 richest Americans list. They all have over \$1.5 billion each! Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, tops the list with \$55.5 billion, while Oracle founder Larry Ellison has \$49.3 billion.

Just imagine if the wealth produced each day flowed into society and not their pockets.

## Calling Out BART

BART is under attack with a lawsuit filed by groups representing people with disabilities. Even though the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guarantees access to public facilities for people with disabilities, the constant breakdown of escalators and elevators makes reliable access impossible.

Maybe a lawsuit demanding that elevators and escalators are in working order and that elevators are cleaned more often might get some notice at Lakeside.

But will it just be the usual response - a memo to supervisors and Foreworkers to push System Service Workers harder? And how about the elevators and escalators? How about consulting with those who are responsible for maintenance, stocking needed parts and hiring enough people to perform regularly needed maintenance?

## Attax Time

April 15 is Tax Day, attacking our wallets. But, it's not a tax day for everyone. Trump probably doesn't pay taxes, along with a number of other billionaires. In addition, 20 percent of profitable large firms paid no income tax in 2015. These include: Hewlett Packard with \$1,470,000,000 profits, G.M. with \$7,718,000,000 profits, United Airlines with \$4,219,000,000 profits, American Airlines, IBM and others

The tax code must be following the Golden Rule that says, "*Those with the gold make the rules.*"



*Thanks for the hard work. See you later*

**Celebrate With Us! Come to the Speak Out Now May Day Party - Saturday, May, 6**