

June 24, 2021

BART Board President Mark Foley
300 Lakeside Drive
Oakland, CA 94604

Re: Request for immediate return of Midnight Service

Dear President Foley,

Our associations advocate on behalf of the San Francisco hospitality and tourism industries which includes our restaurants, hotels, bars, and more. We request that BART resume midnight service immediately. Running the last train until 9pm through August 30th effectively means no hospitality workers can work an evening shift and make it home via BART. BART is an essential public service for our city and our regional sister cities.

We are grateful that California reopened June 15th, and that our businesses are allowed to operate at full capacity once again. However, we remain limited in our ability to truly open at full capacity because our staff cannot get to and from work, and nor can we hire staff if they have no way to get home at night from a shift. The limited BART hours makes it unrealistic to accept a job in San Francisco given the late night hours required for our industries. Other options such as taking a ride share are cost prohibitive to both employees and small operators.

Eliminating late night service also restricts our capacity to welcome back tourism to our city. Tourists and residents outside of San Francisco who cannot afford the rideshare prices are left in a situation where they cannot get home after dinner or other forms of evening activities.

We understand that significant drops in ridership of BART impact the finances of BART, but we also know that significant federal funding was received by BART for the reason of providing this critical transit. We ask that the board consider that without extended hours until September that we doom the city and its small businesses and hospitality sector to a very limited recovery in the next 2-3 months.

Possible compromise solutions to consider are:

- Extend hours of operation Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday nights to midnight.
- Look at reduced levels of service on all lines, but extend the last trains until midnight.
- Reevaluate the 50% fare reduction approved for September and allocate these funds to allow for additional late night train service now.

Thank you for your consideration. Our hospitality industry and our city's recovery depends on having reliable, affordable transportation.

Sincerely,



Laurie Thomas
Executive Director, Golden Gate Restaurant Association
laurie@ggra.org

Joe D'Alessandro
President & CEO, San Francisco Travel Association



Kevin Carroll
President & CEO, Hotel Council of San Francisco

Ben Bleiman
Founder, San Francisco Bar Owner Alliance
Chairman, California Music and Culture Association

Sharky Laguana
President, American Car Rental Association

Cc: Director Allen, Director Saltzman, Director Raburn, Director McPartland, Director Ames, Director Simon, Director Li, Director Dufty

Cc: Bob Powers, General Manager, Rodd Lee, Asst. GM, External Affairs