[Today’s date]

[Sender’s name and address]

Re: Stop Developing Inaccessible BART Train Cars

To Whom It May Concern,

Many people with disabilities like me use public transportation as their ONLY means to get around, it allows us to live independently in the community. I am writing to ask that BART stop developing any features in its new BART car design that will make it harder for people with disabilities to use BART. This includes floor-to-ceiling poles near the entrance doors and segregated seating for wheelchair and scooter users in the proposed design. These designs will make BART less accessible than it currently is which is completely unacceptable.

**Include this paragraph only if applicable:**

I have a disability **[insert more details here as you are comfortable – e.g. I am blind and use a cane, or I use a wheelchair]**. **[Optional: add more details here about how often you use BART if you are a frequent user].**

I am very concerned that if BART goes forward with its current plans, it will become very hard for people with disabilities to use BART, and some people with disabilities might not be able to use BART at all.

The floor-to-ceiling poles in the locations proposed by BART will make it harder than it already is to get on and off of BART. These poles will lead to crowding in the area near the entrance doors, right where wheelchair and scooter users need to traverse to get to and from the designated wheelchair seating space. It is already often difficult for wheelchair and scooter users to get on and off BART cars due to congestion at the doorways. Adding the poles in locations proposed by BART will make this problem much worse. The poles are also dangerous because they are in the way of people who are blind of have low vision who are trying to quickly enter and exit the train.

And segregating seats for wheelchair users traveling together means that these passengers with disabilities will not be able to sit together on BART. If a wheelchair-user enters the BART car in the middle set of doors, there will not be anywhere for the wheelchair-user to sit.

These barriers are significant enough that some people with disabilities will not be able to use BART if the new design is implemented. Therefore, I ask that BART please stop all work on the development of these inaccessible features and instead explore options for how to redesign the new BART cars so that BART does not turn back the clock on disability access.

Sincerely,

[Your name]