

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Transportation Code - Fare Evasion and Clipper Card Regulations]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Transportation Code, Division I, Article 7 (Transit Violations) Sections 7.2.101 and 7.2.104 to eliminate restrictions on rear exit boarding of Municipal Railway transit vehicles in revenue service and clarify that failure to tag a Clipper card transponder or card reader is a violation of Section 7.2.104; and making environmental findings and technical corrections.

Existing Law

Under current law, Municipal Railway passengers are prohibited from boarding a street car, motor coach, or trolley coach through the rear exit except when:

- a Municipal Railway representative is present at the exit to collect fares or transfers, or inspect proof of payment;
- the transit vehicle is operating at a station or boarding platform where fares are collected prior to passengers boarding the vehicle;
- necessary for persons with disabilities to board;
- the transit vehicle is operating in a Proof of Payment Zone; or
- the SFMTA has indicated that rear exit boarding is permitted on a designated transit line, route or location.

In addition, the misuse of any Clipper card with the intent to evade the payment of any fare is a violation of existing Clipper card regulations.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance eliminates existing restrictions on rear exit boarding of Municipal Railway transit vehicles in revenue service, and clarifies that failure to tag a Clipper card transponder or card reader is a violation of Section 7.2.104.

Background Information

The SFMTA seeks to permit Municipal Railway passengers to board transit vehicles from the rear exit in order to speed up passenger boardings, increase on-time performance levels, and reduce travel times. Since a large percentage of customers now use Clipper cards, these passengers can utilize Clipper card transponders located near the rear exit to record payment. Random fare inspection enforcement on transit vehicles will help ensure that increased levels of fare evasion will not result. In addition, the SFMTA seeks to clarify that failure to tag a Clipper card transponder or card reader is a violation of Section 7.2.104.