

1 [Urging Muni to Prioritize Eligible Funds for Maintenance]

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3 **Resolution urging Muni to prioritize funding for vehicle and equipment maintenance,**
4 **rehabilitation, and purchase in light of deteriorating Muni service.**

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6 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) provides critical
7 transportation services in San Francisco, carrying hundreds of thousands of people every day,
8 in accordance with the City's Transit First policy; and

9 WHEREAS, Many San Franciscans rely on Muni service for critical daily needs,
10 including getting to work, going to school, attending doctor visits, shopping, running errands,
11 and generally living their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, Particularly for low-income and working-class San Franciscans, Muni may
13 provide their only means of transportation, such that an unreliable system has dramatic
14 negative impacts on them; and

15 WHEREAS, For decades, Muni has under-invested in maintenance, resulting in
16 vehicles that break down regularly, and switches, signals, and other infrastructure that fail
17 more than they should; and

18 WHEREAS, These equipment and vehicle breakdowns, resulting from inadequate
19 maintenance, have dramatic negative consequences for service levels and reliability; and

20 WHEREAS, Muni has a number of vehicles that are so broken down that they are
21 completely unavailable for service, some for years; and

22 WHEREAS, Muni cannot afford to repair, maintain, or rehabilitate all of its vehicles and
23 only has resources to address the most urgent maintenance/repair needs; and

24 WHEREAS, Muni has approximately \$420 million in vehicle rehabilitation and repair
25 needs; and

1 WHEREAS, Muni does not have enough vehicles, particularly light rail vehicles (LRVs),
2 to provide reliable service, and has no LRVs in reserve, such that if an LRV breaks down, it
3 typically cannot be replaced, resulting in gaps in service and one-car trains where there
4 should be two-car trains; and

5 WHEREAS, Muni's long-term under-investment in maintenance, inability to repair and
6 rehabilitate its vehicles, and lack of sufficient vehicles have undermined service levels and
7 reliability, including a 57.2% on-time performance for August 2012 and 602 runs
8 (approximately 43 per day) missed in the second half of October 2012; and

9 WHEREAS, There are numerous examples of overall system failure due to broken
10 down vehicles, and in a particularly egregious example, on October 24, 2012, the day of the
11 first game of the World Series, between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m., three separate LRVs broke down
12 in the subway, resulting in a subway meltdown; and

13 WHEREAS, Service failures frustrate the public, undermine confidence, and reduce
14 support for public transportation; and

15 WHEREAS, It is Muni's top responsibility to provide "reliable, safe, timely, frequent, and
16 convenient transit service to all neighborhoods," as mandated by the voters in the City
17 Charter; and

18 WHEREAS, Muni must invest in system maintenance and reliability now – not later – to
19 stop the system's hemorrhaging; and

20 WHEREAS, Muni is about to receive \$6.7 million in Transit Performance Initiative (TPI)
21 regional funding, which is to be used to increase ridership and improve the system's
22 productivity; and

23 WHEREAS, The optimal way to achieve the goals of increased ridership and improved
24 system productivity is to provide service that is reliable enough that people use the system,
25 resulting in an increase in ridership; the best way to achieve that reliability is to maintain,

1 rehabilitate, and purchase new vehicles and related equipment for which Muni does not have
2 nearly enough resources; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on Muni to prioritize the use of TPI
4 funds and similar flexible fund to improve the Muni system – specifically, maintenance,
5 rehabilitation, and purchase of vehicles and related equipment – pursuant to its mandated
6 responsibility to the riding public codified in the City Charter; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on the management and
8 Board of Directors of the Municipal Transportation Agency to send a clear message to the
9 riding public that it takes service improvement seriously, by dedicating all available eligible
10 and flexible funding, including the TPI funds, towards maintenance, rehabilitation, and
11 purchase of vehicles and related equipment.

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