

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Second Draft)

[Charter Amendment - Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA): Equity Analysis and Expenditure Plan, Additional Appropriation, MTA Inspector General, Limits on Future Fare Increases, Extending Free Muni for Certain Populations]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by revising Sections 8A.100, 8A.101, 8A.103, 8A.105, 8A.106, 8A.107, 8A.108, and adding 8A.116 to require the Municipal Transportation Agency (the “Agency”) to reduce socio-economic inequities in the City’s transportation system; create an Office of Inspector General to perform audits of Agency functions and operations; require a public hearing and written agreement before contracting with other City departments; require Agency and Board of Supervisors approval of an Equity Analysis Report and Expenditure Plan; annually appropriate approximately \$75,000,000 from the City’s General Fund, if fiscally feasible, to fund: 1) Municipal Railway transit vehicle procurement, overhaul, repair, and maintenance or any other MTA capital project to maintain, purchase, build, replace, or improve transportation infrastructure with the ability to reallocate funds if certain conditions exist or beginning in FY2021-2022, and 2) street repairs and reconstruction; limit future transit fare increases unless certain conditions are met; and require the Agency to continue the Free MUNI for Youth program and provide Free Municipal Railway transit service for low and moderate income seniors and persons with physical or mental impairments who use fare media acceptable to the Agency beginning in FY2016-2017.

Existing Law

Article 8A of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco describes the Municipal Transportation Authority (MTA). It includes the following provisions:

1. A number of goals for the MTA are proscribed, including reliable, safe, and clean transit service and safe environments for cyclists and pedestrians.
2. Several agencies are given roles overseeing the MTA: the Controller for financial matters, the City Attorney for legal matters, and the Civil Service Commission for merit system issues.
3. The MTA may contract with other City departments for services.

4. The MTA must define milestones to measure the Agency's performance including on-time performance and service delivery, system reliability, system performance, staffing performance, and customer service.
5. The MTA is entitled to a guaranteed "Base Amount" of general fund revenue reflecting the level of General Fund support.
6. The MTA is required to contract every two years with a consultant to conduct an independent review of the quality of its operations and the extent to which it has met its goals, objectives, and performance standards. In addition, the Controller serves as a City Services Auditor to monitor the level and effectiveness of services rendered by the City, including the MTA, to its residents.
7. Muni fare changes are submitted to the Board of Supervisors as part of the MTA's budget and may be rejected by a seven-elevenths' vote of the Board of Supervisors.
8. To the extent allowed by law, the Board of Supervisors may dedicate additional revenues to the MTA from gas taxes, motor vehicle licensing taxes or other available motor vehicle-related revenue sources, and, further, the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and the MTA shall diligently seek to develop new sources of funding for the MTA.

Amendments to Current Law

Under the proposed Charter Amendment:

1. An additional goal would be added for the MTA to focus on reducing the socio-economic inequities in the City's transportation system.
2. An Office of Inspector General would be created to perform audits of MTA functions and operations.
3. A public hearing and written agreement would be required before the MTA contracted for services with another City department.
4. Both MTA and Board of Supervisors approval of an Equity Analysis Report and Expenditure Plan would be required.
5. Approximately \$75 million from the City's General Fund, if fiscally feasible, would be annually appropriated to fund: (1) Municipal Railway transit vehicle procurement, overhaul, repair and maintenance or any other MTA capital project to maintain, purchase, build, replace, or improve transportation infrastructure with the ability to reallocate funds if certain conditions exist or beginning in fiscal year 2021-2022, and (2) street repairs and reconstruction.

6. Limit future transit fare increases unless certain conditions are met.
7. Require the MTA to continue the Free MUNI for Youth program and provide Free MUNI transit service for low and moderate income seniors and persons with physical or mental impairments who use fare media acceptable to the MTA beginning in fiscal year 2016-2017.
8. This Charter Amendment is intended to be placed on the November 3, 2015, ballot.

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