

1 [Urging State and Federal Funding for Caltrain]

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3 **Resolution urging State and Federal emergency funding for Caltrain to remain**
4 **operational in light of operational and budget declines due to COVID-19; and affirming**
5 **the role that Caltrain plays in transporting people to essential activities.**

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7 WHEREAS, Caltrain provides rail transportation to the Peninsula Corridor region
8 including the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara; and

9 WHEREAS, Public transit is critical to the region’s economy and environment, and
10 especially during the Coronavirus pandemic, is critical to transporting people performing
11 Essential Activities or traveling to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain
12 Essential Governmental Functions; and

13 WHEREAS, Caltrain strives to maintain adequate service levels during this critical
14 “Shelter In Place” time, especially to accommodate for our first responders, healthcare
15 professionals, service providers, and grocery store clerks who rely on transit to get to work;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Caltrain ridership levels have significantly declined since March 11, 2020
18 following the declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization, and have continued
19 to see declines since the San Francisco Health Officer ordered San Franciscans to “Shelter in
20 Place” on March 16, 2020, followed by the Governor issuing statewide shelter in place order
21 on March 19, 2020 until further notice; and

22 WHEREAS, Caltrain has suffered from an 86% decrease in daily ticket sales, as a
23 result of the COVID-19 and the shelter in place order; and

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1 WHEREAS, With no other dedicated source of funding, Caltrain's operating budget is
2 funded in large part (70%) by farebox revenues, and the agency estimates that the current
3 ridership decline could reduce Caltrain's monthly revenues by \$6.2M; and

4 WHEREAS, According to Caltrain, a complete 100% ridership loss due to service
5 shutdown and a 75% reduction of economic activity impacting other sources could reduce
6 Caltrain monthly revenues by \$12.5M; and

7 WHEREAS, These events have led the Caltrain's Board of Directors to decide to
8 temporarily reduce service hours, including operating 42 trains per day, rather than the usual
9 92 based on ridership data as a cost reduction measure; and

10 WHEREAS, Caltrain is experiencing revenue losses over \$6.2M per week from fare
11 loss, and parking garages; and

12 WHEREAS, Caltrain is in need of additional funding to cover these transit operating
13 revenue losses that are critical to providing continued transportation service during this crisis;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, If Caltrain does not receive new resources by May 2020, the entire system
16 will shut down for passenger service; and

17 WHEREAS, As of March 22, 2020, neither the Centers for Disease Control and
18 Prevention nor the State of California had issued guidance on whether a local special district,
19 such as Caltrain, could directly apply for funding provided by The Federal Coronavirus
20 Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act; and

21 WHEREAS, In the interest of keeping our disaster service workers in motion, Caltrain
22 needs emergency funding for the local and regional transit system; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges
24 State and Federal leaders to quickly identify and authorize funding for Caltrain to continue
25 providing essential public transit service and restore transit service for those essential workers

1 who must access jobs that are providing public safety, health and social services for the
2 people of San Francisco and the Peninsula Corridor; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit a copy of this
4 resolution to Governor Newsom, the California Office of Emergency Services, the California
5 State Transportation Agency, State Senator Scott Wiener, State Assemblymembers Phil Ting
6 and David Chiu; President Donald Trump, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein,
7 Senator Kamala Harris, and Representative Jackie Speier.

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