

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 1031 (Wiener, Wahab) - The Connect Bay Area
2 Act]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 1031, introduced by Senators**
4 **Scott Wiener and Aisha Wahab, to authorize a Bay Area transit funding ballot measure**
5 **as early as November 2026 and to provide for an assessment of the benefits of**
6 **consolidation of Bay Area transit agencies and integration of Bay Area transit systems.**
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8 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic caused a massive decrease in Bay Area transit
9 ridership, resulting in a projected \$2.5 billion operating shortfall for transit operators over the
10 next five years; and

11 WHEREAS, The 2023 State budget agreement between the Governor and the
12 Legislature that provides \$1.1 billion in funds for transit statewide and \$400 million for the Bay
13 Area, while critical to the survival of those operators, is nonetheless insufficient to prevent
14 transit cuts and was intended as a bridge to provide time to identify a long-term funding
15 source to stabilize and enhance transit; and

16 WHEREAS, Ridership has returned slowly, with the San Francisco Municipal
17 Transportation Agency (SFMTA) seeing a 74% recovery of riders in February 2024 as
18 compared to February 2019 and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) seeing a 42% recovery of
19 riders; and

20 WHEREAS, Without a sustained funding source, transit operators may be required to
21 decrease service, remove entire lines, and cancel infrastructure improvement projects that will
22 impact millions of riders and make it challenging for the region to achieve its climate, equity,
23 and economic development goals; and

24 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill No. 1031 (SB 1031), authored by Senators
25 Scott Wiener and Aisha Wahab, would authorize the Metropolitan Transportation Commission

1 (MTC) to propose a revenue measure as soon as the November 2026 ballot, the proceeds of
2 which would be used to stabilize and increase transit operations and regional transit
3 coordination initiatives, as well as to fund zero emission transit vehicles and related
4 infrastructure; safe streets, including pothole repairs, bicycle and pedestrian access; climate
5 resiliency projects to protect transportation infrastructure; and capital improvements to support
6 connectivity and mobility in a climate neutral manner; and

7 WHEREAS, SB 1031 also requires MTC to adopt transit network management policies
8 that will improve fares, transfer schedules, wayfinding, and other customer-facing services to
9 seamlessly connect all Bay Area transit operators beginning in 2025; and

10 WHEREAS, The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) would be required to
11 select a transportation institute to assess the impacts of potential consolidation of the Bay
12 Area's 27 transit operators while prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations and
13 improving access, speed, and reliability of public transit; and

14 WHEREAS, If approved by voters, SB 1031 would also authorize MTC and the Bay
15 Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to require employers with 50 or more
16 employees to provide a subsidy to encourage non-solo driving, and employers located near
17 transit would be required to purchase a universal, unlimited transit pass for each of their
18 employees, which will get more vehicles off of roads and decrease carbon emissions; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports California State
21 Senate Bill No. 1031; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board send a copy of this Resolution to
23 Governor Gavin Newsom and San Francisco's State Legislative Delegation.

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