

1 [Urging State and Federal Funding - San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District and  
2 Municipal Transportation Agency]

3 **Resolution urging state and federal emergency funding for the San Francisco Bay Area**  
4 **Rapid Transit District (BART) and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency**  
5 **(MTA) to remain operational in light of operational and budget declines due to**  
6 **COVID-19; and affirming the role that BART and MTA play in transporting people to**  
7 **essential activities.**

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9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) provides rail  
10 transportation to the greater Bay Area region including the counties of San Francisco, Contra  
11 Costa, Alameda, and San Mateo; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) connects San  
13 Francisco through a comprehensive transportation system and has oversight over the  
14 Municipal Railway (MUNI) public transit, as well as bicycling, paratransit, parking, traffic,  
15 walking, and taxis; and

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

20 WHEREAS, BART and MTA strive to maintain adequate service levels during this  
21 critical “Shelter In Place” time, especially to accommodate for our first responders, healthcare  
22 professionals, service providers, and grocery store clerks who rely on transit to get to work;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, BART and MTA ridership levels have significantly declined since  
25 March 11, 2020 following the declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization,

1 and have continued to see declines since the San Francisco Health Officer ordered San  
2 Franciscans to “Shelter in Place” on March 16, 2020, followed by the Governor issuing  
3 statewide shelter in place order on March 19, 2020 until further notice; and

4 WHEREAS, BART has suffered from a 90% ridership decline as a result of the  
5 COVID-19 and the shelter in place order; and

6 WHEREAS, BART’s operating budget is funded in large part (60%) by fare dollars, and  
7 the agency estimates that a sustained ridership loss of 90% and a 50% reduction of economic  
8 activity impacting other revenue sources could reduce BART's monthly revenues by \$57M;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, According to BART, a complete 100% ridership loss due to service  
11 shutdown and a 75% reduction of economic activity impacting other sources could reduce  
12 BART monthly revenues by \$71M; and

13 WHEREAS, These events have led the BART Board to decide to temporarily reduce  
14 service hours, including ending service at 9 pm instead of midnight, based on ridership data  
15 as a cost reduction measure; and

16 WHEREAS, MTA has suffered from a 70% decrease in Muni ridership as a result of the  
17 COVID-19 and the shelter in place order; and

18 WHEREAS, MTA is experiencing revenue losses over \$10M per week from fare loss,  
19 parking meters, parking citations, and parking garages; and

20 WHEREAS, These events have led the MTA to decide to sustain service at Sunday  
21 levels only, which means less frequent buses and other service reductions express buses  
22 headed downtown are cancelled; and

23 WHEREAS, MTA and BART are in need of additional funding to cover these transit  
24 operating revenue losses that are critical to providing continued transportation service during  
25 this crisis; and

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

5           WHEREAS, BART has requested a direct allocation of \$57M from Governor Newsom  
6 to offset their loss in revenue during the statewide Shelter in Place Order; requested an  
7 immediate operating subsidy from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); and  
8 on Monday, March 23, 2020, BART General Manager Bob Powers and SFMTA Director  
9 Jeffrey Tumlin joined other transit leaders across the nation in sending a letter to Senate and  
10 House leadership requesting that any federal relief package include at least \$25 billion of  
11 dedicated support for public transportation agencies; and

12           WHEREAS, In the interest of keeping our disaster service workers in motion, the MTA  
13 and BART need emergency funding for the local and regional transit system; now, therefore,  
14 be it

15           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges  
16 State and Federal leaders to quickly identify and authorize funding for the San Francisco Bay  
17 Area Rapid Transit District and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to continue  
18 providing essential public transit service and restore transit service for those essential workers  
19 who must access jobs that are providing public safety, health and social services for the  
20 people of San Francisco and the Bay Region; and be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports additional  
22 appropriations and regulatory flexibility within federal programs, including but not limited to: 1)  
23 Amending the Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program to include public health  
24 emergencies; 2) Temporarily removing the local match requirement in State of Good Repair

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1 Grants; and 3) Increasing the Urbanized Area Formula Program appropriation to account for  
2 national reductions in transit fare revenues; 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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