

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to adjust the required annual appropriation from the General Fund to the Transportation Fund annually to reflect increases in the population of San Francisco at an election to be held on November 4, 2014; and making environmental findings.

Existing Law

1. The Charter requires the City to set aside a specified amount of General Fund revenue (the “Base Amount”) to support the public transit and other transportation-related functions of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (“SFMTA”).
2. The Controller is required to adjust the Base Amount each year to reflect increases or decreases in the City’s aggregate discretionary revenues.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed Charter Amendment would:

1. require the Controller to increase the Base Amount each year when there has been an increase in the City’s daytime or night-time population; and
2. require the SFMTA to use 75% of any additional revenues to the Agency to make transit system improvements to the Municipal Railway to improve the system’s reliability, frequency of service, capacity, and state of good repair and 25% of any additional revenues for capital expenditures to improve street safety for all users.

Background Information

In November, 1999, the voters approved a Charter Amendment known as Proposition E that created the SFMTA from the previously separate City departments the Municipal Railway and the Department of Parking and Traffic. Proposition E set aside certain funding for the SFMTA with the goal of providing a “predictable, stable and adequate” level of funding for the Agency.