

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

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

8
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, Essential workers that rely on BART for late night trips have been severely
17 impacted by the reduction in BART’s night service and would benefit from a subsidized taxi
18 program supporting those important workers; and

19 WHEREAS, MTA has suffered from a 90% decrease in Muni ridership as a result of the
20 COVID-19 and the shelter in place order; and

21 WHEREAS, MTA anticipates the combination of losses from fare revenue, parking
22 revenue, and declining City sales tax revenue will be approximately \$180 - \$260 million
23 through the end of Fiscal Year 2020s; and

24
25

1 WHEREAS, These events have led the MTA to decide to reduce operations to a core
2 network service of their 17 most used lines, focused on attempting to serve San Francisco's
3 medical facilities and on equity; and

4 WHEREAS, MTA and BART need additional long-term funding to cover expected
5 continued transit operating revenue losses that are critical to providing transportation service
6 during and after this crisis; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, H.R. 748, the CARES Act, dedicated \$25 billion to provide emergency
19 financial relief to public transit agencies nationwide, of which The Bay Area will receive \$1.3
20 billion in funding that will be disbursed to local transit operators by the Metropolitan
21 Transportation Commission and address immediate, emergency needs; and

22
23 WHEREAS, In the interest of keeping our disaster service workers in motion, the MTA
24 and BART need continued long-term funding focused on equity for transit-dependent riders, in
25

1 addition to emergency relief funding for the local and regional transit system to continue
2 operations at appropriate levels; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges
4 State and Federal leaders to identify and authorize additional funding for the San Francisco
5 Bay Area Rapid Transit District and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to
6 continue providing essential public transit service and restore transit service for those
7 essential workers who must access jobs that are providing public safety, health and social
8 services for the people of San Francisco and the Bay Region; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports additional regulatory
10 flexibility within State and Federal grant programs; and, be it

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

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25