



June 18, 2021

President Shamann Walton
Members, Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco CA, 94102

Re: Files 210453 and 210454

President Walton and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am vetoing files 210453 and 210454. While I appreciate the intent to encourage public transit ridership, exacerbating SFMTA's structural deficit by eliminating fares does not support our long-term transit goals. SFMTA must focus on restoring service lines and improving reliability, so that San Franciscans can count on Muni to be safe and reliable as our city reopens and our economy recovers from this global pandemic.

As our city reopens, much of the increased ridership will be commuters headed downtown. We do not need a pilot study eliminating fares at a time when we know ridership will naturally increase. We do, however, need to make sure that Muni consistently offers reliable service, so San Franciscans opt out of their cars and rideshares.

I have not seen any evidence that making Muni free increases ridership. But we have plenty of evidence that having reliable, consistent services will get more people on transit. In fact, in a recent survey of Muni riders, when given the choice between prioritizing reliability and service or providing free fares for all, 63% chose focusing on reliability and service while only 28% chose free fares for all.

Coming out of this pandemic, I know many more people are struggling. San Francisco already offers deeply discounted passes for seniors and low-income riders, but I am open to conversations to expand that, or improve access to those fare passes, and I welcome policy suggestions that improve equity in our system. In that spirit, Supervisor Myrna Melgar and I have worked together to fund an expansion of Free Muni to all youth in San Francisco, which I know has been a priority of youth advocates for years.

If we want to put money in the pockets of our most vulnerable residents, let's invest in programming that targets them, not temporarily subsidize those who could afford to pay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "London Breed".

Mayor London N. Breed