



26 January 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Union Square Alliance Support for Transportation GO Bond Funding

Dear Budget and Finance Committee Supervisors:

The Union Square Alliance continues to be a proactive and positive partner with the City in helping to provide solutions to issues impacting the community. Public transit operations and transportation infrastructure are “vital to San Francisco’s economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and cultural diversity.” They make San Francisco more equitable, enjoyable, and attractive to all San Franciscans and visitors alike.

On behalf of the Alliance, a 27-block community of employers, property owners, and residents who contribute more than \$6 million annually to a public-private partnership that funds enhanced services in the district, and as a district responsible for producing 37% of the sales tax revenue for consumer goods generated for the City and State, we urge you to support the Transportation GO Bond.

When the city is healthy, Union Square is the most visited area in San Francisco. Market Street, Geary Street, and Stockton Street are all major corridors and vital transportation lines that traverse the district. This Bond is a crucial funding source to make public transit work better, improve street safety, and meet the long-term needs of residents, employees, and visitors to the city. Powell Street is a gateway to the city of San Francisco and local and international tourist destination because of the historic and world-famous cable cars. Our data shows that historically up to 30,000 pedestrians traverse Powell Street each day and it is not uncommon to find hundreds of people lined up to ride the cable cars. Under-investment in transportation has been a decades-long concern. The health and vitality of our streets, transportation hubs, bus and cable car lines are integral to the health and vitality of the entire city of San Francisco.

It is also an undebatable fact that the current sidewalks and roads are unable to support high levels of foot and vehicular traffic which we will rely on post-pandemic to emerge

from the pandemic. The sidewalks are in very poor condition and represent a safety hazard as well as showing the blight and neglect of our City on full display for all to see.

As all of us transition into this post-pandemic world, we fully expect that social distancing will be a critical component to encouraging future visits. Without the GO Bond how can we address our public transportation needs properly, create safe outdoor public spaces, emerge safely, and have a bright and healthy future? We urge you to support GO Bond and support the future of our City. Let's support the health of our corridors, safety of our streets and welcome everyone back to San Francisco--visitors and San Franciscans alike. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued leadership on behalf of the City.

Respectfully,

Marisa Rodriguez
Executive Director, Union Square Alliance

CC:
Jeffery Tumlin
Viktoriya Wise
Supervisor Aaron Peskin



January 25, 2022

Dear Brent Jalipa,

Our association advocates on behalf of the San Francisco's restaurant community. As such, we are writing in support of the General Obligation Bond Election - Muni Reliability and Street Safety - \$400,000,000]. SFMTA provides an essential public service for our employees, guests and San Franciscans as a whole.

Improvements to the Muni system will greatly benefit our employees traveling to and from work, especially in this time of staff shortages, as well as aiding in the ongoing economic recovery in our business districts. In addition, this funding will focus on much needed equity and safety measures throughout the city that will improve service for all San Francisco residents.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue. Our restaurant industry and our city's recovery depends on having reliable, affordable transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Thomas".

Laurie Thomas
Executive Director, Golden Gate Restaurant Association
laurie@ggra.org

January 21, 2022

Budget and Finance Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
bos@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisors Haney, Safai, and Mar:

On behalf of SPUR, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Walk SF, San Francisco Transit Riders, Seamless Bay Area, Streets for People, and YIMBY Action, we are writing to express our strong support for including the 2022 Muni Reliability and Street Safety Improvement Bond on the June 2022 ballot. This \$400 million general obligation bond will allow for faster, more reliable Muni service, and help make our streets safer for people on bikes and pedestrians.

As you know, much of the city's transit facilities and infrastructure have been allowed to deteriorate over time, with inadequate funding for routine maintenance, repair, replacement, and improvements. While we know there are new federal and state dollars available for transportation, they will mostly get directed to major capital projects, or awarded on a competitive basis, and cannot be easily directed to repair and maintenance. Investments from the bond will improve Muni reliability and efficiency, creating a better transit experience that increases ridership and helps us hit our climate, equity and modeshift goals.

In addition to transit funding, the dollars generated from the bond measure will fund improvements to our streets to make them safer for pedestrians and people on bikes, especially in our city's equity priority neighborhoods. Every year more than 500 people are severely injured or killed while traveling on San Francisco's streets, according to the latest reports from the San Francisco Department of Public Health.¹ Redesigning streets and sidewalks to be more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly and reducing traffic speeds are key elements to achieving the City's Vision Zero goal. Furthermore, having local transportation funds will make San Francisco more competitive for federal capital dollars and expand the potential impact of the investments.

¹Injury figures are from *San Francisco Severe Traffic Injury Trends: 2011-2020*, published September 2021. Fatality statistics are from *Vision Zero Traffic Fatalities: 2020 End of Year Report*, published March 2021.

We urge the Budget and Finance Committee to take the steps necessary to place the GO bond on the June 2022 ballot. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sujata Srivastava, San Francisco Director
SPUR



Jean Kao, Board President
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition



Jodie Medeiros, Executive Director
Walk San Francisco



Zack Deutsch-Gross, Advocacy Director
San Francisco Transit Riders



Ian Griffiths, Policy Director
Seamless Bay Area



Jon Bate
Streets for People



Laura Foote, Executive Director
YIMBY Action

