

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Municipal Railway Fare Changes]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to eliminate the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's exclusive authority to fix fares by providing for separate Board of Supervisors authority to reject by majority vote Municipal Railway fare changes; to establish a policy for Municipal Railway fare increases; to require the Agency to submit various strategies in relation to key performance indicators and goals to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors every two years; to require the Municipal Railway to provide a level of service not less than service hours provided in April 1996; to revise minimum standards for on-time performance and service delivery for Municipal Railway rail routes, rapid routes, and frequent local and express routes; to require the Controller to conduct an independent Municipal Transportation Quality Review or contract with a nationally recognized consulting firm; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Currently, the SFMTA has exclusive authority to fix the fares charged by the Municipal Railway. Any Municipal Railway fare changes must be submitted to the Board of Supervisors as part of the SFMTA's budget or budget amendment and may only be rejected by a seven-elevenths vote by the Board of Supervisors on the overall budget or budget amendment. There is no separate process for the Board of Supervisors to reject fare changes other than by rejecting the SFMTA's budget or budget amendment. The existing Charter requires the SFMTA to propose fare changes based on certain criteria, requires that the Municipal Railway meet certain minimum standards for on-time performance and service delivery, and authorizes the SFMTA to contract with a nationally recognized management or transportation consulting firm to perform a biennial Municipal Transportation Quality Review audit.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed Charter Amendment eliminates the SFMTA's exclusive authority to fix fares by providing a separate process for the Board of Supervisors to reject proposed Municipal Railway fare changes by majority vote; establishes a policy for Municipal Railway fare increases; requires the SFMTA to submit various strategies related to key performance indicators and goals to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors every two years; requires the Municipal Railway to provide a level of service not less than the service hours provided in

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April 1996; revises the minimum standards for on-time performance and service delivery for Municipal rail routes, rapid routes, and frequent local and express routes; and requires the Controller to conduct an independent Municipal Transportation Quality Review of contract with a nationally recognized consulting firm.

Background Information

In April, 2020, SFMTA approved its FY2021-FY2022 two-year operating budget which included Municipal Railway fare increases.

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