

1 [Urging The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors to
2 Protect San Francisco and Bay Area Transportation Workers]

3 **Resolution urging The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Board**
4 **of Directors to oppose any effort to issue layoff notices as they announced they would**
5 **send out Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) ACT notices on**
6 **September 11, 2020, to 185 employees who currently work the bus and ferry transit**
7 **system carrying passengers between Marin, Sonoma, and San Francisco counties.**

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9 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has consistently affirmed its commitment to
10 labor, most recently in the City’s Budget, and has passed resolutions to protect and honor
11 workers during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

12 WHEREAS, Investments in workers in San Francisco are critical to the City’s economic
13 recovery from COVID-19; and

14 WHEREAS, The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District employs
15 840 employees, and operates a vibrant bus and ferry transit system carrying passengers
16 between Marin, Sonoma, and San Francisco counties, and announced they would send out
17 WARN ACT notices to 240 employees, and did so on September 11, 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District has
19 proposed the layoffs of 185 current-working employees which could occur as early as
20 November; and

21 WHEREAS, When the coronavirus pandemic hit and San Francisco Shelter in Place
22 Order took effect, public transit ridership and trips in and out of San Francisco dropped
23 significantly and Golden Gate’s system was severely impacted; and

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1 WHEREAS, While in this time of crisis, fear and anxiety is already high due to Covid-
2 19, wildfires and unsafe air quality, and potential layoffs can be overwhelming and magnify
3 emotional and economic stress and anxiety; and

4 WHEREAS, These threatened layoffs also include losing healthcare during a
5 pandemic, and are during the holiday season, a time when mental health episodes and
6 financial stress can be particularly challenging for many; and

7 WHEREAS, The workers are represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)
8 Local 1575; and Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU), Automotive Machinists Local 1414, the Marine
9 Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) and The International Brotherhood of Teamsters
10 Locals 665 and 856 are the target of these layoffs; and

11 WHEREAS, These transit workers are key in maintaining safe and reliable travel for the
12 public going to and from work throughout the Bay Area transportation system; and

13 WHEREAS, These essential workers are skilled professionals with years of
14 experience, training, and certifications to do their jobs; these brave workers risk their health
15 every day in this pandemic environment to keep transit moving and should be honored; and

16 WHEREAS, As San Francisco recovers, the City will need this system; and its
17 experienced workers will be vital to provide the public with the transportation it needs, and
18 layoffs would interfere with recovery as ridership returns; and

19 WHEREAS, The District has nonessential capital projects, including paving a parking
20 lot, which could be delayed in order to continue funding these positions and avoid layoffs; and

21 WHEREAS, The District has discretion to use certain capital funding for operations
22 during this pandemic; and

23 WHEREAS, The District anticipates additional federal funding, though it is unclear in
24 what amount or when it will be received; and

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1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors appoints nine of the nineteen
2 Golden Gate Bridge Board of Directors; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors opposes any effort to issue
4 layoff notices to the 185 employees before January 1, 2021; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges The
6 Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors to oppose any
7 effort to issue layoff notices of the 185 employees before January 1, 2021; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
9 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to The Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and
10 Transportation District Board of Directors, upon passage of this Resolution.

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