

1 [Urging MTA to Expedite Reinstating Transit Lines to Equitably Serve All Neighborhoods]

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3 **Resolution urging the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) to create a plan to**
4 **expedite reinstating transit lines to pre-pandemic levels and develop post-COVID**
5 **transit service with stakeholder and community input, and to prioritize community**
6 **routes and bus routes that streamline access to equitably serve all neighborhoods**
7 **within San Francisco.**

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9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) provides
10 essential transit service that acts as a lifeline, connecting San Franciscans all across the city
11 to services, work, retail, restaurants, entertainment, and more; and

12 WHEREAS, Since February 25, 2020, the City and County of San Francisco has been
13 in a local emergency due to the novel (new) coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

14 WHEREAS, COVID-19 had a severe impact on transit ridership, the SFMTA,
15 temporarily suspended transit routes in many parts of San Francisco affecting access to
16 multiple neighborhoods; and

17 WHEREAS, Since the COVID-19 Core Service Plan was announced in April, regular
18 vital routes such as the F, 6, 18, 21, 23, 31, 35, 36, and 52 have remained out of service with
19 no plan of reinstatement; and

20 WHEREAS, SFMTA suspended the light rail system and has provided bus
21 substitutions, which are insufficient, along the light rail routes including the N Judah, L/K
22 Taraval Ingleside, and M Oceanview; and

23 WHEREAS, SFMTA had to consolidate resources with limited staffing and new
24 operations due to the Department of Public Health requirements for safe working, some of
25 which served student commuters, but inadvertently created an omission of other populations

1 from accessing essential services, such as child care, work, grocery stores, medical and
2 pharmaceutical needs; and

3 WHEREAS, Many historic transit lines such as the F Market and Wharves line were
4 indefinitely removed, leaving many frontline, essential workers unable to access their place of
5 work; and

6 WHEREAS, The senior community has been severely impacted by the temporary
7 transit service shut-offs which have created even larger gaps in our transit service system;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The steep hills of San Francisco, in particular, deeply constrain seniors
10 and people with limited mobility who cannot easily walk multiple blocks to reach another
11 transit access area, which has been further exacerbated by service suspensions; and

12 WHEREAS, Access to the COVID-19 testing and vaccination is critical to vulnerable
13 populations such as seniors and people with mobility issues; and

14 WHEREAS, Vulnerable populations who may have medical and pharmaceutical needs
15 in the Downtown region are currently unable to readily take public transit to appointments and
16 efficiently receive the vaccine during this pandemic; and

17 WHEREAS, The Essential Trip Card (ETC) program, which is managed by SFMTA and
18 funded by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) through Prop K sales
19 tax, subsidizes about two to three round trips by taxi per month for older adults (persons 65
20 and older) and people with disabilities for essential trips including the grocery store,
21 pharmacy, or another necessary medical trip during the shelter-in-place period; and

22 WHEREAS, Eligible ETC participants currently pay 20% of the cost of a regular cab
23 ride fare for essential trips and likewise, and the program has a monthly maximum allotment
24 of \$60 that caps riders ability to go over the limit and creates issues with flexible and frequent
25 usage; and

1 WHEREAS, Although the ETC program allows customers who pay \$12 to receive \$60
2 value for taxi trips, it is not feasible for those on fixed incomes that have relied on transit
3 services, and is not sufficient for more than one cross-city round-trip; and

4 WHEREAS, Although the ETC program has addressed a critical need, there is no
5 substitution for the freedom of movement provided by affordable, fast, frequent transit; and

6 WHEREAS, Expediting the reinstatement of these critical SFMTA transit lines will make
7 both essential travel and the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out more equitable and accessible to
8 all San Franciscans including seniors and those with limited mobility; and

9 WHEREAS, SFMTA's current COVID-19 Core Service Plan leaves many San
10 Franciscans stranded; and

11 WHEREAS, The SFMTA must restore transit service in hard-to-reach areas and low-
12 income communities across San Francisco sustainably, equitably, and holistically; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urges the SFMTA Board of
15 Directors to present a proactive plan with an anticipated timeline, acting within their existing
16 authority, for a post-COVID transit system, working in concert with stakeholders and
17 community members and existing resource constraints by November 1, 2021, to expedite
18 reinstating transit service, including near areas with significant inclines, but not limited to,
19 other hard-to-reach zones in the city; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly urges SFMTA to work
21 with the SFCTA in expanding the ETC program and pursue other innovative approaches and
22 collaborations to allow additional financial support and flexibility in the interim while working to
23 reinstate SFMTA essential bus routes and that the Board of Supervisors strongly urges
24 SFMTA to also implement a defined plan and timeline for reinstating bus routes; and be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will commit to advocating for
2 seniors and people with limited mobility in order to become a more equitable and accessible
3 city; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will commit to working with
5 SFMTA, SFCTA, the Mayor’s office, Department of Public Works, Department of Public
6 Health, and other local entities to maximize resources and funding effectively in order to
7 advance the reinstating of these bus routes; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the long-standing
9 structural financial challenges of the SFMTA and will support efforts to address these issues
10 to ensure Muni service addresses the needs of all San Franciscans for generations to come;
11 and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that SFMTA provide a
13 written response within sixty (60) days of the passage of this Resolution including a working
14 proposal of a public outreach timeline and service plan consideration before the SFMTA
15 Board of Directors by November 1, 2021, to the Clerk of the Board be included in the official
16 file.

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