

THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO. : 10.3

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

DIVISION: Finance & Information Technology

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Approving Free Muni for low and moderate income 19 to 22 year old San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) English Learner and Foster Care students who use a Clipper® card.

SUMMARY:

- In November, 2012, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved the establishment of a “Free Muni for Youth” pilot program on Clipper for low and moderate income San Francisco youth aged five to 17 years old.
- Since that time, the SFMTA Board and Board of Supervisors has approved extending this program to include 18 year olds and 19 to 22 year olds enrolled in the SFUSD’s Special Education Services (SES) program.
- Subsequent to the approval of the extension to the SES program, SFUSD requested expansion of this program to cover 19 to 22 year old English Learner and Foster Care students.
- There are approximately 22,000 youth active in the current program.
- This expansion would include approximately 175 to 200 additional students.

ENCLOSURES:

1. SFMTAB Resolution
2. Title VI Equity Analysis

APPROVALS:

DATE

DIRECTOR _____ 5/26/15

SECRETARY _____ 5/26/15

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: June 2, 2015

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PURPOSE

Approving Free Muni for low and moderate income 19 to 22 year old San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) English Learner and Foster Care students who use a Clipper® card.

GOAL

This item supports all of the Strategic Plan Goals.

Goal 1: Create a safer transportation experience for everyone

Goal 2: Make transit, walking, bicycling, taxi, ridesharing and carsharing the most attractive and preferred means of travel

Goal 3: Improve the environment and quality of life in San Francisco

Goal 4: Create a workplace that delivers outstanding service

DESCRIPTION

In November, 2012, the SFMTA Board of Directors approved the establishment of a “Free Muni for Youth” pilot program for low and moderate income San Francisco youth aged five to 17 years old who use a Clipper card. This program was subsequently reauthorized and extended to include 18 year olds and students enrolled in SFUSD’s Special Education Services (SES) program. The program currently has 22,000 active users.

Subsequent to approval of the program’s expansion, the SFUSD made a request to the SFMTA to extend this program to also include low and moderate income 19 to 22 year olds in SFUSD English Learner and Foster Care programs. It is estimated that approximately 175 to 200 additional students would be eligible for Free Muni under this proposal.

The additional resources required to implement this program would be minimal. Staff will work directly with SFUSD to process applications and issue Clipper cards with a free Muni pass to eligible students. SFUSD will be required to provide SFMTA with monthly reports establishing ongoing eligibility of participants.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Given the diversity of the SFMTA’s service area and ridership and pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations, the SFMTA takes responsible steps to ensure meaningful access to the benefits, services, information, and other important portions of SFMTA’s programs and activities for low-income, minority, and Limited-English Proficient individuals and regardless of race, color or national origin.

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In order to inform our riders and gather public comment regarding the proposed fare change, the SFMTA informed customers of the SFMTA Board of Directors hearing date of June 2, 2015, and advised of the availability of free language assistance at the meeting with 48 hours' notice via multilingual notices on its website and email and text notifications to riders and other stakeholders. Customers were also directed to the City's 311 Telephone Customer Service Center, which provides multilingual assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, to forward comments or questions and find out additional information. Pursuant to Charter Section 16.112, the SFMTA Board of Directors Rules of Order, and state law, advertisements were placed in the City's official newspaper regarding this public hearing. The advertisements ran in the San Francisco Chronicle, the City's official newspaper for five consecutive days, beginning May 11, 2015, to provide notice that the SFMTA Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on June 2, 2015, to consider the expansion of the free Muni program for low to moderate income 19 to 22 year old SFUSD English Learner and Foster Care students.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The reduced price Lifeline pass is one option to reduce the financial burden on these students. It was determined, however, that this expansion would be consistent with the previous policy to include Special Education Students.

FUNDING IMPACT

It is estimated that approximately 175 to 200 students will qualify for this program, reducing annual fare revenue between \$147,000 and \$168,000. This revenue reduction will be absorbed by the operating budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Modifications to fees, fares, fines, rates and charges are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Pursuant to the City Charter, revenue from parking related fees, rates and charges support transit service. CEQA provides a statutory exemption from environmental review for the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring or approval of rates, tolls, and other charges if these rates, tolls, and other charges will be used to meet operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits, or purchase or lease supplies, equipment, or materials.

SFMTA staff, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the proposed fare change is statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(8) and CEQA implementing guidelines.

The SFMTA's determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors. The proposed action is the Approval Action as defined by the S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED

This proposal is considered a fare change and requires the following additional actions:

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Title VI Analysis

Pursuant to the federal requirements contained in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Circular 4702.1A, "Title VI and Title VI-Dependent Guidelines for FTA Recipients," Chapter V Part 4, the SFMTA must conduct an equity analysis of proposed fare changes to determine if they have a disparate impact on minority populations or a disproportionate burden on low-income populations. As a result of this analysis, SFMTA staff determined that there are neither disparate impacts nor disproportionate burdens associated with this proposal. The equity analysis for this proposal is attached. Title VI guidelines require that the SFMTA Board approve the equity analysis.

Board of Supervisors Approval

Pursuant to Charter Section 8.A.108, all fare changes must be submitted to the Board of Supervisors as part of the SFMTA's budget or as a budget amendment. Upon approval by the SFMTA Board of Directors, the SFMTA will submit the fare change to the Board of Supervisors.

The City Attorney has reviewed this calendar item.

RECOMMENDATION

Approving Free Muni for low and moderate income 19 to 22 year old San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) English Learner and Foster Care students who use a Clipper® card.

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The SFMTA Board of Directors has approved a Free Muni program for low and moderate income San Francisco youth aged five to 18 years old who use a Clipper card; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has also approved the expansion of this program to include low and moderate income 19 to 22 year olds enrolled in the San Francisco Unified School District's (SFUSD) Special Education Services program; and

WHEREAS, SFUSD has requested that this program to be expanded to include low and moderate income 19 to 22 year old English Learner and Foster Care students; and

WHEREAS, It has been determined that the administrative and fiscal impact of implementing this program is relatively low; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Charter Section 16.112 and SFMTA Board of Directors Rules of Order, advertisements were placed in the City's official newspaper, the San Francisco Chronicle, to provide published notice of the June 2, 2015 hearing which ran for five consecutive days beginning on May 11, 2015; and

WHEREAS, SFMTA staff, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the proposed program is statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(8) and CEQA implementing guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Said CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and is incorporated herein by this reference. The proposed action is the Approval Action as defined by the S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the federal requirements contained in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Circular 4702.1A, "Title VI and Title VI-Dependent Guidelines for FTA Recipients," Chapter V Part 4, the SFMTA must conduct an equity analysis of proposed fare changes to determine if they have a disparate impact on minority populations or a disproportionate burden on low-income populations; and

WHEREAS, SFMTA staff prepared a Title VI analysis of the proposed fare change and determined that there are neither disparate impacts nor disproportionate burdens associated with this proposal which is contained within this file; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Charter Section 8.A.108, all fare changes must be submitted to the Board of Supervisors as part of the SFMTA's budget or as a budget amendment; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors approves the Title VI Analysis of providing Free Muni for low and moderate income 19 to 22 year old SFUSD English Learner and Foster Care students who use a Clipper® card; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors approves providing Free Muni for low and moderate income 19 to 22 year old San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) English Learner and Foster Care students who use a Clipper® card; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Transportation Agency Board of Directors urges the Board of Supervisors to approve the fare change.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of June 2, 2015.

Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency