

**THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO.:** 10.4

**SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

**DIVISION:** Government Affairs

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

Endorsing the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan* on the Muni system and throughout the Bay Area to keep transit riders and workers healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic to support implementation of the plan, and committing that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will report monthly on the agency's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan*.

**SUMMARY:**

- Despite an unprecedented loss of ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many riders continue to depend on Bay Area systems for essential travel and passengers want to be assured steps have been taken to provide not only a safe ride but one that is consistent across all Bay Area operators.
- Collectively, the transit operators in the nine Bay Area counties joined forces to initiate research, study U.S. and international efforts, and review information from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), to develop common commitments and expectations for employees and passengers.
- From this work, the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan* was developed, including collaboration with regional leaders, transit workers, paratransit providers, rider advocates, public health experts, and others.
- Approval of this Resolution endorses the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan* as a baseline set of measures that the San Francisco Transportation Agency (SFMTA), along with other Bay Area transit agencies, supporting implementation to ensure the health of transit riders and workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, including that the SFMTA will report monthly on the agency's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the Plan.

**ENCLOSURES:**

1. SFMTAB Resolution
2. Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan

**APPROVALS:**

DIRECTOR 

SECRETARY 

**DATE**

September 8, 2020

September 8, 2020

**ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE:** September 15, 2020

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## **PURPOSE**

Endorsing the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan* on the Muni system and throughout the Bay Area to keep transit riders and workers healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic to support implementation of the plan, and committing that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will report monthly on the agency's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan*.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND TRANSIT FIRST POLICY PRINCIPLES**

Approval of this resolution supports the following SFMTA Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Create a safer transportation experience for everyone.

Objective 1.2: Improve the safety of the transit system.

Goal 4: Create a workplace that delivers outstanding service.

Objective 4.2: Improve the safety, security, and functionality of SFMTA work environments.

Objective 4.3: Enhance customer service, public outreach, and engagement.

Approval of this resolution supports the following Transit First policies:

1. To ensure quality of life and economic health in San Francisco, the primary objective of the transportation system must be the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Like other Bay Area transit systems, the health of riders and transit workers continues to be SFMTA's number one priority. Despite an unprecedented loss of ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many riders continue to depend on Bay Area systems for essential travel. Survey data increasingly suggests that the majority of riders will return to transit when allowed to do so. Passengers want to be assured steps have been taken to provide a safe ride that is consistent across all Bay Area operators.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented transit systems with an historic set of challenges, including the need to adjust protocols and procedures to ensure a safe operating environment. Since the start of the pandemic, transit systems have collaborated with each other and with regional leaders, transit workers, rider advocates, public health experts, and others to create the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan*, which outlines a baseline set of measures that transit systems will implement to protect riders and workers.

The *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan* provides guidance in the areas of vehicle disinfecting, physical distancing, face coverings, touchless payments, ventilation, employee personal protective equipment, testing, contact tracing, and employee wellness assessments. The Plan will

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coexist and complement system specific plans developed by individual transit agencies. It is intended to evolve as transit agencies continue to monitor rider and employee health on their systems and collaboratively take steps to respond to changing conditions.

Specifically, the purpose of the plan is to:

- Identify consistent health and safety standards for public transportation customers to do and public transportation providers to implement as the Bay Area eases out of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order.
- Clarify expectations and responsibilities of transit customers and transit providers.
- Recommend communications strategies and key messages to provide public transportation customer and provider compliance with and support for mitigations.

The Plan currently anticipates that with continued compliance with California-mandated face covering requirements, physical distancing recommendations may change over time to allow for increased vehicle capacity to serve more Bay Area customers, while still complying with epidemiological research and transit best practice.

The guidance may change and adapt as research around COVID-19 evolves, as performance against the Plan is achieved, and/or as the COVID-19 situation in California and the Bay Area changes. In the event that state or local public health orders or directives are more restrictive than the guidance in the Plan, transit providers will follow the stricter measures.

Finally, a set of public transit baseline health metrics are identified (see page 23 of the Plan), which will form the basis of a publicly accessible information “dashboard.” Participating transit providers will report regular progress updates to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) monthly starting in September.

### **TRANSIT SERVICE IMPACT**

None

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission formed a 30-member Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force that has worked with the Bay Area’s local public transit agencies to develop the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan. The Plan was discussed at four meetings of the Task Force between June and September. Development of the Plan included input from regional leaders, transit workers, paratransit providers, rider advocates, public health experts, and others. A Bay Area-wide public communications effort was launched alongside the Plan’s release starting with a press event on August 19th and an action to support the Plan was approved by MTC on August 26th.

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## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The alternative is to not approve the resolution. Because it is important for the region's operators to stand together and support this guidance to follow public health recommendations consistently throughout the region, staff recommend that the resolution be approved.

## **FUNDING IMPACT**

The Plan includes mitigations, such as enhanced vehicle cleaning, that have associated costs; however, most of these costs are already being incurred by the SFMTA as part of ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery. Minor additional cost will be associated with tracking and reporting on metrics.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

On August 19, 2020, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b).

A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and is incorporated herein by reference.

## **OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED**

MTC has requested that all of the Bay Area's transit operators' governing boards approve a resolution endorsing the Plan, including the baseline set of measures that Bay Area transit agencies will implement to ensure the health of transit riders and workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most agencies are expected to adopt such resolutions by the end of September.

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the calendar item.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the SFMTA Board of Directors endorse the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan* on our system and throughout the Bay Area to keep transit riders and workers healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic to support implementation and commit that, through the method established for transit system reporting of health metrics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will report monthly on the Agency's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the *Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan*.

SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, Like other Bay Area transit systems, the health of riders and transit workers continues to be San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency’s number one priority; and

WHEREAS, Despite an unprecedented loss of ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many riders continue to depend on Bay Area systems for essential travel; and

WHEREAS, Survey data increasingly suggests that the majority of riders will return to transit when allowed to do so; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has presented transit systems with an historic set of challenges, including the need to adjust protocols and procedures to ensure a safe operating environment; and

WHEREAS, Since the start of the pandemic, transit systems have collaborated with each other and with regional leaders, transit workers, rider advocates, public health experts, and others to create the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan, which outlines a baseline set of measures that transit systems will implement to protect riders and workers; and

WHEREAS, The Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan provides guidance in the areas of vehicle disinfecting, physical distancing, face coverings, touchless payments, ventilation, employee personal protective equipment, testing, contact tracing, and employee wellness assessments; and

WHEREAS, The Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan will coexist and complement system specific plans developed by individual transit agencies; and

WHEREAS, The Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan is a living document and is intended to evolve as transit agencies continue to monitor rider and employee health on their systems and collaboratively take steps to respond to changing conditions; and

WHEREAS, On August 19, 2020, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan is not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b); and

WHEREAS, A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, and is incorporated herein by reference; and, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors endorses the implementation of the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan on the SFMTA transit system and throughout the Bay Area to keep transit riders and workers healthy during the

COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, That through the method established for transit system reporting of health metrics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will report monthly on the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of September 15, 2020.

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Secretary to the Board of Directors  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

