



Agenda Item No. (4)

To: Transportation Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of August 27, 2020

From: Ron Downing, Director of Planning
Mona Babauta, Deputy General Manager, Bus
James P. Swindler, Deputy General Manager, Ferry
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **AUTHORIZE A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT ENDORSING THE
“RIDING TOGETHER: BAY AREA HEALTHY TRANSIT PLAN”**

Recommendation

The Transportation Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize a resolution of support endorsing the “Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan”.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its August 28, 2020 meeting for appropriate action.

Summary

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an unprecedented loss of transit ridership in the Bay Area region. Nonetheless, many riders continue to depend on the region’s transit network for essential travel. Maintaining the health of transit riders and transit employees has been of utmost concern to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) and among the Bay Area’s transit operators. During the past few months, the transit operators have joined forces to review efforts already taking place in the region, initiate research to study U.S. and international efforts, and review information from the American Public Transit Association (APTA), to develop common commitments and expectations for employees and passengers in our Bay Area transit systems.

From that work, the transit operators jointly developed the “Riding Together—Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan”. Development of this plan has additionally included collaboration with regional leaders, transit workers, paratransit providers, rider advocates, public health experts, and others. This plan captures what the District has already been doing, along with the other transit operators, to create a baseline set of measures that ensure the health of transit riders and workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The transit agencies view the safety of our employees and passengers as the number one priority. This plan serves as a guiding tool for commitments among the Bay Area’s transit operators to

identify common health practices during the pandemic that have been implemented for our employees, passengers riding now, as well as those who will be returning to transit in the future.

The 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 coexist and complement system specific plans developed by the District and other transit agencies.

Additionally, the plan lays the groundwork for a partnership with our customers and the shared responsibility for reducing transmission by properly wearing face coverings and other expectations. It is important to note that the plan will be a living document, and will be subject to revision and modification due to the changing nature of the pandemic and its recovery phases. All of the region's transit operators are committed to the success of the plan and its elements. Transit riders will carry their own responsibilities for wearing facial coverings and appropriately distancing themselves on transit vehicles as well.

As a regional effort, the "Riding Together—Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan" will be presented to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) at its August 26, 2020 meeting. MTC has requested that each agency provide monthly reporting as to its performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan. MTC has further requested that each transit agency that participated in the plan's development have its governing board provide a resolution of support (attached).

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting this resolution of support.

Attachment: Resolution of Support to Endorse the "Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan"

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0XX

ENDORSE THE “RIDING TOGETHER: BAY AREA HEALTHY TRANSIT PLAN”

August 28, 2020

WHEREAS, like other Bay Area transit systems, the health of riders and transit workers continues to be the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District’s number one priority;

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;

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

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;

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;

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;

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

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, the Transportation Committee, at its meeting of August 27, 2020, has so recommended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District supports the implementation of 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; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that through the method established for transit system reporting of health metrics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, that the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District will report monthly on Golden Gate Transit Bus and Golden Gate Ferry's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan.

ADOPTED this 28th day of August 2020, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES (0):
NOES (0):
ABSENT (0):

[Note: On this date, there were two vacancies on the Board of Directors.]

Barbara L. Pahre
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST: _____
Amorette M. Ko-Wong
Secretary of the District

Reference: August 27, 2020, Transportation Committee, Agenda Item No. (4)