

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-027

APPROVE SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1706

April 27, 2012

WHEREAS, state law currently mandates that the weight on any single axle of a transit bus may not exceed 20,500 lbs.; and,

WHEREAS, due to numerous state and federal mandates, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and mandated emissions reduction equipment, some transit buses may often exceed the maximum allowed weight, especially when carrying significant passenger loads, as is the mission of Golden Gate Transit (GGT); and,

WHEREAS, some transit systems have been cited recently by local police departments for violating the Vehicle Code by being over the maximum allowed weight; and,

WHEREAS, relying on the current procedures in state law for overweight vehicles, such as paying fines resulting from citations, paying fees, or administering thousands of annual permits on a city-by-city basis, would prove costly and time-consuming for transit agencies and other local governments statewide, and would fail to solve the underlying problem of an outdated Vehicle Code which was created more than thirty-five years ago and which cannot address current operating environments, or legal and regulatory requirements for public transit; and,

WHEREAS, AB 1706 would create a task force for the purpose of preparing a report which will:

- Make recommendations regarding any changes that should be made to current axle weight limits;
- Make recommendations relative to the design and construction of highways and local streets and roads, taking into account the need to support a sustainable transportation network including adequate public transportation service by bus, and federal and state requirements that affect the weight of transit vehicles;
- Compare and analyze the costs of the pavement wear caused by transit buses with the costs of the pavement wear caused by other vehicles such as trucks or vehicles such as municipal garbage trucks or fire engines; and,
- Consider past and ongoing efforts at the Federal level to address this issue, including transit bus weight exemptions contained in the last federal surface transportation authorization bill; and,

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WHEREAS, AB 1706 is to take effect January 1, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the task force, made up of representatives from the transit industry, cities and counties, the state and law enforcement, would be required to submit the report by January 1, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, between January 1, 2013 and January 1, 2016, transit systems would be allowed to run their current buses, but would not be allowed to procure buses that are heavier than those in their current fleet; and,

WHEREAS, if a transit system must procure a new type of bus not currently being run, it would not be prohibited from doing so provided that oversight, through a public hearing, is provided; and,

WHEREAS, the Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee/Committee of the Whole, at its meeting of April 27, 2012, has so recommended; now, therefore, be it


RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District hereby approves support of California State Assembly Bill No. 1706, which authorizes an analysis of the state weight limit for public transit buses by creating a task force to report to the legislature regarding recommendations for addressing such weight limits in the future.

ADOPTED this 27th day of April 2012, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES (19): Directors Arnold, Campos, Chu, Cochran, Elsbernd, Fredericks, Mar, Moylan, Pahre, Rabbitt, Renée, Sears, Snyder, Sobel, Stroeh and Theriault; Second Vice President Grosboll; First Vice President Eddie; President Reilly
NOES (0): None
ABSENT (0): None



Janet Reilly
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST: 

Janet S. Tarantino
Secretary of the District