

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
RESOLUTION NO.
SERIES 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
IN SUPPORT OF SEAMLESS TRANSIT PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area faces challenges due to several interrelated crises, such as housing affordability, traffic congestion, air pollution, and social inequality, all of which are exacerbated by an inadequate and poorly performing public transportation system; and

WHEREAS, despite large financial investments in transportation infrastructure in the Bay Area over the past five decades, there has not been a significant shift towards the use of public transportation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2017, approximately 12% of all workers in the nine Bay Area counties commuted to work by public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board reported in 2018 that no California regions, including the Bay Area, are on track to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets, with increasing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and declines in transit ridership cited as primary factors; and

WHEREAS, public transit in the Bay Area is uncoordinated and costly for many types of trips, requiring riders to use multiple transit systems operated independently with little coordination, pay multiple separate fares, experience unpredictable transfers, and navigate different wayfinding systems and brand identities; and

WHEREAS, low-income people, many of whom have experienced displacement and have long commutes requiring multiple transit services, are among the most adversely affected by the Bay Area's poorly integrated public transportation system, experiencing a significant financial burden from needing to pay multiple separate transit fares or being forced into costly vehicle ownership; and

WHEREAS, regions with high-ridership public transportation systems are, by contrast, characterized by highly integrated networks of quality local and regional transit services that make traveling without a private automobile convenient and easy for all types of trips, featuring aligned routes and schedules, coordinated transfers, high-quality transit hubs, common branding and customer information, and other common regional customer experience standards; and

WHEREAS, regions that have successfully integrated and simplified transit fares have experienced many broad social benefits, including a shift in travel from private cars to public transit, an increase in overall public transit usage, and expanded mobility options and cost savings for riders; and

WHEREAS, a well-functioning and coordinated transit system plays a critical role in supporting public health and safety during an emergency. During and in the aftermath of major disruptions to our transit system, close coordination among agencies facilitates prioritization of the most critical needs, efficient deployment of resources, and clear communication to customers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mountain General Plan Goal Mob-5 encourages planning and coordination for local and regional transit access that is efficient, frequent, convenient, and safe;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mountain View that the City Council hereby supports the Seamless Transit Principles as follows:

1. The City of Mountain View affirms commitment to working collaboratively with State agencies, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, municipalities, and other public agencies to develop a highly integrated regional transportation system that provides convenient, seamless, and affordable transit for customers.

2. The City Council of the City of Mountain View supports the Seamless Transit Principles listed in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein, and agrees to be publicly listed as a supporter.

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Exhibit: A. Seamless Transit Principles

The Seamless Transit Principles



1) Run all Bay Area transit as one easy-to-use system

Public transit should work as one seamless, connected, and convenient network across the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Getting around on transit should be as fast and easy as driving a car. Coordinated bus, rail, and ferry routes and schedules should encourage effortless transfers. Consistent and clear customer information, branding, and maps should make using transit simple and dignified.



2) Put riders first

Riders should feel comfortable when using transit and be treated like valued customers. Public transit agencies must do more to listen to riders and continuously improve service. They must prioritize riders' needs above all else, and overcome all operational, political and bureaucratic barriers to provide an excellent and seamless customer experience.



3) Make public transit equitable and accessible to all

People of all income levels, ages, abilities, genders, and backgrounds should have access to world-class public transit. People who are the most reliant on transit are best served by a universal, inclusive, regionally integrated, connected system that is used by all. People with limited means to pay for transit should be provided with discounts.



4) Align transit prices and passes to be simple, fair, and affordable

Transit should provide good value for money. Fares across the region's 27 public transit agencies must be aligned into a consistent, fair, and affordable system that encourages using transit for all types of trips and doesn't punish riders for transferring. Cost-effective monthly passes should work across the Bay Area and should be widely available to individuals, employers, and schools.



5) Connect effortlessly with other sustainable transportation

A person's journey does not end when they get off a bus or exit a station. Excellent pedestrian, bicycle, and other pollution-free transportation options should seamlessly connect public transit to communities and destinations, supporting door-to-door trips that don't require a car.



6) Plan communities and transportation together

High quality public transit should be at the heart of communities across the Bay Area. Transportation should be closely aligned with our region's land use, promoting a connected network of transit-oriented, walkable communities that expands access to affordable housing and job opportunities, and reduces car travel and greenhouse gas emissions.



7) Prioritize reforms to create a seamless network

A regionally integrated, world-class transit system won't happen on its own -- it will take leadership, unprecedented levels of cooperation, and changes to existing local, regional, and state policies. The cities, counties, public transit agencies, regional authorities, business leaders, advocacy groups and elected representatives of the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California megaregion must prioritize the broad public interest and urgently work together collaboratively to advance critical reforms. Our future depends on it!

Principles are also viewable at: www.seamlessbayarea.org/seamless-transit-principles