

[Motion to Support Efforts - Urging the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority to Continue the Promotion and Funding of the Free Muni for All Youth Program]

**Motion to urge the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority to Continue the Promotion and Funding of the Free Muni for All Youth Program by Including it as a Baseline in Their Budget.**

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Youth Commission is a chartered body in the City and County of San Francisco implying the voice of youth in government spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Commission has consistently advocated for Free Muni For Youth (FMFY) since 2010 with RESOLUTION NO. 1011-AL041 calling on the SFMTA and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to implement the Youth Lifeline Fast Pass and expand the program to 18-year-olds and later to expand the program to all youth; and

WHEREAS, the FMFY program was created in 2013 as a pilot program that allowed low to moderate-income youth aged 5-17 to ride for free; and

WHEREAS, the access to free public transit is essential for all students in San Francisco with the limited availability of school funded school buses across the City and County of San Francisco and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Municipal Transformation Authority has secured funding for the FMFY program for the 2024-2025 with no further signal of having it be a part of the baseline budget for the department ; and therefore be it

MOVED, that the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority will continue the promotion and funding of the Free Muni for All Youth program by including it as a baseline in future budgets for the department.

March 10, 2024

San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority  
Board of Directors  
1 Van Ness Ave.  
Floor 7  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Re: Support the Ongoing Promotion and Funding of the Free Muni for All Youth Program By Including It As a Baseline in the SFMTA Budget**

Dear San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority Board of Directors,

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports the ongoing promotion and funding of the Free Muni for All Youth program by including it as a baseline in the department's budget.

The Youth Commission has consistently advocated for Free Muni For Youth (FMFY). This advocacy began in 2010 with RESOLUTION NO. 1011-AL041 calling on the SFMTA and San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to implement the Youth Lifeline Fast Pass. Further Resolutions called for the expansion of the program to 18-year-olds and later to expand the program to all youth.

The 2019-2020 Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 1920-AL-144, where they highlighted that the Free Muni for Low and Moderate-Income Youth program suffered from a complex application process and was not widely known, especially to people with limited English proficiency and who did not have easy access to the SFMTA offices at 1 South Van Ness Avenue. Youth Commissioners proposed the current Free Muni for All Youth (FMFAY) Program in the resolution. The new program reduced the administrative burden on SFMTA to process applications, verify eligibility, and issue Clipper cards.

During the 2020-2021 budget advocacy season and forward, Youth Commissioners met with SFMTA budget staff and urged them to fund the 1-year pilot program. Additionally, Youth Commissioners included the FMFAY program in RESOLUTION NO. 1819-AL-03, on Omnibus Preliminary Budget Priorities. On August 15, 2021, Muni, with \$2 Million in funding included in Mayor Breed's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 and FY 2022-2023 budget proposal, launched the 1-year pilot FMFAY program until August 14, 2022. On

April 19, 2022, the SFMTA Board of Directors voted to approve their FY 2023-2024 budget which included \$4.1 Million to continue the FMFAY program until June 2024.<sup>1</sup>

The implementation of FMFAY has dramatically increased program accessibility compared to the previous means-tested program. SFUSD's most recent travel tally survey found that 60% of SFUSD 9th graders use Muni on any given day.<sup>2</sup> The new program is succeeding in reaching youth who didn't previously have a Free Muni Clipper Card—61% of youth utilizing the FMFAY program did not participate in the means-tested FMFY program.<sup>3</sup>

The FMFAY program is critical in removing the financial burden of fares for families. The easy and equitable access to public transportation that the FMFAY program provides is essential for San Francisco's young people to access school, extracurricular activities, jobs, and other opportunities.

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority to continue the Free Muni for All Youth program and continue to promote and collect data on the success of the Free Muni for Youth program.

Sincerely,

---

Ewan Barker Plummer, Chair  
Adopted on  
2023-2024 San Francisco Youth Commission

---

<sup>1</sup> SFMTA Consolidated Budget for Fiscal Years 2023 & 2024. SFMTA.

<sup>2</sup> 2019-20 SFUSD Travel Tally Data K, 5th, 6th, 9th. (2020, March 20). SFUSD.

<sup>3</sup> Report for Free Muni for Youth.