

**CITY OF SAN MATEO  
RESOLUTION NO. 41 (2020)**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SEAMLESS BAY AREA'S SEAMLESS TRANSIT PRINCIPLES.**

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area is challenged by several interrelated crises – decreasing housing affordability, increasing congestion, rising pollution, and widening inequality – which are exacerbated by an inadequate and poorly-performing public transportation system; and

WHEREAS, despite billions of dollars of investments in new transportation infrastructure over the past five decades, public transit in the Bay Area has failed to attract large numbers of new riders and has never been used more than 12% of the population for commute trips since 1970; by contrast automobiles have always been used for over 75% of commute trips; and

WHEREAS, the quality of and usage of public transit in the Bay Area has declined in recent years, with transit trips per capita declining by 10%, average bus speeds declining by 9%, and transit commute times increasing by 11% between 2001 and 2016; 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 Travelled (VMT) and declines in transit ridership cited as primary factors; and

WHEREAS, using public transit in the Bay Area is inconvenient 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, especially those who 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 and experience a significant financial burden from needing to pay multiple separate transit fares or being forced into costly vehicle ownership; 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, the adoption of this resolution is not a project subject to CEQA, because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment because the City is committing to working collaboratively to further Seamless Bay Area's Seamless Transit Principles and not to a specific project at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY RESOLVES that:

1. The City is committed 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 of San Mateo supports the Seamless Transit Principles listed in Exhibit A and agrees that the City of San Mateo to be publicly listed as a supporter.

RESOLUTION NO. 41 (2020) adopted by the City Council of the City of San Mateo, California, at a regular meeting held on May 4, 2020, by the following vote of the City Council:

AYES: Council Members Goethals, Rodriguez, Bonilla, Lee and Papan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

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Patrice M. Olds, City Clerk

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Joe Goethals, Mayor

## Exhibit A

The Seamless Transit Principles Viewable at: [www.seamlessbayarea.org/seamless-transit-principles](http://www.seamlessbayarea.org/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!