[Resolution Urging Bay Bridge Congestion Pricing Program]

Resolution urging the Legislature of the State of California or, in the alternative, the nine Bay Area counties that compose the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to pass legislation establishing a congestion pricing program for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

WHEREAS, A recent survey by the Census Bureau reports that the Bay Area commute is the longest in the western states, and ten minutes longer than the national average, due in large part to steadily worsening traffic congestion on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge; and,

WHEREAS, The air quality of the Bay Area was recently found to not be in compliance with Federal air quality standards; and,

WHEREAS, “Congestion pricing” is a method of charging increased tolls during peak commute times; and,

WHEREAS, Congestion pricing could be designed so that high occupancy vehicles, or “car-pools”, are not charged a fee; and,

WHEREAS, Congestion pricing could be designed with “express lanes” that solo drivers could access for a fee; and,

WHEREAS, Congestion pricing would encourage persons to carpool or use public transit services and reduce congestion for motorists required to continue traveling as single occupants during peak commute hours; and,

WHEREAS, Drivers and non-drivers would both benefit from congestion pricing because charging more during peak commute hours would do more to reduce traffic and raise more money than a flat-rate increase; and,
WHEREAS, The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge experiences severe and chronic traffic congestion during peak periods of use during weekday mornings and evenings; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is at the heart of the Bay Area transportation infrastructure and a critical factor in the health of the regional economy; and,

WHEREAS, Traffic congestion on the bridge has a high cost to residents of the region, environmentally, economically, and socially; and,

WHEREAS, Not only does traffic congestion on the bridge delay hundreds of thousands of Bay Area commuters and the transport of goods and services, but it also contributes to air pollution, thereby jeopardizing the respiratory health of Bay Area residents; and,

WHEREAS, Lower-income communities would benefit from additional public transit funding and would not be affected during non-commuter hours;

WHEREAS, Additional funds raised from a congestion pricing program could be spent to maintain and expand transit operations that serve communities with fewer transportation options; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the legislature of the State of California or, in the alternative, the nine Bay Area counties that comprise the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to pass legislation establishing a congestion pricing program for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any and all additional funds raised through a congestion pricing program shall be dedicated to public transit agencies in the nine Bay Area counties that comprise the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send a copy of this resolution to the local and state legislators in all nine Bay Area counties that comprise the Metropolitan

Supervisors Gerardo Sandoval, Matt Gonzalez, Chris Daly, Jake McGoldrick, and Aaron Peskin

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Resolution urging the Legislature of the State of California or, in the alternative, the nine Bay area counties that compose the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to pass legislation establishing a congestion pricing program for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

July 22, 2002 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 7 - Daly, Gonzalez, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Sandoval
Noes: 3 - Ammiano, Hall, Yee
Absent: 1 - Peskin

File No. 020447

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on July 22, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

AUG 02 2002

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.