Resolution urging State and Federal emergency funding for Caltrain to remain operational in light of operational and budget declines due to COVID-19; and affirming the role that Caltrain plays in transporting people to essential activities.

WHEREAS, Caltrain provides rail transportation to the Peninsula Corridor region including the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara; and

WHEREAS, Public transit is critical to the region’s economy and environment, and especially during the Coronavirus pandemic, is critical to transporting people performing Essential Activities or traveling to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain Essential Governmental Functions; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain strives to maintain adequate service levels during this critical “Shelter In Place” time, especially to accommodate for our first responders, healthcare professionals, service providers, and grocery store clerks who rely on transit to get to work; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain ridership levels have significantly declined since March 11, 2020 following the declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization, and have continued to see declines since the San Francisco Health Officer ordered San Franciscans to “Shelter in Place” on March 16, 2020, followed by the Governor issuing statewide shelter in place order on March 19, 2020 until further notice; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain has suffered from an 86% decrease in daily ticket sales, as a result of the COVID-19 and the shelter in place order; and
WHEREAS, With no other dedicated source of funding, Caltrain’s operating budget is funded in large part (70%) by farebox revenues, and the agency estimates that the current ridership decline could reduce Caltrain’s monthly revenues by $6.2M; and

WHEREAS, According to Caltrain, a complete 100% ridership loss due to service shutdown and a 75% reduction of economic activity impacting other sources could reduce Caltrain monthly revenues by $12.5M; and

WHEREAS, These events have led the Caltrain’s Board of Directors to decide to temporarily reduce service hours, including operating 42 trains per day, rather than the usual 92 based on ridership data as a cost reduction measure; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain is experiencing revenue losses over $6.2M per week from fare loss, and parking garages; and

WHEREAS, Caltrain is in need of additional funding to cover these transit operating revenue losses that are critical to providing continued transportation service during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, If Caltrain does not receive new resources by May 2020, the entire system will shut down for passenger service; and

WHEREAS, As of March 22, 2020, neither the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nor the State of California had issued guidance on whether a local special district, such as Caltrain, could directly apply for funding provided by The Federal Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of keeping our disaster service workers in motion, Caltrain needs emergency funding for the local and regional transit system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges State and Federal leaders to quickly identify and authorize funding for Caltrain to continue providing essential public transit service and restore transit service for those essential workers
who must access jobs that are providing public safety, health and social services for the
people of San Francisco and the Peninsula Corridor; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall transmit a copy of this
resolution to Governor Newsom, the California Office of Emergency Services, the California
State Transportation Agency, State Senator Scott Wiener, State Assemblymembers Phil Ting
and David Chiu; President Donald Trump, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein,
Senator Kamala Harris, and Representative Jackie Speier.
Resolution urging State and Federal emergency funding for Caltrain to remain operational in light of operational and budget declines due to COVID-19; and affirming the role that Caltrain plays in transporting people to essential activities.

April 07, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/7/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

___________________________                 __________________________
Angela Calvillo                 Date
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned
04/17/2020
London N. Breed
Date Approved
Mayor

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

___________________________                 __________________________
Angela Calvillo                 Date
Clerk of the Board