

RESOLUTION NO. 21-_____

Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Resolution Urging The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) To Immediately Program \$1.67 Billion In American Rescue Plan (ARP) Transit Funds For Use In Restoring Bay Area Transit Service And For Immediate Use

WHEREAS, public transit is an essential public service that our constituents depend on, especially our low income and Black and Brown constituents, our frontline workers, and our elders, students, and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, transportation emissions are the highest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the country, as well as a source of toxic pollution that is hazardous to our constituents' health, and public transit is a crucial method to drastically reduce transportation emissions; and

WHEREAS, Bay Area public transit agencies are lagging behind other agencies in the U.S. and California in restoring service to pre-pandemic levels; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts from the pandemic have been severe, so stimulating the economy through federal stimulus funds in the near-term is crucial; and

WHEREAS, Congress has apportioned to Bay Area transit agencies a generous stimulus package of \$1.67 billion dollars to hire workers and restore service, and MTC is not planning to program these funds until late July, after agencies adopt fiscal year 2021-2022 budgets, resulting in an inability by transit agencies to factor the ARP funds into next year's budget; and

WHEREAS, MTC has publicly stated that it is prioritizing saving those funds for years in the future as opposed to restoring service to pre-pandemic levels by the end of fiscal year 2021-2022; and

WHEREAS, the transit agencies in our districts need to budget these funds now in order to plan to hire workers, fund operations, and restore service in the fiscal year that begins July 1; and

WHEREAS, as mid-pandemic stimulus funding, it should be distributed immediately to stimulate our local economies by hiring workers and taking shoppers and diners to their destinations to spend money in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the longer service levels remain reduced, the more likely it is that riders will give up on transit and find permanent alternatives; and

WHEREAS, waiting to restore pre-pandemic service may lead to permanent damage to public transportation, and undermine our climate, equity and economic recovery goals, and lead to unnecessary congestion on our streets and freeways; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Emeryville that we urge MTC to program (or make a fund estimate of) ARP funds immediately, so that it can be put to immediate use in restoring service and creating good union jobs; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, that we urge MTC to prioritize the ARP funds for immediate use and not years in the future.

ADOPTED, by the City Council of the City of Emeryville at a regular meeting held Tuesday, July 6, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:
Andrea Visveshwara
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INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY