

RESOLUTION NO. 87-21

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,
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**

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 RESOLVED 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.

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

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held July 6, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III.
NOES: Mayor Butt.
ABSTENTIONS: Councilmember Bates.
ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

THOMAS K. BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

TERESA STRICKER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 87-21**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on July 6, 2021.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond