

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: MATTHEW WILCOX, TRANSIT PLANNER  
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSIT DIVISION  
SUBJECT: BAY AREA HEALTHY TRANSIT PLAN

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council, by resolution, support implementation of the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan, which includes monthly reporting from City staff on Santa Rosa CityBus's performance in implementing the baseline metrics set forth in the plan.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bay Area's public transit providers, in consultation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, have collectively developed a health and safety plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan. The purpose of the plan is to establish a uniform set of transit-specific health and safety standards and mitigations to be implemented by all Bay Area transit operators. The plan additionally calls for monthly reporting of key metrics related to health and safety practices to a public dashboard. In supporting implementation of the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan, the Council will enable Santa Rosa CityBus to join the other Bay Area transit operators in a cohesive, consistent, and coordinated effort to ensure the safety of transit workers and riders across the entire Bay Area.

BACKGROUND

As a response to the economic and health crisis stemming from the COVID-19 Pandemic, and more specifically to the impacts on the Bay Area public transit providers, the MTC has convened a Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of the MTC commissioners, elected officials, transit officials, labor representatives, and public transit advocates. A key initial task of the Task Force was overseeing development of a plan for implementing a uniform set of transit system health and safety practices in the Bay Area in response to the pandemic. The Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan is now complete and has been adopted by the

MTC Commission with the caveat that State-issued safety mandates relating to public transit systems will supersede the Plan in cases where conflicts arise. MTC drafted a resolution (Attachment 1) for all Bay Area transit providers to bring to their policy boards for approval. It is the goal of the Task Force that this action will result in commitment by all Bay Area transit operators to implement a standard set of health and safety practices to ensure the safety and well-being of their riders and staff.

#### PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

#### ANALYSIS

The Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan includes recommendations for health and safety practices that have already been implemented by the City of Santa Rosa Transit Division in response to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, California Department of Public Health, Cal/OSHA, and the Sonoma County Public Health Officer, in addition to City of Santa Rosa COVID-19 policies. The plan aligns closely with existing practices, while making recommendations for additional actions that can be taken, such as implementation of a “Quiet Ride” public information campaign to request riders to limit talking, singing or other verbal activity while onboard vehicles. The plan can be accessed by the public at <http://healthytransitplan.com/>.

In cases where the Plan is less stringent than state law or other relevant requirements from federal, state, or local public health agencies, Santa Rosa CityBus will continue to follow the more stringent requirements. For example, the Plan sets forth the requirement for minimum three-foot social distancing with face coverings onboard transit vehicles, as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). However, it is staff’s assessment that current State guidance requires six feet of social distancing onboard transit vehicles. For this reason, Transit Division staff plan to continue current practices to maintain six feet of social distancing onboard transit vehicles.

To monitor the impact of the Healthy Transit Plan, Bay Area Transit operators will collect and report four data sets: 1) Passenger compliance with the use of face coverings, 2) vehicle capacity for safe distancing, 3) operator/staff compliance with the use of face coverings, and 4) contact tracing follow-through for any infected employees (to be coordinated with local public health officials). Public transit providers will upload the data to a publicly accessible website monthly.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan
- Attachment 2 – Resolution

CONTACT

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