

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2020-162

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIDING TOGETHER: BAY AREA HEALTHY TRANSIT PLAN

WHEREAS, like other Bay Area transit systems, the health of riders and transit workers continues to be Santa Rosa CityBus's number one priority; and

WHEREAS, despite an unprecedented loss of ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many riders continue to depend on Bay Area systems for essential travel; and

WHEREAS, survey data increasingly suggests that the majority of riders will return to transit when allowed to do so; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented transit systems with an historic set of challenges, including the need to adjust protocols and procedures to ensure a safe operating environment; and

WHEREAS, since the start of the pandemic, transit systems have collaborated with each other and with regional leaders, transit workers, rider advocates, public health experts, and others to create the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan, which outlines a baseline set of measures that transit systems will implement to protect riders and workers; and

WHEREAS, the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan provides guidance in the areas of vehicle disinfecting, physical distancing, face coverings, touchless payments, ventilation, employee personal protective equipment, testing, contact tracing, and employee wellness assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan will coexist and complement system specific plans developed by individual transit agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan is a living document and is intended to evolve as transit agencies continue to monitor rider and employee health on their systems and collaboratively take steps to respond to changing conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Santa Rosa supports the implementation of the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan on the Santa Rosa CityBus system and throughout the Bay Area to keep transit riders and workers healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Santa Rosa CityBus will report monthly on Santa Rosa CityBus's performance in aligning with the baseline health measures set forth in the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan through the method established for transit system reporting of health metrics related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notwithstanding the City of Santa Rosa's support for implementation of the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan, that support will not limit Santa Rosa CityBus from continuing to follow or otherwise relying on relevant Centers for Disease Control, California Department of Public Health, California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, and Sonoma County Public Health Officer laws, regulations, orders and/or other guidance for operation of transit services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in such cases in which such guidance from federal, state and local officials and experts is more restrictive than the guidance in the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 13th day of October, 2020.

AYES: (7) Mayor Schwedhelm, Vice Mayor Fleming, Council Members Dowd, Olivares, Rogers, Sawyer, Tibbetts

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
City Clerk Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney