[Extending Funding for Free Muni for Youth Program]

**Resolution urging the Mayor, and Board of Supervisors, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to identify and provide permanent funding for the Free Muni for Youth (FMFY) Program**

WHEREAS, the FMFY Program allows youth ages from five through eighteen, and nineteen through twenty-two enrolled in SFUSD Special Education Services and English Learner programs with family incomes below 100% of the Bay Area median income, to ride MUNI for free; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Free Muni for Youth Program in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco funded in 2013 the initial FMFY 18-month pilot program, to which Google in February 2014 donated $6.8 million to fund continuation of this program.

WHEREAS, Even with the help of Google’s funding, the program is slated to end in June 2016[[1]](#footnote-1) [8]; and

WHEREAS, the price for a youth fastpass rose from $10 in May 2009 to $24 in September 2015[[2]](#footnote-2), a 140% increase in six years; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the program are to increase transit ridership among youth, improve school attendance, and reduce fare evasion; and

WHEREAS, FMFY successfully reached the goals of increasing youth ridership, and

WHEREAS, 45% of FMFY Program riders indicated that they plan to ride public transportation regularly as adults, and 70% of respondents would recommend Muni to their friends[[3]](#footnote-3); and

WHEREAS, as of February 13, 2014, 78.2% of eligible youth in San Francisco were registered for the FMFY programs (31,262 registered of an estimated 40,000 eligible), a 13.9% increase in registered participants from the previous year (May 2013)[[4]](#footnote-4); and

WHEREAS, of the 31,262 registered participants, 85% are youths age from five to seventeen,  12.4% are youths age 18 years old, 2% are SFUSD English Learners Program, and 0.6% are SFUSD Special Education Services Program; and

WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2015, over seventeen million unique rides have been taken by FMFY Program pass holders[[5]](#footnote-5); and

WHEREAS, Clipper card data indicates that there were 266,025 more Clipper card tags by youth Muni riders in May, 2013 than in May, 2012, an increase of 41.1%. Clipper card tags by youth represented 9.2% of all Clipper card tags in May, 2013, compared to 7.1% of all Clipper card tags in May, 2012[[6]](#footnote-6); and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ed Lee stated in February 2014 “Continuing to provide free Muni for thousands of young people from lower-income households will help make our City more affordable for working families”[[7]](#footnote-7); and

WHEREAS, SFUSD Superintendent Richard Carranza stated in February 2014 “Well over half of our 56,000 public school students come from households where their families struggle to make ends meet, so having free access to Muni removes a barrier to their educational opportunities”[[8]](#footnote-8); and

WHEREAS, SFMTA Board Chairman Tom Nolan stated in January 2015 “the [FMFY] program is expected to cost $4 million in lost revenue per year, but that the city is doing well and can afford it, while many San Franciscans cannot”[[9]](#footnote-9); and

WHEREAS, the FMFY Program costs less than 1% of SFMTA annual budget; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and SFMTA to permanently fund the Free Muni for Youth Program.

1. Youth Commission Budget and Priority 2014-2015. <<http://sfpl.org/uploads/files/1/26/FINAL%20Youth%20Commission%20Policy%20and%20Budget%20Priorities%2014-15.pdf>> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. "Monthly Passes." *SFMTA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2016. <https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes/monthly-passes>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Youth Commission Presentation: Free MUNI for Youth. <<http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=54301>> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors: Budget and Legislative Analysis- Policy Analyst Report. Budget and Legislative Analyst’s Office. 2014, February.<<http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=47980>> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Youth Commission Presentation: Free MUNI for Youth. <<http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=54301>> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. "Mayor Lee, Supervisors & SFMTA Announce $6.8 Million Gift from Google to Fund Free Muni for Low Income Youth." *Office of the Mayor*. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. Web. <http://www.sfmayor.org/index.aspx?recordid=527&page=846> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. "SFMTA Votes To Give Free Muni Rides To Disabled, Low-Income Seniors." *CBS San Francisco*. N.p., 20 Jan. 2015. Web. <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/01/20/sfmta-votes-to-give-free-muni-rides-to-disabled-low-income-seniors/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)