

1 [Extending Funding for Free Muni for Youth Program]

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

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Google's funding has dedicated support to the program through June 2016<sup>1</sup> [8];  
 13 and

14 WHEREAS, the price for a youth monthly pass rose from \$10 in May 2009 to \$24 in September  
 15 2015<sup>2</sup>, a 140% increase in six years; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, 45% of FMFY Program riders indicated that they plan to ride public transportation  
 20 regularly as adults, and 70% of respondents would recommend Muni to their friends<sup>3</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> Youth Commission Budget and Priority 2014-2015.

23 <<http://sfpl.org/uploads/files/1/26/FINAL%20Youth%20Commission%20Policy%20and%20Budget%20Priorities%2014-15.pdf>>

24 <sup>2</sup> "Monthly Passes." *SFMTA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2016. <<https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes/monthly-passes>>.

25 <sup>3</sup> Youth Commission Presentation: Free MUNI for Youth.

<<http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=54301>>

1 WHEREAS, as of February 13, 2014, 78.2% of eligible youth in San Francisco were registered  
2 for the FMFY programs (31,262 registered of an estimated 40,000 eligible), a 13.9% increase in  
3 registered participants from the previous year (May 2013)<sup>4</sup>; and

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

7 WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2015, over seventeen million unique rides have been taken by  
8 FMFY Program pass holders<sup>5</sup>; and

9 WHEREAS, Clipper card data indicates that there were 266,025 more Clipper card tags by  
10 youth Muni riders in May, 2013 than in May, 2012, an increase of 41.1%. Clipper card tags by youth  
11 represented 9.2% of all Clipper card tags in May, 2013, compared to 7.1% of all Clipper card tags in  
12 May, 2012<sup>6</sup>; and

13 WHEREAS, Mayor Ed Lee stated in February 2014 "Continuing to provide free Muni for  
14 thousands of young people from lower-income households will help make our City more affordable for  
15 working families"<sup>7</sup>; and

16 WHEREAS, SFUSD Superintendent Richard Carranza stated in February 2014 "Well over half  
17 of our 56,000 public school students come from households where their families struggle to make ends  
18 meet, so having free access to Muni removes a barrier to their educational opportunities"<sup>8</sup>; and

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22 <sup>4</sup> City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors: Budget and Legislative Analysis- Policy Analyst  
23 Report. Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office. 2014,  
24 February. <<http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=47980>>

25 <sup>5</sup> Youth Commission Presentation: Free MUNI for Youth.  
<<http://www.sfbos.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=54301>>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> "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>>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

1 WHEREAS, SFMTA Board Chairman Tom Nolan stated in January 2015 “the [FMFY] program  
2 is expected to cost \$4 million in lost revenue per year, but that the city is doing well and can afford it,  
3 while many San Franciscans cannot”<sup>9</sup>; and

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

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

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Chair, Luis Avalos-Nunez  
Adopted on April 4, 2016  
2015-2016 San Francisco Youth Commission

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<sup>9</sup> "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/>>.