

1 **Resolution Urging the City and County of San Francisco to take action in order to**
2 **increase the affordability and accessibility of Youth Clipper cards for Youth living**
3 **in San Francisco**

4 WHEREAS Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) has been a prominent form of public
5 transportation in the San Francisco Bay Area since it began serving riders in October
6 1972;¹ and

7 WHEREAS, As of January 2023, BART has expanded to serve San Francisco,
8 San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara Counties, with fifty different
9 stations across the Bay Area;² and

10 WHEREAS, BART serves as a crucial means of transportation for approximately
11 100,000 individuals every day, including Youth, oftentimes providing the only form of
12 access for individuals to attend work, school, or other essential functions;³ and

13 WHEREAS, Increasing the accessibility of BART would facilitate San Francisco
14 reaching its goal of 80% of all San Francisco trips being low-carbon (eg. walking, biking,
15 public transit) as outlined in the City's 2021 Climate Action Plan;⁴ and

16 WHEREAS, A recent BART Financial Outlook and Ridership report found that
17 the total BART ridership during the first six months of 2022 hovered between 24 and 37
18 percent of its pre-pandemic averages;⁵ and

19 WHEREAS, The Youth Clipper Card program provides individuals between the
20 ages of 5 and 18 with a 50% fare discount on BART, and thus advances opportunities

¹SFMTA, 'Celebrating BART at 50: A Critical Link for San Francisco,' Accessed 1/19/23 <https://www.sfmta.com/blog/celebrating-bart-50-critical-link-san-francisco>

² Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), 'System Facts,' Accessed 1/19/23 <https://www.bart.gov/about/history/facts>

³ Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), 'Ridership Watch,' Accessed 1/19/23 <https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2020/news20200225>

⁴ SF Environment, 'San Francisco Climate Action Plan (2021),' Accessed 1/3/23 <https://sfenvironment.org/sfclimateaction>

⁵ Silas Valentino, SF Gate, 'Low BART ridership could lead to drastic measures like cutting weekend service,' Accessed 1/2/23 <https://www.sfgate.com/travel/article/bart-considers-cutting-weekend-service-17602366.php>

1 for convenient, affordable public transportation for Youth in San Francisco as well as in
2 the greater Bay Area;⁶ and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco's 'Free Muni for All Youth' program in August 2021
4 allowed Youth under the age of nineteen to ride MUNI free of charge without proof of
5 age or the use of a Clipper Card, and thus reduced the demand for Clipper Cards
6 among Youth living in San Francisco;⁷ and

7 WHEREAS, According to BART Director Janice Li, the process of obtaining a
8 Youth Clipper card online is unacceptably slow, as it requires applicants to wait up to 8
9 weeks to receive a Clipper card in the mail; and

10 WHEREAS, Youth Clipper cards cannot be purchased at the dozens of self-
11 serve machines and Walgreens locations in San Francisco that only sell adult Clipper
12 cards;⁸ and

13 WHEREAS, Youth Clipper cards can only be obtained in-person at one of five
14 locations within San Francisco, all operating with limited hours that make it difficult or
15 impossible for Youth with certain work or school schedules to access this means of
16 purchasing a Youth Clipper card;⁹ and

17 WHEREAS; According to the Institute of Policy Studies, "Two of the key drivers of
18 Fare evasion (when public transportation riders do not pay the legally-required fare) are
19 inconvenient or broken fare collection systems and poverty," the former of which is
20 exacerbated by the difficulty that Youth face in obtaining Clipper cards;¹⁰ and

⁶ Discounts,' Accessed 1/2/23 <https://www.bart.gov/tickets/discounts>

⁷SFMTA, 'Free MUNI for all Youth (18 years and younger), Accessed 1/2/23, <https://www.sfmta.com/fares/free-muni-all-youth-18-years-and-younger>

⁸Clipper Card, 'Discounts,' Accessed 1/3/23 <https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/discounts.html>

⁹Clipper Card, 'Sales and Service Locations,' Accessed 1/3/23 <https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/locations>

¹⁰ Kayle Soren, Institute for Policy Studies, 'Decriminalize Fare Evasion,' July 22 2020, Accessed 2/2/23 <https://ips-dc.org/decriminalize-fare-evasion/#:~:text=Two%20of%20the%20key%20drivers,They%20evade%20out%20of%20necessity.>

1 WHEREAS, The finances of BART are harmed by fare evasion, with between 15
2 and 25 million dollars lost every year due to the practice, some of which can be
3 attributed to accessibility and convenience barriers, as opposed to a willful disinterest in
4 paying for transit;¹¹ and

5 WHEREAS, BART public records from Fiscal Year 2019 show that Youth under
6 the age of 20 are disproportionately targeted by fare evasion officers, with 1,507
7 citations issued to teenagers on BART;¹² and

8 WHEREAS, Among youth on BART, 77.8% of citations in FY 2019 were issued
9 to Black and Latinx Youth, posing an undue burden on these communities inconsistent
10 with the demographics of BART ridership;¹³ and

11 WHEREAS, BART spent 90 million dollars on its 'Next-generation fare gates'
12 with the expressed purpose of making fare evasion more difficult, proving that the
13 energy towards attempting to directly curb fare evasion is an expensive undertaking that
14 is not worth the cost, and is energy that should be directed elsewhere to address the
15 root cause of the issue;¹⁴ and

16 WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, with BART, and other
17 transit agencies which use the Clipper Card, launched a 2-year pilot program to provide
18 50,000 Bay Area residents with the Clipper BayPass, providing free transit services all
19 across the region;¹⁵ and

¹¹ Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), 'New Fare Gates and Station Hardening,' Accessed 1/5/23 <https://www.bart.gov/about/projects/fare-gate#:~:text=Fare%20evasion%20costs%20BART%20between,the%20system%20for%20all%20riders>

¹² Chris Arvin, 'BART Fare Evasion Citation Raw Data,' December 18 2019, Accessed 1/5/23 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tt-aPvrY2sb0pQqFS9K6vIU4OSqj6NH9/view>

¹³ Chris Arvin, 'BART Fare Evasion Citation Raw Data,' December 18 2019, Accessed 1/5/23 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tt-aPvrY2sb0pQqFS9K6vIU4OSqj6NH9/view>

¹⁴ Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), 'New Fare Gates and Station Hardening,' Accessed 1/5/23 <https://www.bart.gov/about/projects/fare-gate>

¹⁵ Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), 'Clipper BayPass Launches with Unlimited Transit Access,' Accessed 1/12/23 <https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2022/news20220815>

1 WHEREAS, The passes will be distributed to select students at “San Francisco
2 State University, San Jose State University, the University of California’s Berkeley
3 campus and Santa Rosa Junior College, and then expanded to include residents of
4 select affordable housing communities managed by MidPen Housing;”¹⁶ now, therefore
5 let it be

6 RESOLVED, that the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
7 City and County of San Francisco to fund the opening of more in-person service
8 locations within the City for the purpose of allowing the easier purchase of Youth Clipper
9 cards; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
11 urges the City and County of San Francisco to formally request that Clipper expand the
12 hours of operation of its in-person service locations within the City, especially on
13 Saturdays and Sundays; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
15 urges the City and County of San Francisco to formally request for BART to expand its
16 BayPass pilot program to include SFUSD high school students; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission formally calls
18 on the Board of Supervisors to urge BART Police to examine the effectiveness of its
19 fare evasion policies, recognize any disparate enforcement outcomes across different
20 ages and racial groups, and shift its focus to addressing the root causes of fare evasion
21 and educating the public as opposed to solely focusing on levying fines against those
22 found in violation of BART’s fare evasion policies; and, be it

¹⁶Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), ‘Clipper BayPass Launches with Unlimited Transit Access,’ Accessed 1/12/23
<https://www.bart.gov/news/articles/2022/news20220815>

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
2 affirms its support for Youth having access to all forms of essential transportation,
3 including BART, free of charge; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2022-2023 San Francisco Youth Commission
5 urges the City and County of San Francisco to provide funding for BART to conduct a
6 thorough study on the potential costs and benefits of providing free BART to all Youth
7 up to the age of eighteen; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the San
9 Francisco Board of Supervisors, The Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation
10 Commission, The Bay Area Rapid Transit District Board, and The San Francisco
11 Municipal Transportation Authority.