[Bikes on Muni Metro]

Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to repeal its policy of prohibiting non-folding bicycles on Muni Metro light rail services and allow full-sized bicycles to be transported on Muni Metro trains.

WHEREAS, The SFMTA operates Muni, San Francisco’s public transit service which includes several light rail lines commonly known as “Muni Metro”; and

WHEREAS, Muni Metro provides fast and frequent service to many San Francisco neighborhoods including service through tunnels under some of San Francisco’s steepest hills including Twin Peaks and Buena Vista Heights; and

WHEREAS, Bike network routes comparable to Muni Metro routes are highly inadequate; for example, Portola Drive’s bike lanes which parallel the Twin Peaks Metro Tunnel are on a steep grade and offer no physical protection from 35-mile-per-hour traffic, and Kirkham Slow Street which parallels the N Judah Metro route was removed in late 2022; and

WHEREAS, Allowing bicycles on public transit has many benefits including increasing public transit accessibility and ridership by providing a convenient way to get to and from public transit, in addition to expanding access for cyclists who may not be able to cycle for their entire trip due to distance or elevation; and

WHEREAS, Muni Metro currently only permits folding bicycles which severely limits its accessibility to people biking; and

WHEREAS, Muni Metro’s bike policy is an industry outlier with every other bay area rail transit operator, including Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), Sonoma Marin Area
Rail Transit (SMART), Capitol Corridor, Caltrain, and Altamont Corridor Express (ACE), which all allow full-size bikes onboard; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, rail transit operators with similar operating conditions including those underground stations such as Seattle Link Light Rail, crowding such as the New York City Subway, and high floor trains such as Denver RTD all have policies that allow full-size bikes onboard; and

WHEREAS, Calgary CTrain which operates the same model light rail vehicles as Muni Metro allowed bikes on its trains at off-peak times, and as of May 2022 expanded bicycle access to all hours of service even as ridership reached pre-pandemic levels; and

WHEREAS, Overcrowding is typically cited as a reason against allowing full-sized bicycles on Muni Metro, however according to SFMTA director Jeffery Tumlin, Muni Metro ridership recovery has lagged compared to bus ridership following the COVID-19 pandemic with some lines such as the J Church seeing only 55% of pre-pandemic ridership, freeing space for bicycles; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 2022-2023 Youth Commission of the City and County of San Francisco calls on the SFMTA to repeal its policy of prohibiting full-size bicycles from being brought on the Muni Metro system and allow full-sized bicycles on Muni Metro trains when in the rider and operator’s best judgment, there is sufficient space to safely accommodate them, and once the SFMTA has designated areas on Light Rail Vehicles to accommodate full sized bicycles.