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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-120

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE SEAMLESS TRANSIT PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area, despite being an exceptional place to live, faces an uncertain future due to several interrelated crises -- decreasing housing affordability, increasing congestion, rising pollution, widening inequality, and the recent COVID-19 public health crisis – all of which are exacerbated by an inadequate and poorly-performing public transportation system; and

WHEREAS, despite billions of dollars of investments in new transportation infrastructure over the past five decades, public transit in the Bay Area has failed to attract large numbers of new riders, and has never been used by more than 12% of the population for commute trips since 1970; by contrast automobiles have always been used for over 75% of commute trips; and

WHEREAS, the quality of and usage of public transit in the Bay Area has declined in recent years, with transit trips per capita declining by 10%, average bus speeds declining by 9%, and transit commute times increasing by 11% between 2001 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board reported in 2018 that no California regions, including the Bay Area, are on track to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets, with increasing Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) and declines in transit ridership cited as a primary factors; and

WHEREAS, using public transit in the Bay Area is inconvenient and costly for many types of trips, requiring riders to: use multiple transit systems operated independently with little coordination; pay multiple separate fares; experience unpredictable transfers; and navigate different wayfinding systems and brand identities; and

 WHEREAS, low income people, many of whom have experienced displacement and have long commutes requiring multiple transit services, are among the most adversely affected the Bay Area's poorly integrated public transportation system, experiencing a significant financial burden from needing to pay multiple separate transit fares or being forced into costly vehicle ownership; and

WHEREAS, regions with high-ridership public transportation systems are, by contrast, characterized by highly integrated networks of quality local and regional transit services that make traveling without a private automobile convenient and easy for all types of trips, featuring aligned routes and schedules, coordinated transfers, high quality transit hubs, common branding and customer information, and other common regional customer experience standards; and

WHEREAS, regions that have successfully integrated and simplified transit fares have experienced many broad social benefits, including a shift in travel from private cars to public transit, an increase in overall public transit usage, and expanded mobility options and cost savings for riders; and

WHEREAS, a well-functioning and coordinated transit system plays a critical role in supporting public health and safety during an emergency, with 31% of Bay Area essential workers relying off public transit to get to work. It also plays a critical role in supporting an economic recovery. During and in the aftermath of major disruptions to our transit system, close coordination among agencies facilitates prioritization of the most critical needs, efficient deployment of resources, and clear communication to customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Albany affirms commitment to working collaboratively with State agencies, MTC, municipalities and other public agencies develop a highly integrated regional transportation system that provides convenient, seamless, and affordable transit for customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Albany supports the Seamless Transit Principles listed in Exhibit A and agrees to be publicly listed as a supporter. NICK PILCH, MAYOR Attachment: Exhibit A – Seamless Transit Principles



City of Albany

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PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF

ALBANY, The 7th day of December, 2020, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, McQuaid, Nason and Mayor Pilch

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this

8th day of December, 2020.

Anne Hsu
CITY CLERK