



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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September 1, 2020

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Ellen Wu, Urban Habitat
James Lindsay III, ATU
Stacy Murphy, Teamsters Local 853

Dear Ms. Currier, Ms. Wu, Mr. Lindsay, and Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your letters of August 3, and August 11, 2020. I appreciate your concern and attention to transit worker and rider safety.

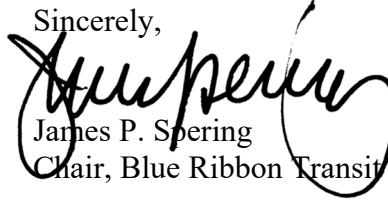
As discussed at the August 26th Commission meeting, the Commission shares this concern for transit worker and rider safety and is resolute that our role is one of coordination, but not enforcement in this space. The Commission is clear where its role ends and transfers to our transit and health professional partners. The authority to implement the conditions you raised in your letter lies with other agencies and are outside of MTC's role as a regional transportation planning agency. Some are the responsibility of the transit operators and some fall into the purview of our State or local public health agencies. In particular, several of the "standards" raised in your letter address wage and benefit provisions of transit employees that necessarily impact collective bargaining agreements that are specific and unique to each transit agency; thus not only outside of MTC's authority, but beyond the reasonable scope of regional/multi-agency guidance embodied by the Riding Together—Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan.

With that said, the Commission and I support the work of the region's transit operators to develop the Riding Together—Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan, which provides a strong basis to guide actual implementing actions addressing safety in this pandemic environment. Further, I am confident that each transit agency policy board will formally commit to the Plan's implementation in the coming month – demonstrating their strong commitment to the safety of their employees and transit riders through the adoption of public transit health driven protocols specific to their operations. In those efforts, the Commission commits to working with you to encourage practices that protect riders across our multiple systems—and to advocate for the funding needed for these systems to survive.

This Plan is designed to be a living document that can respond to the fluctuating nature of this public health emergency as we move through stages of reopening. As a responsibility of owning this plan, the transit operators are committed to communicating their progress on common commitments and metrics and to sharing data via a publicly accessible dashboard. We look forward to receiving their first update and report at the September Commission meeting.

Thank you again for your letter, and your commitment to safety on public transit. We are all in this together, and your continued engagement with and support of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force is a crucial part of that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Sperring", written over a circular stamp or seal.

James P. Sperring
Chair, Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

cc: MTC Commissioners
Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force Members