



[MobilizeTheBay.org](http://MobilizeTheBay.org)

# Who We Are



Voices for Public Transportation is a coalition of community-based organizations, labor, environmental, and equity advocates.

As people who live, work, and travel in the Bay Area, we know that investing in our transportation system is essential for the health and wellness of our communities, environment, and economy.



# Our Vision



Freedom of movement is a human right. As people who live, work, and travel in the Bay Area, we know that increased funding to our transportation system is essential for the health and wellness of our communities, environment, and economy.

Despite being part of the fifth-largest economy in the world, our transportation system is increasingly characterized by gridlock, pollution, and minimum-wage jobs.

Our vision is that residents - regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, or ability - enjoy accessible transportation options that reliably, affordably, and conveniently get us where we need to go around the region. We have the power to do this by passing a game-changing regional funding measure that will enhance our freedom of movement, while at the same time creating good-paying green union jobs, and contributing to a clean and healthy environment by reducing car trips and carbon emissions.

# Our Campaign



- Planning began January 2018
- Launch meeting in August 2018
- Anchored in our Vision and Principles
- Region wide outreach and coalition building
- Conducted extensive research and analysis
- Development of an investment framework for a regional measure
- Legislative advocacy for state enabling legislation

# COVID Response & Recovery

- COVID Recovery: Regional health & safety standards
- Short and intermediate-term fiscal recovery

# 40 Organizational Supporters for VPT Vision & Principles



- Public Advocates
- Urban Habitat
- Friends of Caltrain
- San Francisco Transit Riders
- Seamless Bay Area
- TransForm
- Genesis
- Youth Leadership Institute
- Bike East Bay
- The East Bay Center for the Blind
- Working Partnerships USA
- San Francisco Labor Council
- Transport Workers Union, Local 250A
- Contra Costa Labor Council
- Alameda Labor Council
- ATU 265
- Green the Church
- Sunrise Bay Area
- 350.org Bay Area
- East Bay for Everyone
- Peninsula for Everyone
- Oakland Education Association (OEA)
- Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 192
- Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO)
- San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
- Democratic Socialists of America, East Bay Chapter
- Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
- Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA)
- Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
- Livable Sunnyvale
- Urban Environmentalists
- Sunflower Alliance
- Greenbelt Alliance
- YIMBY Mobility
- Mountain View YIMBY
- Transport Oakland
- Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action
- Citizen's Climate Lobby, SF chapter
- Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action
- Chinatown TRIP

# Research and Analysis

- Revenue report
- EMC polling
- Transit operations and service analysis



## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MEASURE REVENUE ESTIMATES

Prepared for:  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
December 6, 2019



VOICES for Public Transportation  
Voter Survey Research  
March 2020

## Operations Funding for a World-Class Transit System

A new report from Seamless Bay Area  
and Voices for Public Transportation

September 2020





# Our priorities for a just recovery

## Immediate

- Respond to the current crisis with the urgency it deserves
- Move available funds at regional level to fill immediate operations funding gap
- Pursue all available state funding sources to prevent service cuts and worker layoffs





# Our priorities for a just recovery

## Medium-term

- Return service to pre-Covid levels as soon as possible

However, returning to pre-Covid service levels is necessary but insufficient for meeting our climate and equity goals

# Our priorities for a regional funding measure



## Investments

- Dedicated and robust funding for operations, both local and regional
- State of good repair funding
- Funds for integrated, affordable fares
- Equitable outcomes that center the needs and priorities of disadvantaged communities

## Revenue

- Progressive sources that call on all stakeholders to pay their fair share

## Process

- Multi-stakeholder public process with public convener, such as those that have led to successful ballot measures in Seattle and LA

# Investment Priority:

## Increase service and protect existing service



Dedicated funding for operations, both local and regional, at sufficient levels to:

- Support transit recovery and restore service to pre-COVID levels as soon as possible, including sufficient service to allow for safe social distancing in the near term
- Expand service levels and coverage
- Protect against structural deficits
- Improve reliability
- Increase frequency

# What our research shows...



## Operations Funding for a World-Class Transit System

A new report from Seamless Bay Area  
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September 2020



The single greatest determinant of transit ridership is service hours

In relationship to comparable regions in North America, the Bay Area provides far less service

By comparison Greater Toronto (population 7 million):

- Delivers 55% more service hours per capita than the Bay Area;
- Attracts 2.5x (163%) more transit riders per capita

To achieve service levels on par with greater Toronto, the Bay Area would need to increase transit operations funding by at **55% above pre-COVID levels**

# Revenue priority:

## Progressive revenue sources that the public supports



Progressive revenue sources are more equitable and have the public support we need to win at the ballot

We have identified four progressive revenue sources that have real potential to change how we fund our public transportation system

- personal income tax surcharge
- head tax
- parcel tax
- business parking levy

# Revenue priority: progressive revenue sources that the public supports



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- Report created in partnership with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation outlining progressive revenue sources, their feasibility, and revenue generation potential
- Shows that it's possible to fund the transportation system we want while protecting those with the least ability to pay from being overly burdened



VOICES for Public Transportation  
Voter Survey Research  
March 2020

# EMC Polling March 2020



- Voters indicated strong support for public transportation, even in an uncertain economy. The vast majority of respondents (87%) voiced support for a regional transportation measure to make the Bay Area's public transportation more frequent, affordable, accessible, and connected
- The highest support for any revenue source in the poll was for an income tax surcharge on incomes above \$1,000,000
- Many of the progressive revenue sources tested performed well, and stronger than a sales tax

# Summary



- Our top priority is to ensure adequate operating funding in the near and intermediate term to provide a bridge to a regional measure.
- The BRTF should engage at the state level to pursue opportunities for operations funding to bridge short-term operating needs
- Any future plans for a regional measure should be lead by a public entity managing a multi-stakeholder process for the development of a regional transportation funding measure