

Clipper Executive Board
October 18, 2021

Handout
Agenda Item 6

From: [MTC-ABAG Info](#)
To: [Martha Silver](#); [William Bacon](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment for the Clipper Executive Board
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 6:08:32 PM

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From: Joe [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 2:36:23 AM
To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for the Clipper Executive Board

External Email

17 October 2021

Dear Clipper Executive Board & Esteemed CCs;

I want to address all of you Bay Area Transit GMs at once, *separately* from the key Fare Integration Task Force Meeting tomorrow as this topic is both patriotically serious and sadly deeply polarizing. This is regarding Covid19 vaccine rates and mandates - and the low performance of one AC Transit with 47% vaccination rate & no mandate as someone who flew in and rode AC Transit blissfully unaware of the increased risk.

I cannot believe after having spent the last few days riding AC Transit + BART + Bay Area Ferry + Golden Gate Transit... that I had the heightened risk even fully vaxxed and masked of getting Covid19 with less than 50% AC Transit employee vaccination. You as a body need to have a universal mandate. Please.

Before I get rough with the troublemakers among you... For those of you who have mandated vaccines for operators like Executive Directors Tumlin & Powers; you have linked arms with Sound Transit, Community Transit, King County Metro, the MTA and others who will rise up to defend the United States of America. Who have said enough *is* enough. Who have said we will *not* accept fascistic "crisis standards of care" in our hospitals without a fight to the finish that we will contribute to, no matter the interim

cost. We will stand up and fight for a better, more inclusive future, and I thank you.

That said, to those who don't want to mandate vaccines let me quote former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: "If they don't have the guts to come up here in front of you and say, 'I don't want to represent you, I want to represent those special interests, the unions... ' if they don't have the guts, I call them *girlie men*." Damn right *de facto* Girlie Men are endangering all of us, *us* being those who believe in public transportation. I listened to the AC Transit Board Meeting where some wanted to buy time for Covid19 to represent the unions over the riders and a General Manager sat mute like a true girlie man instead of demanding an end to the darkness with the light of vaccines. Oh and darkness? Try AC Transit has had at least 62 cases since July and 5 hospitalizations. Riders want and need vaccine mandates out of your transits, period. Riders want executive directors who will go **bold** to take the fight to the enemy, not *girlie men* who are pro-Covid19 like Brad Little and Ron DeSantis who aid in spreading Covid19.

I suggest every transit a part of the Clipper Club should face an ultimatum: You can either mandate vaccines to have all operators be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022 or your system is suspended from Clipper for fare collection with other consequences to follow such as losing Salesforce Transit Center parking spots, loss of cross-promotional opportunities, and finally active targeting of your state & federal grants complete with social media calls to action to contact those who decide what grants get dispensed where that AC Transit and VTA are *at best not doing their fair share of the burden of defeating Covid19* until you comply with issuing a vaccine mandate. This is not a game, this is not a training exercise.. this is life and death. Period.

It's also not *equity* to ask Executive Directors Tumlin and Powers to have their agencies & riders carry all the damn water - and then have the unvaccinated employees think they can slink away to 47% vaccinated AC Transit and 70% vaccinated VTA - for starters - to keep putting the rest of us at higher risk of infection and quite possibly disability & death. Some of us transit

advocates are going to get BART's *and* MUNI's backs - because it's the right thing to do to defend this country. Also ridership and the resulting Clipper revenue will not fully return until Covid19 is defeated. There you go.

One last thing... no health care worker at the least those who helped fight Covid19 - should ever again have to pay transit fare for any trip for any reason. Ever. Again.

Very thoughtfully;

Joe [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

P.S. You can just tell this kinda stuff keeps me up at night. If we don't defeat Covid19... car culture wins. Climate change wins. Donnie Trump and his proCovid forces win. Bodies of my fellow Americans will be stacked again. We don't want any of that, do we? We're AMERICANS.