SUMMARY

AB 2057 establishes the public sector institutional capacity and accountability required to create an integrated, equitable, high ridership, and efficient public transit system in the Bay Area.

THE PROBLEM

Every day, hundreds of thousands of people in the Bay Area experience a public transportation system that is fragmented, unreliable, difficult to use, inefficient, and inequitable. The challenges of navigating between 27 different transit operators in the Bay Area acts as a barrier for residents and visitors to adopt more sustainable forms of travel, and disproportionately burdens low income and vulnerable populations.

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.

Despite billions of dollars of investments in new transportation infrastructure over the past five decades, public transit in the Bay Area has failed to address these issues. In addition, public transit continues to be poorly positioned to respond to competition from ride-hailing apps and the impact of a regional housing crisis, which has pushed more people further from job centers.

Due to these issues, public transit has failed to attract large numbers of new riders. Historically, only about 3% of all trips made in the Bay Area are made with transit, and transit has never been used by more than 12% of the population for commute trips since 1970. By contrast, automobiles have always comprised over 75% of commute trips.

The quality of public transit in the Bay Area has also declined, with average bus speeds declining by 9%, and transit commute times increasing by 11% between 2001 and 2016. Despite crushing gridlock on the region’s roads and freeways in recent years, the trend toward driving has continued – between 2016 and 2018, ridership across the Bay Area’s public transit systems fell by 5.2%.

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.

THE SOLUTION

AB 2057 takes the first steps to create a seamlessly integrated public transit system that enables people to move easily, affordably, and sustainably throughout the Bay Area. Specifically, AB 2057 will:

- Establish accountability metrics and deadlines for transit agencies to achieve fare and payment integration, standardized wayfinding and mapping, and real-time transit data to improve the transit rider experience.
- Create a path for stakeholder entities to discuss institutional reforms and propose system integration opportunities, including schedule coordination and project delivery standards.
- Consider the use of future regional funds to advance reforms that will establish a seamlessly integrated, equitable, and high-quality regional public transit system in the Bay Area.

SUPPORT

Seamless Bay Area (sponsor)
Bike East Bay
East Bay Center for the Blind
East Bay for Everyone

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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