

Associated Students Student Transit Pass Resolution

To Recognize San Francisco State University's Student Commuter Population and their Economic Burden in Regards to Transportation; and to Support Student Advocacy Efforts on Behalf of SF State Students; to Create a Referendum on a Student Transit Pass Program.

WHEREAS, San Francisco State University's total population consists of over 30,000 students; and,

WHEREAS, San Francisco State University's student population is comprised of approximately ten (10) percent of students who live in on-campus housing, leaving approximately ninety (90) percent of the student population no choice but to commute; and,¹

WHEREAS, San Francisco State University's student commuter population consists of approximately forty-nine (49) percent of students residing in the City and County of San Francisco, eighteen (18) percent who reside within Alameda County, seventeen (17) percent who reside within San Mateo County, and nine (9) percent who reside within Contra Costa County; and,²

WHEREAS, financially prohibitive and limited units of housing both on-campus and in the Bay Area as a whole leave students with no option but to seek more affordable housing farther away from the main San Francisco State University campus which leads to a high transportation cost per student; and,

WHEREAS, students at San Francisco State University need a way to offset mounting transportation costs due to having to pay for high rents and expensive textbooks; and,

WHEREAS, on average, most students spend between five and fourteen dollars (\$5-\$14) on transportation alone per day, which to most commuters can add up to a third of the cost of current tuition levels and can be more than the cost of books for two semesters; and,³

WHEREAS, San Francisco State University is one of the largest public universities in the Bay Area in terms of population; and,⁴

WHEREAS, an increase in both student population and a thirty (30) percent increase in miles traveled has led to higher emissions, due to more students moving farther away from San Francisco and using public transportation as their primary means of getting to and from school; and,

WHEREAS, forty-nine (49) percent of the University's total greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to commuting; and,⁵

WHEREAS, while most students use public transportation, half of the amount of commuters drive alone contributing seventy-seven (77) percent of the University's commute-related carbon emissions; and,

¹ Nelson Nygaard, "2014 Transportation Survey Results," *Nelson Nygaard, San Francisco*, 2014, page 3 to 8.

² *Ibid.* Page 14.

³ *Ibid.* Page 8 to 10.

⁴ "Explore Campuses: San Francisco State University." CSUMentor, 2014, Accessed March 19, 2015.

⁵ Nygaard, "2014 Transportation Survey Results," Chapter 5.

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WHEREAS, between 2008 and 2014, greenhouse gas emissions from student commuters increased fifteen (15) percent; and,

WHEREAS, San Francisco State University has made a commitment to transportation relief, specifically in affordability and accessibility offer beginning in the form of a shuttle service to and from Daly City BART Station as well as comprehensive bicycle infrastructure on campus; and,

WHEREAS, despite the provision of these transportation options, San Francisco State University does not offer a direct form of financial assistance to its largely public transportation-reliant students; and,

WHEREAS, during San Francisco State University's 2015 Strategic Plan collaboration with Neighborland.com, student transit passes received seven (7) times more support with three hundred ninety-five (395) supporters when compared to the second most supported idea which had only fifty-six (56) supporters, and based on this feedback, the final Strategic Plan released in 2015 states that, SFSU aims to "secure area-wide mass transit passes for all students by fall 2018;" and,

WHEREAS, various student run organizations such as Students for Justice, Students for Planning and Urban Affairs, Associated Students Sustainable Initiatives, and individuals within Associated Students have led the way in advocating for student transportation passes over the past three years; and,

WHEREAS, according to San Francisco State University-commissioned biennial transportation surveys conducted between 2008 and 2014, eighty percent (80%) of respondents support paying into a system that will allow for student transit passes; now, therefore be it ⁶

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Board of Directors, sitting as a committee of the whole, endorses that the question of whether a discounted student transit pass be offered to SFSU students through a student referendum no later than Spring 2016; further,

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Board of Directors recommends and will encourage San Francisco State University students to vote in the affirmative for such a referendum in order to make college more affordable for student commuters; finally,

RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Board of Directors will continue to uphold the campus values of equity, activism, and community as it supports the student-run advocacy efforts to achieve the passage of a student transit pass program for all San Francisco State University students.

⁶ Ibid. Page 17 to 18.