SUBJECT: Resolution on Seamless Transportation

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution

REPORT TYPE: ACTION X INFORMATIONAL _____

ITEM TYPE: CONSENT _ PUBLIC HEARING _ EXISTING BUSINESS _ NEW BUSINESS X

RECOMMENDATION:
Adopt proposed resolution supporting Seamless Transportation Principals

BACKGROUND:
In late 2019, the City of Millbrae was approached by the non-profit organization Seamless Bay Area requesting the City consider adoption of a resolution supporting guiding principles that improve Bay Area transportation.

Seamless Bay Area advocates “One Bay Area- One Transportation System” and has identified that the Bay Area’s lack of a comprehensively managed, connected, convenient public transportation network leaves many people with no option but to drive everywhere, spend more of their time in long commutes, increases congestion, confuses riders, and negatively impacts the environment through additional greenhouse gas emissions. As the Bay Area continues to grow, inadequate public transportation due to a fractured transit system governed by 27 different agencies is exacerbating the region’s most pressing problems including:

- An incoherent network that, for riders, is inconvenient to use and nearly impossible to understand.
- Shortsighted planning, where piecemeal transportation projects are favored over larger systematic improvements that would serve more people.
- Little public accountability for our lack of regional transit connectivity.
- High operating costs, paid for by riders, and duplication of many overhead functions that could be shared.
• Poorly managed transit expansion projects where severe delays and cost overruns are the norm.

"If we don't fix our inefficient and unaccountable system of transportation governance, public transit will continue to decline. We will all suffer the environmental, social, and economic consequences" Seamless Bay Area.

The City of Millbrae is home to the largest multi-modal transit station west of the Mississippi. Specifically, according to BART’S website: Millbrae Station. Situated on an estate formerly owned by Darius Ogden Mills, this city's name derives from "Mills" and the Scottish word "brae" or "rolling hills." Today, the Millbrae BART Station is the largest intermodal terminal west of the Mississippi, featuring a cross-platform connection to Caltrain.

The transportation system within the City (BART, CalTrain, SamTrans, future HSR) is a fragmented transportation system that is not comprehensive or well-coordinated and detrimental to rider accessibility, inter-connectivity, easy and understandable ticketing and parking payment processes, access to convenient parking, public safety, circulation and accountability. The purpose of Seamless Transit Principles include:

• Build broad support among cities, transit agencies, employers, advocacy groups, mayors, local elected officials to the vision of seamless transportation.
• Build public awareness and public support for reforms that promote greater regional transit integration; overcome resistance to change within transit agencies.
• Support a strong and robust MTC Business Case Analysis of Fare Integration.
• Support provisions for seamlessly integrated transit to be included in future regional funding measures or other future legislation addressing transit governance or funding.

ANALYSIS:

The Seamless Transit Principles are a set of seven guiding principles developed to guide local, regional, and state decision-makers to pursue a seamlessly integrated, world-class transit system that works for people. These principals are as follows and supported in the attached resolution for consideration:

1. Run all Bay Area transit as one easy-to-use system.
2. Put riders first.
3. Make public transit equitable and accessible to all.
4. Align transit prices to be simple, fair, and affordable.
5. Connect effortlessly with other sustainable transportation.
6. Plan communities and transportation together.
7. Prioritize reforms to create a seamless network.

They were compiled by Seamless Bay Area, a non-profit 501(c)3 group that advocates for a unified, world class public transit system, with the input of cities and transit advocacy groups, local leaders, transit agency staff, and local elected officials. They are included in full in the resolution.
FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Adopt the subject resolution supporting a seamless transportation system.
CITY OF MILLBRAE, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILLBRAE
FOR A SEAMLESS BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area, despite being an exceptional place to live, faces an uncertain future due to several interrelated crises -- decreasing housing affordability, increasing congestion, rising pollution, and widening inequality -- which are exacerbated by an inadequate and poorly-performing public transportation system; and

WHEREAS, despite billions of dollars of investments in new transportation infrastructure over the past five decades, public transit in the Bay Area has failed to attract large numbers of new riders, and has never been used by more than 12% of the population for commute trips since 1970; by contrast automobiles have always been used for over 75% of commute trips; and

WHEREAS, the quality of and usage of public transit in the Bay Area has declined in recent years, with transit trips per capita declining by 10%, average bus speeds declining by 9%, and transit commute times increasing by 11% between 2001 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board reported in 2018 that no California regions, including the Bay Area, are on track to meet their greenhouse gas reduction targets, with increasing Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) and declines in transit ridership cited as a primary factors; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, low income people, many of whom have experienced displacement and have long commutes requiring multiple transit services, are among the most adversely affected the Bay Area’s poorly integrated public transportation system, experiencing a significant financial burden from needing to pay multiple separate transit fares or being forced into costly vehicle ownership; and
WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, regions that have successfully integrated and simplified transit fares have experienced many broad social benefits, including a shift in travel from private cars to public transit, an increase in overall public transit usage, and expanded mobility options and cost savings for riders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILLBRAEadopts as follows:

1. The City of Millbrae affirms commitment to working collaboratively with State agencies, MTC, municipalities and other public agencies develop a highly integrated regional transportation system that provides convenient, seamless, and affordable transit for customers; and

2. The City of Millbrae supports the Seamless Transit Principles listed in Attachment (A), and agrees that the City of Millbrae be publicly listed as a supporter.

REGULARLY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of January, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk
The Seamless Transit Principles

Viewable at: www.seamlessbayarea.org/seamless-transit-principles

1) Run all Bay Area transit as one easy-to-use system
Public transit should work as one seamless, connected, and convenient network across the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Getting around on transit should be as fast and easy as driving a car. Coordinated bus, rail, and ferry routes and schedules should encourage effortless transfers. Consistent and clear customer information, branding, and maps should make using transit simple and dignified.

2) Put riders first
Riders should feel comfortable when using transit and be treated like valued customers. Public transit agencies must do more to listen to riders and continuously improve service. They must prioritize riders’ needs above all else, and overcome all operational, political and bureaucratic barriers to provide an excellent and seamless customer experience.

3) Make public transit equitable and accessible to all
People of all income levels, ages, abilities, genders, and backgrounds should have access to world-class public transit. People who are the most reliant on transit are best served by a universal, inclusive, regionally integrated, connected system that is used by all. People with limited means to pay for transit should be provided with discounts.

4) Align transit prices and passes to be simple, fair, and affordable
Transit should provide good value for money. Fares across the region’s 27 public transit agencies must be aligned into a consistent, fair, and affordable system that encourages using transit for all types of trips and doesn’t punish riders for transferring. Cost-effective monthly passes should work across the Bay Area and should be widely available to individuals, employers, and schools.

5) Connect effortlessly with other sustainable transportation
A person’s journey does not end when they get off a bus or exit a station. Excellent pedestrian, bicycle, and other pollution-free transportation options should seamlessly connect public transit to communities and destinations, supporting door-to-door trips that don’t require a car.

6) Plan communities and transportation together
High quality public transit should be at the heart of communities across the Bay Area. Transportation should be closely aligned with our region’s land use, promoting a connected network of transit-oriented, walkable communities that expands access to affordable housing and job opportunities, and reduces car travel and greenhouse gas emissions.

7) Prioritize reforms to create a seamless network
A regionally integrated, world-class transit system won’t happen on its own — it will take leadership, unprecedented levels of cooperation, and changes to existing local, regional, and state policies. The cities, counties, public transit agencies, regional authorities, business leaders, advocacy groups and elected representatives of the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California megaregion must prioritize the broad public interest and urgently work together collaboratively to advance critical reforms. Our future depends on it!