

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 11



City and County of San Francisco

JOHN AVALOS

**For Immediate Release
May 15, 2009**

Avalos Joins Seniors and Youth to Call for Transit Justice Package as MTA Budget Returns to the Board

Supervisors Consider Rejecting MTA Budget if Package of Fare Roll-backs, Service Restorations, and Revenue Enhancements Are Not Enacted

San Francisco, CA – On Monday, May 18th, Supervisor John Avalos, Chair of the Budget Committee, will rally with other Supervisors, seniors, youth, and other transit advocates to call for a roll-back of fare increases for seniors, youth, and lifeline users; restoration of bus lines serving public housing residents; and a package of increased parking fees. Supervisor Avalos will also announce a Charter Amendment to reform the governance of the Municipal Transportation Agency.

WHAT: Transit Justice Rally and Press Conference
WHEN: Monday, May 18, 2009; 3:00 pm
WHERE: City Hall, Polk Street Steps

On May 12th, the Board of Supervisors did not have 7 votes to reject the MTA budget after the MTA and Mayor conceded to \$10.3 million in changes. However, transit advocates remain concerned that the MTA has balanced its budget disproportionately on the backs of riders. “If you look at the numbers,” said Manish Champsee, President of Walk San Francisco, “the MTA is balancing its budget on the backs of riders over drivers – they are paying four times more than drivers for cuts in services and increased fares. The impact should be more equitable.”

On Wednesday, May 13th the Budget Committee voted three to two recommend that the full Board reject the MTA budget on Tuesday, May 19th. “Given our grave economic crisis, we owe it to our seniors, youth, and other low-income MUNI riders to come up with a better budget that ensures MUNI accessibility and accountability,” said Supervisor John Avalos.

Supervisor Avalos has also called for a charter amendment that will provide greater checks and balances and independence for the MTA Board of Directors by allowing the Mayor and Board of Supervisors the ability to nominate 3 commissioners to the MTA Board. The amendment will also provide for the

another government entity (to be determined) to nominate the 7th MTA commissioner.

The proposed Transit Justice Package poses increased parking fees in certain parts of the City on Sundays and evenings, eliminating public subsidy in the City’s parking garages, rolling back some fare increases and safeguarding access for low income MUNI riders as follows:

Transit Justice Package

Proposed Cost Saving Measures	Revenue
Eliminate Early Bird Eligibility at City garages	\$1,900,000.00
Expanding hourly rates from 6 to 10pm (to take place in the City’s inner core, after 6 the 1 to 2 hour limit will expand to 4 hours)	\$3,100,000.00
Sunday Parking 9am to 6pm (to take place in City’s inner core)	\$600,000.00
Increase general parking rate in City garages to yield additional \$750k (incl. keeping Golden Gateway Garage at parity with other City garages)	\$750,000.00
Increasing DT parking by \$1 instead of \$.5	\$2,900,000.00
Add \$2 to \$3 court fee to round up to \$5	\$3,200,000.00
Restore DPW street cleaning services	\$2,400,000.00
Enact other service efficiencies, line improvements, transit lanes, bus stop eliminations, etc. to yield savings	TBD
Total Revenue	\$14,850,000.00

Proposed Fare Decreases and Service Restorations	Expenditures
Senior/Youth/Disabled Pass at \$15	\$420,000.00
Reduce Life Line to \$20 (provide greater distribution sites)	\$1,800,000.00
Elimination of BART/MUNI premo pass	\$1,350,000.00
Keeping adult pass at \$55	\$3,500,000.00
Rolling back single fare to \$1.75 or delay \$2 increase to Jan 1 (\$.25 = \$7M)	\$7,000,000.00
Restore public housing segment to the 53 (Potrero Projects)	\$755,000.00
Restore Safeway segment to the 67 (Alemany Projects)	\$0.00
Total Expenditures	\$14,825,000.00

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