



Agenda Item No. 2

To: Governmental Affairs & Public Information Committee/Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 10, 2008

From: Celia G. Kupersmith, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE SUPPORT OF THE SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT DISTRICT'S ONE-QUARTER PERCENT SALES TAX INITIATIVE (MEASURE Q) TO FUND THE PASSENGER TRAIN AND PATHWAY PROJECT**

### **Recommendation**

The Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve support of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District's one-quarter percent (0.25%) sales tax initiative (Measure Q) to fund the passenger train and pathway project.

### **Background**

As members of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District, the Bridge District has been asked to take a position of support for Measure Q which will be on the Sonoma and Marín ballots on November 4, 2008. The attached resolution is presented for consideration.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Attachment

# **DRAFT**

## **GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT**

### **RESOLUTION 2008-XXX**

#### **APPROVE SUPPORT OF SONOMA-MARIN AREA RAIL TRANSIT DISTRICT'S ONE-QUARTER PERCENT SALES TAX INITIATIVE TO FUND THE PASSENGER TRAIN AND PATHWAY PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit (SMART) District was created by state legislation in 2002 for the purpose of re-establishing passenger train service on the historic Northwestern Pacific Railroad right of way in Sonoma and Marin counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of passenger train service will provide a viable alternative to automobile transportation, as well as provide a safe north-south pathway for bicycles as well as pedestrians; and

**WHEREAS**, the SMART Board has completed environmental review of a proposed project that would establish passenger train service between Cloverdale and Larkspur, together with a 70-mile bicycle-pedestrian pathway connecting the 10 cities and 14 stations along the rail line; and

**WHEREAS**, the SMART Board has placed Measure Q, authorizing a quarter-cent sales tax to fund the project on the November ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic and environmental benefits of the SMART project will benefit residents of the Golden Gate Corridor and the region generally, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bridge District has been a long-time supporter of the preservation of the rail corridor as evidenced through its leadership role in the acquisition of major sections the historic right-of-way followed by ownership transfer of the right-of-way to the SMART District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bridge District is directly represented on the SMART Board of Directors and has been an active partner in the development of the planned rail program referenced in Measure Q,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District endorses Measure Q, and the SMART Project.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_, by the following vote of the Board:

**AYES** ():

**NOES** ():

**ABSENT** ():

\_\_\_\_\_

**President, Board of Directors**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Janet S. Tarantino**  
**Secretary of the District**