

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-041

**AUTHORIZE THE SETTING OF A PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ESTABLISHING A TOLL CLASSIFICATION FOR
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION CERTIFICATED PROVIDERS
OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
FROM MARIN AND SONOMA COUNTIES
TO THE SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

May 13, 2011

WHEREAS, the Board of the Directors (Board) of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District), by Ordinance No. 2010-01 at its meeting of May 28, 2010, established a carpool toll rate of \$3, and increased the per axle toll rate for multi-axle vehicles (i.e. three or more axles) to \$5 FasTrak/\$6 cash per axle; and,

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2010-01 took effect July 1, 2010, providing for a phase-in of the multi-axle vehicle toll rate increase, with 50% of the increase to be implemented on July 1, 2011, and the remaining 50% of the increase to be implemented on July 1, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2010-01, the 3-axle vehicle FasTrak® toll will increase to \$11.25 as of July 1, 2011, and to \$15.00 as July 1, 2012, during non-carpool hours, with the \$3.00 carpool toll applying during carpool hours; and,

WHEREAS, the Board, at its meeting of May 28, 2010, directed staff to investigate and report back to the Board on various aspects of creating a new toll classification category for privately operated, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) certificated providers of regularly scheduled bus transportation services from established points in Sonoma and Marin Counties to the San Francisco International Airport (SFO); and,

WHEREAS, the Marin Airporter (Airporter) and the Sonoma Airport Express (Sonoma Express) together operate 58 regularly scheduled coaches per day to and from SFO and served approximately 285,000 and 219,000, respectively, in 2010, resulting in an average vehicle occupancy of approximately 10 customers per coach for the Airporter and 16 customer per coach for the Sonoma Express; and,

WHEREAS, during a Public Hearing on May 14, 2010, associated with the proposed toll increases that were later codified in Ordinance No. 2010-01, representatives for the Airporter and the Sonoma Express opposed multi-axle vehicle toll increases on the Golden Gate Bridge (Bridge), noting that the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) maintains a commute bus program offering free toll passage across BATA operated bridges at any time of day for CPUC certificated multi-passenger vehicles designed to carry 10 passengers plus the driver, for trips commencing and terminating within a 50-mile radius of the BATA bridge toll collection point; and,

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WHEREAS, a reduced per-axle toll rate equivalent to 50% of the otherwise applicable two-axle toll, or \$7.50, is proposed for CPUC certificated providers of regularly scheduled bus transportation services from Marin and Sonoma Counties to SFO (CPUC certificated providers); and,

WHEREAS, implementation of a reduced 3-axle vehicle toll discount for CPUC certificated providers is operationally feasible; and,

WHEREAS, the Attorney for the District has advised that offering a reduced per-axle toll rate to CPUC certificated providers is not precluded by legal limitations, but may be made on the basis of financial and operational considerations; and,

WHEREAS, the Finance-Auditing Committee/Committee of the Whole, at its meeting of April 7, 2011, has so recommended; now, therefore, be it


RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District hereby authorizes the setting of a public hearing to receive testimony on a proposal to establish a toll classification for California Public Utilities Commission certificated providers of regularly scheduled bus transportation services from Marin and Sonoma Counties to San Francisco International Airport.

ADOPTED this 13th day of May 2011, by the following vote of the Board of Directors:

AYES (15): Directors Arnold, Boro, Campos, Chu, Elsbernd, Mar, Moylan, Pahre, Rabbitt, Renée, Snyder, Sobel, Stroeh and Theriault; Second Vice President Grosboll
NOES (3): Director Cochran; First Vice President Eddie; President Reilly
ABSENT (1): Director Brown



Janet Reilly
President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST: 

Janet S. Tarantino
Secretary of the District