



October 27 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors

RE: Support for San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Zero-Emission Vehicle Policy Amendment and 2025-2026 Fleet Procurement

Dear Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors,

350 San Francisco has reviewed the SFMTA's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Policy Amendment and Zero Emission Bus Rollout and 2025-2026 Fleet Procurement Plan. We understand that the amendment will authorize purchase of diesel-electric hybrid buses through FY 29. We further understand that SFMTA will seek an exemption from the California Air Resources Board Innovative Clean Transit regulation requirement that "Beginning in 2029, 100% of new purchases by transit agencies must be ZEBs, with a goal for full transition by 2040." Factors leading SFMTA to propose this amendment and plan include financial stressors such as Covid-related ridership losses and difficulty obtaining electric charging infrastructure and electricity to power the electric buses.

SFMTA's proposed actions are of course disappointing in view of the need to swiftly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, and the obligation, both realistic and moral, for relatively wealthy cities to lead the way in the conservation steps that are so urgently needed.

We are mindful that SFMTA currently provides very low-emission transportation. We also note that as a city agency, SFMTA is much more accountable for reducing GHG emissions than any market-based service that might replace it, should it be allowed to fail. Our goal is therefore to support SFMTA moving towards the exclusive use of zero-emission vehicles ASAP and also to ensure that it not only survives but expands to facilitate mode shift from fossil-fuel to 100% clean-electricity powered vehicles.

SFMTA Zero Emission Program Manager Bhavin Khatri kindly presented information to us on October 21, 2023 and assured us that SFMTA is currently working to achieve a 100% ZEV fleet as fast as possible given current financial and other constraints. He said the Agency is working to upgrade their facilities and install the necessary charging infrastructure to expand the ZEV fleet, and reported that SFMTA recently received \$33 million in grant funds for the installation of 18 electric vehicle charging stations at the Woods and Islais Creek bus yards, which in his judgment are a critical step in advancing San Francisco's climate goals. In view of these assurances, 350 San Francisco believes this project can be expected to advance the City's climate adaptation, safety, and transit reliability goals.

We understand the MTA Board will be hearing the policy change in November and procurement will be considered later this year. Following that, the BOS will consider procurement in early 2024.

Though we regret SFMTA's decision to extend the use of diesel hybrid buses to bridge the gap until SFMTA has the necessary charging infrastructure in place for an all-electric fleet, we understand the need for SFMTA's Zero Emission Vehicle Policy Amendment and Bus Rollout and 2025-2026 Fleet Procurement Plan. We therefore endorse both **with the understanding that SFMTA will continue to do all it can to identify and make needed internal changes, and advocate at all levels of government for support**, to make Muni the zero-emission, highly valued service that public transit should be.

Sincerely,

350 San Francisco Coordinating Committee



October 31, 2023

TO: San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors

RE: Support for San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Zero Emission Vehicle Policy Amendment and 2025-2026 Fleet Procurement

Dear Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors,

The San Francisco League of Conservation Voters strongly supports the SFMTA's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Policy Amendment and Zero Emission Bus Rollout and 2025-2026 Fleet Procurement Plan.

This project will advance the City's climate adaptation, safety, and transit reliability goals.

While there are a number of challenges to reaching a 100 percent ZEV fleet, the SFMTA is working to implement this as fast as possible. The Agency is working to upgrade their facilities and install the necessary charging infrastructure to expand the ZEV fleet. In fact, they recently received \$33 million in grant funds for the installation of 18 electric vehicle charging stations at the Woods and Islais Creek bus yards. These new charging stations are a critical step in advancing San Francisco's climate goals.

We understand the MTA Board will be hearing the policy change in November and procurement will be considered later this year; following that, the BOS will consider procurement in early 2024. Extending the use of diesel hybrid buses will allow the SFMTA to put charging infrastructure into place before an all-electric fleet can serve the city.

We offer our strongest support for SFMTA's Zero Emission Vehicle Policy Amendment and Bus Rollout and 2025-2026 Fleet Procurement Plan. We urge your support for the next procurement ensuring excellent service moving forward, helping San Francisco to shift transportation modes and reduce greenhouse gasses.

Thank you for your consideration of these items that support the SFMTA's ability to efficiently operate, maintain, and deliver service with all-electric buses.

Sincerely,

Kristina Pappas
President, San Francisco League of Conservation Voters