



(Photos, left to right: Noah Berger; Karl Nielsen; Noah Berger. All rights reserved.)

State Action Needed To Protect Transit's Future

Public transit is not just a lynchpin of California's transportation system, it's also vital to achieving our climate, social equity, economy and workforce goals. To prevent major service cuts and job losses that will disproportionately hurt those who continue to rely on transit the most, MTC urges the Legislature and Governor Newsom to begin a five-year Transit Recovery Program in FY 2023-24 to provide gap funding while transit agencies move toward a financially sustainable business model.

Transit Recovery Package

The Legislature should establish a Transit Service Preservation Fund to be resourced over five years from dedicated funding sources. Funds would be available to address operator fiscal cliffs and avoid unacceptable service cuts.

Funds should also be available to implement proven strategies to retain and attract riders. Accountability measures should ensure agencies prioritize actions that riders and non riders care about most, namely improving the rider experience so that it is safe and clean, convenient and faster.

Fortunately, the need is significantly smaller next year than in future years, minimizing the impact on the deficit in FY 2023-24. A trailer bill should be adopted this year that spells out amounts for the next five years, aligned with need, with funding continuously appropriated wherever possible.

Who Depends on Bay Area Transit?



People:
700,000 daily riders in April 2023

Schools:
Tens of thousands of K-12 students rely on public transit to get to school.

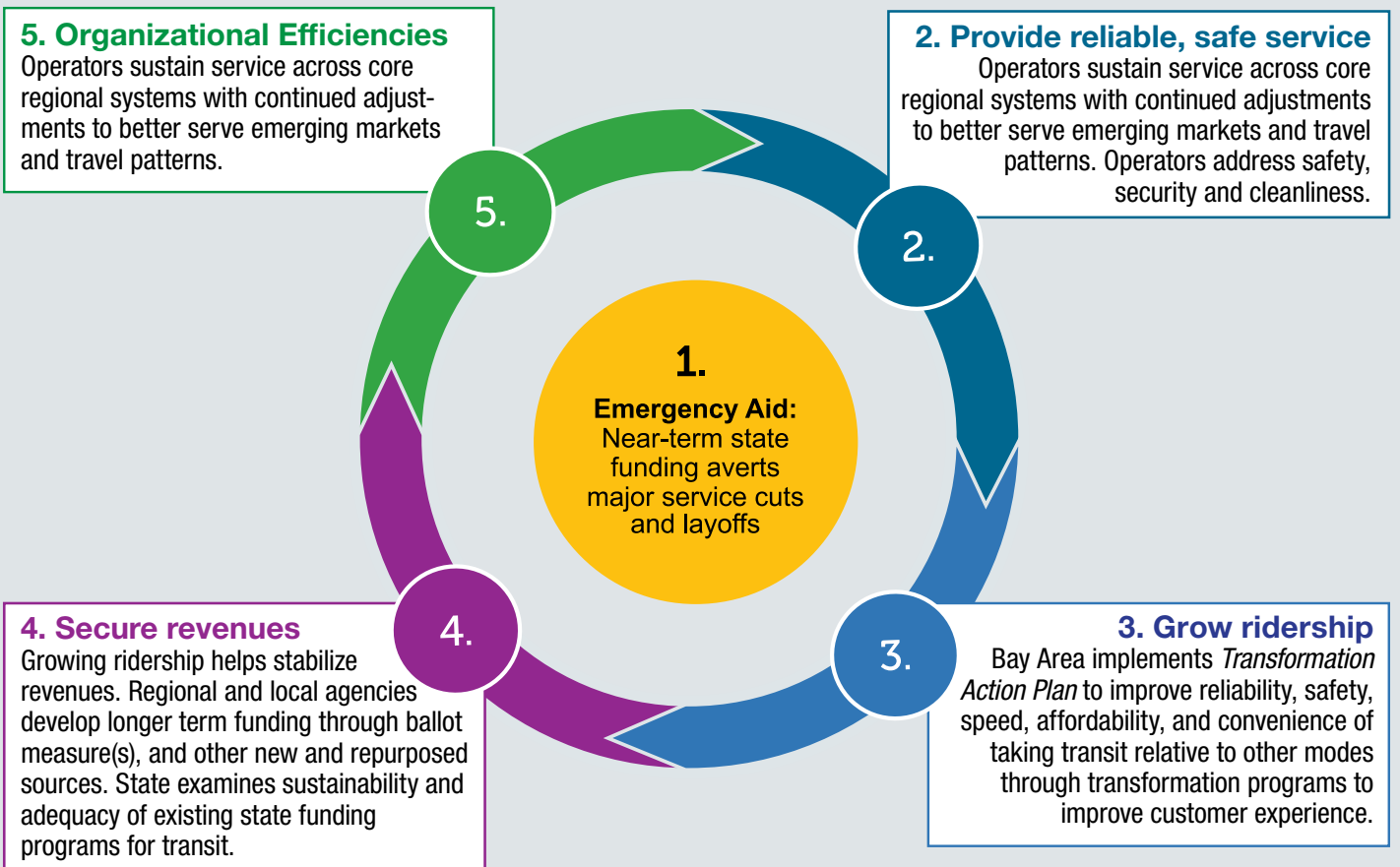


Economy:
The Bay Area's more than **\$1 trillion economy** depends on a well functioning transit network

Workers:
15,000 Transit Workers throughout the Bay Area

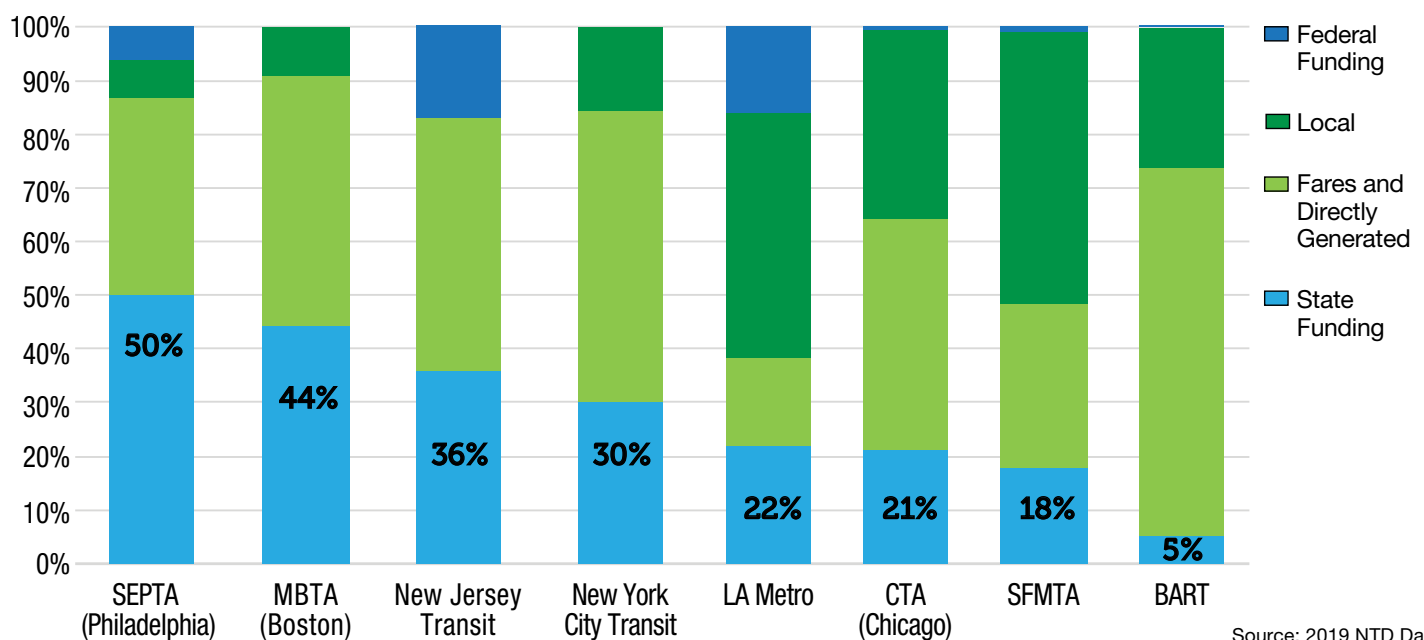


Bay Area Transit Roadmap to Survive and Thrive



Share of Operating Expenses by Fund Source (2019)

Many states provide higher levels of operating assistance for large transit systems than is the practice in California

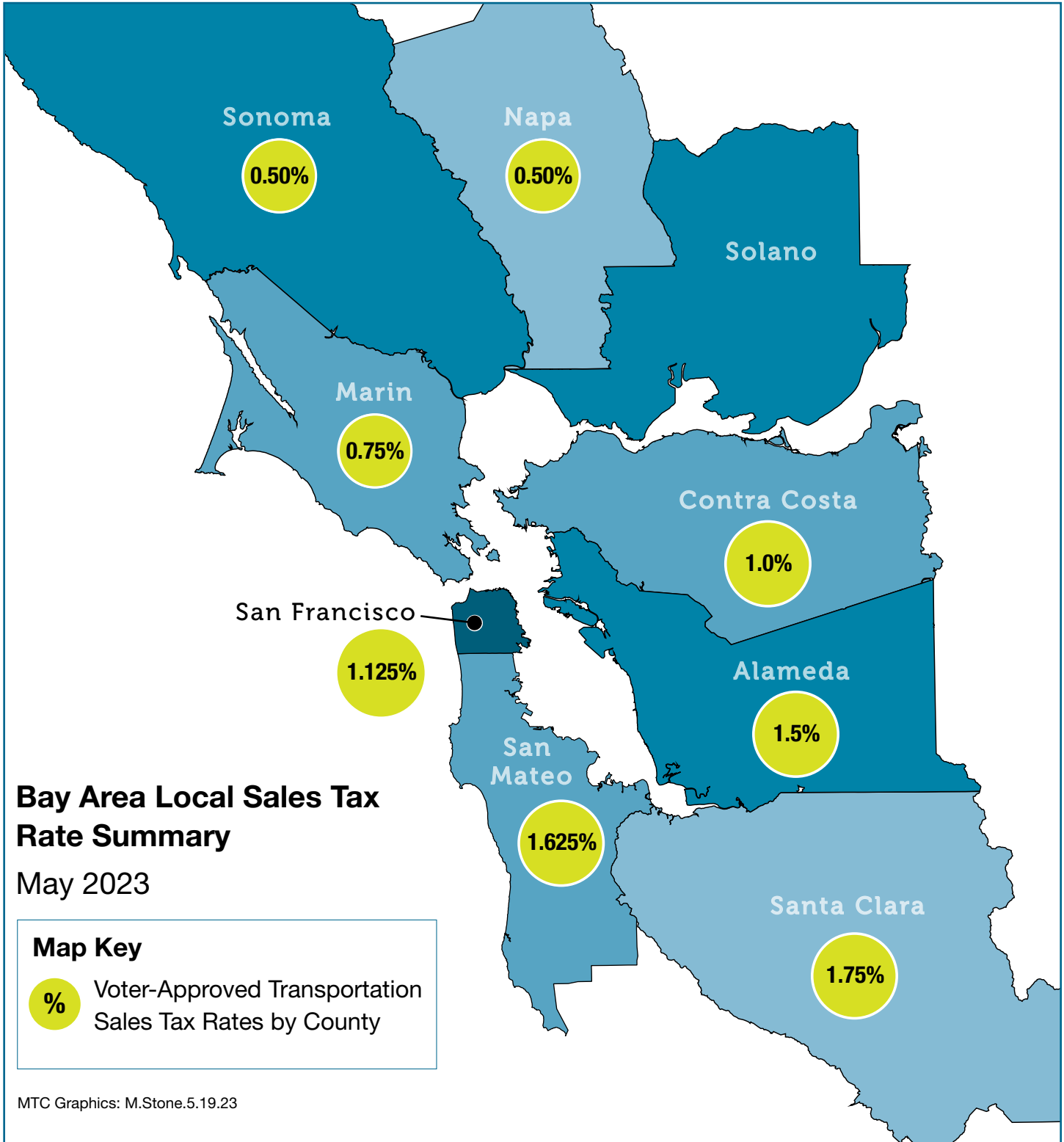


Bay Area Voters Have Stepped Up for Transit

Bay Area voters have made significant commitments to keeping the Bay Area's buses, trains and ferries moving. Voters have approved numerous measures to help fund transit operations, totaling \$1.1 billion per year from sales taxes and about \$85 million per

year in bridge tolls. Even in FY 2023, fares plus local and regional funds are estimated to cover more than 70% of the Bay Area's transit operating costs.

MTC is committed to asking the Bay Area's voters to support a future regional transportation measure as well and hopes to secure state enabling legislation next year.



Accountability and Reforms

Transit operators and local, regional and state partners should use the five-year window of the Transit Recovery Program to develop and implement strategies for long-term financial sustainability, including:

- Commitments by transit operators to evaluate and adjust service and schedules, as needed, to ensure resources are being used appropriately and align with ridership demand.
- Retaining and attracting riders, including implementing customer-focused convenience and reliability improvements identified in the Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan.
- Enhancing safety and cleanliness: Require use of best practices and regular reporting to state on efforts to keep riders safe.
- An assessment and plan for addressing transit's long-term operating funding needs, including operator assessments via Transit Recovery Plans and enacting AB 761 (Friedman), which requires a statewide plan.

Transformation Action Plan gets to the things that riders want:

92% Real-time information on wait times and vehicle locations

92% Mapping and wayfinding (easy to use and uniform maps and signage)

88% Regional network manager (coordinating fares, aligning service and standardized information)

89% Fare integration (a single set of fares, passes, discounts and transfer policies)

80% Dedicated travel lanes to get buses out of traffic

Source: Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan, MTC, July 2021

Focus Areas of Transit Transformation Action

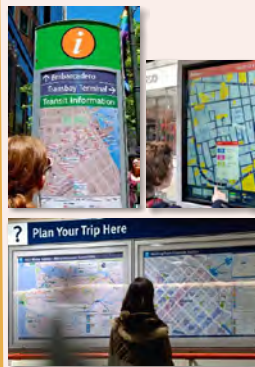
Fares and Payment

Simpler, consistent, and equitable fare and payment options.



Customer Information

Make transit easier to navigate and more convenient.



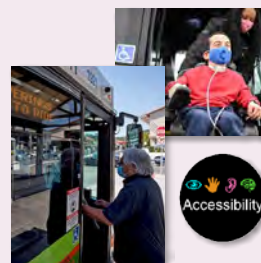
Transit Network

Transit services managed as a unified, efficient, and reliable network.



Accessibility

Transit services for older adults, people with disabilities, and those with lower incomes are coordinated efficiently.



Funding

Use existing resources more efficiently and secure new, dedicated revenue to meet funding needs.



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