



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

300 Lakeside Drive, P.O. Box 12688
Oakland, CA 94604-2688
(510) 464-6000

2009

Thomas M. Blalock, P.E.
PRESIDENT

May 16, 2009

James Fang
VICE PRESIDENT

Dorothy W. Dugger
GENERAL MANAGER

Mayor and City Council members
Civic Center Building
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

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2ND DISTRICT

Bob Franklin
3RD DISTRICT

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5TH DISTRICT

Thomas M. Blalock, P.E.
6TH DISTRICT

Lynette Sweet
7TH DISTRICT

James Fang
8TH DISTRICT

Tom Radulovich
9TH DISTRICT

Re: Letter of support for Transit Benefit Ordinance

BART supports the City of Berkeley's proposed transit benefit ordinance.

The BART Board of Directors has continued to support efforts that provide incentives for transit use because it not only helps support the transit system with additional riders, but helps achieve important environmental goals.

A recent survey here at BART found almost half (46%) of our weekday riders use transit benefits to pay their fares, and even more importantly, 90% of weekday riders who don't have benefits available would like to have them. With budget cuts occurring to transit and the potential of fare increases looming, employee transit benefits are an excellent way to reduce the financial strain on transit riders.

Again, BART supports the transit benefits ordinance for the City of Berkeley. Based on the success of the transit benefits ordinance so far in San Francisco, BART supports efforts to allow more employers and employees to have an opportunity to take advantage of these tax savings.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Blalock
President

cc: General Manager
Deputy General Manager
Board of Directors