



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

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

December 28, 2020

2021

Mark Foley
PRESIDENT

Rebecca Saltzman
VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Powers
GENERAL MANAGER

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Prioritize Public Transportation Workers in Vaccine Distribution Plan

Governor Newsom,

DIRECTORS

Debora Allen
1ST DISTRICT

Mark Foley
2ND DISTRICT

Rebecca Saltzman
3RD DISTRICT

Robert Raburn, Ph.D.
4TH DISTRICT

John McPartland
5TH DISTRICT

Elizabeth Ames
6TH DISTRICT

Lateefah Simon
7TH DISTRICT

Janice Li
8TH DISTRICT

Bevan Duffy
9TH DISTRICT

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), I write to request public transit workers be included in Phase 1B of the state’s vaccine distribution plan consistent with the interim recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Throughout the pandemic, California’s public transportation agencies have played a critical role in transporting essential workers to their jobs in health care, education, food service and hospitality. These essential workers are overwhelmingly low-income and/or people of color and lack access to a personal vehicle.

Currently, at BART, 75% of our riders are people of color. 51% are from a household with income of less than \$50,000 and only 47% have access to a vehicle.

Given the clear societal, economic and equity benefits of the services public transit workers provide, it is imperative for the state to include public transit workers in Phase 1B of the state’s vaccine distribution plan. Much like health care professionals, emergency service workers and food and agricultural workers, public transit workers provide an essential service, cannot work from home, and must interact with the public during their duties.

As the pandemic subsides, public transit service will be vital to a balanced recovery and the continued health of our public transit workers must be a top priority for the state.

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to address this crisis and thank you for considering the need to ensure transit workers are recognized and prioritized.

Sincerely,

Mark Foley
President

cc: David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Nadine Burke, MD, MPH, Surgeon General, State of California

Erica S. Pan, MD, MPH, Acting State Public Health Officer, Department of Public Health

Members, Vaccine Drafting Guidelines Workgroup, California Department of Public Health

Members, Community Advisory Vaccine Committee, California Department of Public Health