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January 21, 2010

Nathaniel Ford  
Executive Director  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
1 South Van Ness Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Ford:

The MTA, like many transit operators in America, is facing extreme budget pressures as a result of the recession and structural budget imbalances. We believe the MTA, along with the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, should be exploring a wide range of options for balancing this year's budget. Ideally these options should minimize the impacts on riders and should provide ongoing help to solve future years' budgets.

Therefore we would like to request that you provide estimates on revenue increases or cost savings for the following items for the current fiscal year and next fiscal year:

1. Implement the stop consolidation program proposed by the TEP.
2. Eliminate early bird parking and discount parking at garages, moving to hourly parking rates only.
3. Phase in meter rates on Sundays.
4. Ask all MTA staff to take a 5% pay cut.
5. Increase the Residential Parking Permit fee to full cost recovery for the City.
6. Charge MTA employees for parking private vehicles.
7. Eliminate all free parking in the garages.
8. Allow for ad window coverings on vehicles.

We believe that all of these measures are consistent with the principle of minimizing the impact on riders while providing ongoing improvements to the MTA's budget.

If the combination of these measures is not sufficient to balance the budget, we request that you analyze the cost savings of a final measure:

9. Make "smart" service cuts that are consistent with the TEP.

Thank you for being willing to provide us with this information.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Metcalf  
Executive Director, SPUR

Cc: MTA Board of Directors  
Mayor Gavin Newsom  
Board of Supervisors