

RESCUE MUNI

mini-Transfer

Special Edition: July 1999

Victory at City Hall!

The Board of Supervisors has voted to place a revised version of the **Muni Reform Charter Amendment** on the ballot this fall, by a **10-1** margin.

This amendment imposes **strong standards of service** backed by merit pay; merges Muni and DPT into a **single Transportation Agency**; **protects Muni's funding** from cuts; and strengthens the City's **Transit First** policy.

Volunteers: It is because of **YOUR efforts** that this amendment will be on the ballot this fall! Please come to our **Volunteer Appreciation Party**, on **July 8, 1999**, at **5:30 p.m.** at SPUR. Please call **781-8726** to RSVP if you plan to attend.

The full text of the revised amendment, along with an analysis of what's changed, is included in this packet and is also at www.rescuemuni.org. Note also the enclosed letter from the initiative campaign.

The Rescue Muni Steering Committee voted 7-0 (2 absent) to endorse this version of the amendment.

We need you to ratify it!

Our Bylaws require ratification of all Steering Committee decisions. Please read it in detail, and then please plan to vote YES at our:

General Membership Meeting

July 13, 1999 (Tuesday)
SPUR (312 Sutter), 6 p.m.

Executive Committee Election Notice

The July General Membership Meeting will include the Third Annual **Rescue Muni Executive Committee Election**. The following incumbents are the only five candidates for the five Excom seats that are due for election: **Charlotte Breckenridge, Joan Downey, Ken Niemi, Howard Strassner, and Andrew Sullivan**. Even after outreach via the previous *Transfer* and repeated reminder via email no additional candidates came to the April Metro Committee meeting to be nominated. The requirements to become a candidate are really simple - be a member of RM and make yourself known to other active members. Our Bylaws state that only Standing Committees can nominate Excom candidates, and since Metro is currently our only

Standing Committee, no other candidates could be nominated. Our Excom also serves as the Steering Committee to make RM policy. A contested election is a basic value and having a shortage of candidates is unfortunate.

Rescue Muni is trying to be a real grassroots organization. All of our meetings are announced and open. Members who come to General Membership Meeting can overrule the positions of the Steering Committee, and two-thirds votes of voting members are required for endorsement of Initiatives or City Candidates.

Rescue More Lines: Bus Committees Needed

Rescue Muni's original objective was to help Muni by making suggestions to help Muni provide better

service at little or no additional cost. The Metro Committee formed soon after the formation of RM and has been consistently working on Metro improvements. While Muni has only implemented three of our suggestions we have developed a better understanding of the system and we will continue to look into service improvements. The Metro rider input will help produce service improvements when the people speak and Muni becomes service oriented. The insights of riders can help improve bus service in the same way.

The Metro Committee has some natural advantages, which helped. It had a critical mass of RM members who regularly rode Metro, and Metro suffered a well-publicized failure last fall. We clearly don't want another major failure in the bus lines to increase committee membership, but we will help overcome the lack of critical mass for any one line with the following steps.

- 1) Every General Membership Meeting will end with a call for people interested in improving their Muni line to come together.
- 2) RM membership forms include each members line and contact information will be made available to those who want to actively improve their line.
- 3) Metro and Steering Committee members will assist and consult in the formation of any new committee.

RESCUE MUNI Meeting Schedule

The **Metro Committee** meets on the **second Wednesday** of each month at SPUR, 312 Sutter Street, at 6:00PM on the fifth floor. Call Howard Strassner, Chair, at 661-8786, or email: ruthow@juno.com.

The **Executive and Steering Committees** (Excom/Steercom) meet generally on the third Monday of each month at SPUR, 312 Sutter Street, at 6:00PM on the fifth floor.

These meetings are subject to change, so check the website or call the Hotline, 415/273-1558, to verify.

Excom/Steercom Digest, March and June 1999

We have over 500 paid up members and renewals proceed at a continuing but too often delayed pace. We are looking for volunteers to update the website. We will try to use bulk mail for future mailings. We also decided to hold future Excom/Steercom meetings at SPUR instead of the Sierra Club because there are fewer problems with doors for evening meetings.

In accordance with RESCUE MUNI Bylaws none of the following are RM policy (A through F) unless consented to by a majority of the RM Membership present at a General Membership Meeting.

Endorsement of Ballot Initiatives requires a two-thirds vote.

Obviously most RM efforts during to past quarter were directed to the writing of the Reform Muni Charter Amendment, forming a campaign committee to collect petition signatures and negotiating with City Hall.

- A) We **endorsed the revised Muni Reform Charter Amendment** approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 21, 1999. Further details on this amendment are included in this package.
- B) We **opposed the Muni and DPT agreement to take a most of lane of parking** along Third Street to provide a 24 hour Transit Only Lane from Folsom to Market. We made an alternate proposal: Transit only lane should have parking along side to protect the pedestrians on the narrow sidewalks; Lane should extend from Townsend to Market; Some bus bulbs and right turn stacking lanes should be provided where appropriate to help Muni; and There should be no right turns, by private cars, from Third to Market, to start to promote Transit First Market.
- C) We endorsed the **Transportation and Land Use Spring 1999 Platform** for Smart Growth, Livable Walkable Communities, Real Transportation Choices, Social Equity and the Right Price for automobile use and transit.
- D) We requested that Muni remind all drivers of **rule 35A**, published in the Time Tables, "**Additional Stops in the Evening**", which allows stops at nearside corners not between regular stops between 8:30 PM and 6:30 AM up request as a courtesy. There is a fear of harassment around the 'N' Hillway stop. Moving the stop to Willard should also be considered because this provided better spacing between Stanyan and Arguello. The Muni response was to add the Willard stop.
- E) We are upset with Muni because they have not apologized for or explained the **breakdown of Metro service on Saturday April 10**. Muni Metro was totally or partially out of service from 11:30 AM onward, reportedly not returning to full service until 9 PM. Under similar circumstances BART distributes fliers at their fare gates; at least Muni could post some photocopied notices in their Metro stations.
- F) We requested that when buses are pressed into service for Metro emergency substitute service, such buses should **stop only at the three Metro stations** (Church, Castro, Forest Hill) between Van Ness and West Portal. Passengers are often crowded onto these shuttles, they have already been seriously delayed for appointments or work, and had been counting on faster Metro service. Stopping at every intersection causes increases delay and discomfort.

Why the mini-Transfer? Due to the time-consuming nature of the initiative campaign and City Hall negotiations and the short time available to send out this notice, we are keeping it brief this time. Watch for a full *Transfer* soon!