

November 6, 2023

Re: file# 230986 Charter Amendment - Mayor Approval Required for Certain SFMTA Budget Proposals

Dear President Peskin and Supervisors,

SPUR respectfully urges you to **vote against** submitting the proposed charter amendment that would require mayoral approval of certain SFMTA budget proposals to the March 2024 ballot. San Francisco's environment, economy and quality of life all depend on fast, frequent Muni service. SFMTA is a foundational part of our civic infrastructure, and its effective, accountable and independent operation should not be compromised.

For decades, SPUR has advocated for the importance of SFMTA to San Francisco and the Bay Area and has been at the forefront of calling for good governance and institutional reforms that make our transit system more equitable and efficient. SPUR strongly supported and was closely involved in the development of both Proposition E in 1999 and Proposition in A in 2007 – measures that provided resources, created greater independence and streamlined operations for the SFMTA.

Unfortunately, the proposed charter amendment muddles accountability by requiring that the mayor approve selective components of the SFMTA's budget, making it unclear who in government is ultimately responsible for ensuring that Muni has sufficient resources. It also erodes key aspects of Propositions E and A, diluting SFMTA's independence and introducing new steps into the core processes of a city government that is already notoriously overburdened by complexity.

There is much work that needs to be done to secure SFMTA's financial future and to improve and expand the system so that it better serves all of San Francisco. The proposed amendment is a distraction that moves us in the wrong direction. We urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,

Laura Tolhoff
Transportation Policy Director, SPUR