



TREASURE ISLAND SAILING CENTER
Launching Point for New Horizons

February 25, 2022

To the Honorable Supervisor Haney,

On behalf of the Treasure Island Sailing Center Board of Directors, Operations Committee, and staff, we wholeheartedly support increasing access to safe public transportation on and off of the island from both San Francisco and the East Bay. However, the implementation of a costly toll presents some real challenges that need discussion and problem solving before its approval and implementation. **Therefore, we respectfully ask that the toll as proposed not be approved at this time.**

Our mission is to provide access to the Bay and to sailing for people of all ages, races, ethnicities, gender, and sociodemographic backgrounds. We provide low cost education and recreation opportunities to children and youth in our community. Between 50-100% of our families receive partial and full scholarships; most would NOT qualify for the toll subsidies or would have significant barriers applying for such subsidies. The current toll structure amounts to \$10 per trip to visit TI, and \$20 per day to drop off a child that is attending sailing camp. **A toll of this magnitude would dismantle the community that we have worked hard to build over the past 20 years.**

In analyzing the impact of this two-way toll , we find that it will:

- increase the cost to attend camp between 30% and 70%, which amounts to \$200-\$500 dollars for a single two-week sailing camp session. Many kids come for multiple sessions offered each summer.
- discourage job training and family retention efforts due to the high cost of getting to and from the island for annual or full season activities
- be a burden for low income families, and our staff assisting them, to apply for a toll subsidy and an even bigger burden for middle income families who do not receive toll subsidies
- make it even harder to hire employees, thus reducing the number of classes we can offer and forcing our organization to raise up to an extra \$120,000 per year at our current level of activity, and more as we grow, to offset the transportation costs of our current staff
- make it very difficult to recruit volunteers, particularly those who are not near public transportation options



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- impact the number of people who choose to come to the island to enjoy its recreation facilities

Approving the toll as proposed is premature and deserves more detailed discussion on approaches to negate the negative impacts that this will have on our community. Possible solutions to consider include:

- Making public transportation on certain days/times more child friendly to accommodate campers as young as 6 years of age.
- Allowing cars staying less than one hour to have a grace period providing free access to the island to accommodate parents that need to drop off their young children.
- Providing an annual "TI Toll Pass" option for those who regularly recreate on TI
- Providing "commuter passes" to offset the more than \$120,000 impact we would have in supporting employee commute costs on public transportation
- Providing toll subsidies for organizations that rely on volunteers

In summary, to achieve the goal of encouraging public transportation and reducing the number of cars on TI, there needs to be **robust, cost-effective, and safe** transportation to TI from **both sides** of the Bay Bridge. An overly expensive toll without cost-effective and safe public transportation solutions will only reduce the number of people, especially families, who choose to visit, recreate, or work on TI. In reducing the number of cars on the Island, we must not put up barriers that make access to TI inequitable for our community. The current toll as proposed will degrade the community and programs that we have all worked so hard to build. **Please do not approve the TI toll until a more comprehensive transportation proposal that supports accessibility of TI resources, like TISC, is presented.**

With kind regards,

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