

Office of the Mayor

City & County of San Francisco



Gavin Newsom

October 3, 2007

Mr. Nathaniel P. Ford
Executive Director, CEO
Municipal Transportation Agency
1 South Van Ness, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Ms. Heidi Machen
Executive Director
San Francisco Taxi Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 420
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Directors Ford and Machen:

This November the voters will have an opportunity to further consolidate transit and transportation decisions with the Municipal Transportation Agency. As you know, Proposition E in 1999, memorialized this possibility and Proposition A further effectuates this with the ability of the MTA Board of Directors to adopt new rules and regulations governing the Taxi Industry.

While it is the intent to put all forms of public transit (including Taxis) in the hands of professionals, it is also the goal to respect the will of the voters on Taxi issues. We are not supportive of an effort to merge the Taxi industry unless proper guarantees are made to protect Proposition K.

To that end, the City Attorney's Office has been asked to draft legislation that will effectuate the transfer, pursuant to Proposition E, of the Taxi Commission into the MTA. Please keep our desires not to tamper with the intent of Proposition K in mind as you examine ways to streamline operations and develop a strategic business plan for this merge. Consider the fact, that when this merger legislation is heard at the Board of Supervisors, you must have answers to how this division will function within the MTA, its jurisdictional authority, how the MTA will change its operations to accommodate hearings and regulatory oversight as well as any changes to the governance structure of the MTA Board of Directors.

We would like to introduce this legislation later this fall with the goal of allowing MTA to accommodate any budget implications in its budget planning for FY09. The goal would be to have this legislation be effective July 1, 2008.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Major City & County of San Francisco

Supervisor Aaron Peskin
President, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Honorable Members, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Member, MTA Board of Directors
Member, Taxi Commission