



Below is a safety resolution sample based on [the resolution](#) passed by the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District on February 21, 2020 to support enhancing the experience of girls and women riding BART. Please note that in order to create your own policy based on this sample language, it is necessary to include the name of the specific transit agency that will adopt this resolution and update the data with the most recent data about sexual harassment, gender-based violence and safety on public transportation as experienced by the population/community you are advocating for. In addition, it is helpful to include data relevant to the specific transportation agency you are targeting.

For any and all questions about this document, please contact us at Alliance for Girls at info@alliance4girls.org.

TRANSIT SAFETY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, TRANSIT AGENCY is committed to delivering safe transit free from sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, in a survey of New York City subway users, 63% had been sexually harassed¹ and almost 63% of students in San Jose State University experienced some form of harassment on transit.² These examples from two of the ten most populous US cities give us an idea of the scope of the issue in lieu of national data.

WHEREAS, a recently published report from the Alliance for Girls developed in partnership with high-school-aged girls titled “Together, We Rise,” included community-based research finding girls in the Bay Area expressed feeling unsafe on public transportation and while walking through their communities; and

¹ nytimes.com/packages/pdf/nyregion/city_room/20070726_hiddeninplainsight.pdf?pagewanted=all

² transweb.sjsu.edu/research/1810-Crime-Harassment-Public-Transit-SJSU

WHEREAS, “Together, We Rise” outlines how girls experience physical and verbal harassment often of a sexual nature on transit along with the lack of intervention from bystanders; and

WHEREAS, according to the “Youth Transportation Justice Report,” released in December 2019, compiled by the One Day at a Time Transportation Justice Youth Team from East Contra Costa County, 45.3% of 274 surveyed East Contra Costa County middle and high school students did not feel safe taking BART; and

WHEREAS, according to the report “Measuring #METOO in California, A Statewide Assessment of Sexual Harassment and Assault,” published in May 2019, among all women surveyed, most (77%) reported experiencing sexual harassment in public spaces with 29% reporting the harassment took place on mass transit.

WHEREAS, sexual harassment is defined as “unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, physical sexual acts against a person’s will or when a person is not able to consent, verbal or nonverbal conduct of a sexual nature, invasion of personal space, exposure of genitals or public masturbation, inappropriate touching, grinding, groping, sexually suggestive and unwanted staring, and infliction of the fear for safety.”

WHEREAS, sexual harassment on public transportation impacts transgender, gender non-conforming, (TGNC), and female-identified people. Sexual harassment on public transit is holding back women, girls, and TGNC people - a majority of society from moving freely.

WHEREAS, **AGENCY NAME** is striving to build relationships with the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, safety, as defined by girls themselves, moves away from traditional assumptions and encompasses notions of physical, emotional, and spiritual ideas of comfort, non judgment, sovereignty, acceptance, and belonging.

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) established a Women and Girls Governing Council in 2017 made up of Metro employees to provide recommendations to advance gender-specific equity initiatives to improve women and girls’ experiences on Metro and their recommendations and reports could serve as guidance for **AGENCY NAME**; and

WHEREAS, historical attempts to address this have resulted in policing, which does not meet the needs of people of color, undocumented people, or those who do not wish to report harassment. Furthermore, police are not equipped to respond to sexual harassment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, centering girls and uplifting the needs of girls to create safety on public transportation is a powerful approach that would increase safety for others as well and could potentially increase ridership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the **AGENCY NAME** Board of Directors hereby commits to the development and implementation of a Gender Equity Safety Action Plan for **AGENCY NAME**

which may include providing transparency on reporting sexual harassment, identifying and ensuring the availability of non-police resources for sexual harassment, training **AGENCY NAME** staff on gender-based violence prevention and intervention, and collecting data on the scope of sexual harassment within **AGENCY NAME**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, **AGENCY NAME** will convene transit stakeholders through the establishment of a local committee to develop a gender-based safety action plan framework and trauma-informed principles that respond to, intervene, and prevent sexual harassment for implementation by urban and rural agencies. Key stakeholders to include are frontline transit staff such as drivers, youth riders, and advocates with a perspective on gender-based violence prevention. **AGENCY NAME** will strongly consider recommendations from this group to enhance safety and the rider experience for girls, women, transgender, and gender non-conforming people as it relates to sexual harassment through community feedback from based community organizations and girls who interact with **AGENCY NAME**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, **AGENCY NAME** will support a community and youth-driven sexual harassment prevention campaign using cultural strategy and art from youth riders and the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **AGENCY NAME** Board of Directors requests the General Manager to assign **AGENCY NAME** staff to advance recommendations prioritized by the **AGENCY NAME** Board of Directors and General Manager pending available funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, **AGENCY NAME** staff will present their findings and recommendations twice a year for at least a two-year period regarding their Gender Equity Safety Action Plan for Transit Spaces to the **AGENCY NAME** Board of Directors.