

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT**

**Resolution of the Board of Directors of the
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit
District in recognition of Bill Stokes' contribution
to the creation of BART**

_____ / Resolution No.: _____

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District in celebration of its 50th anniversary of service to the people of the Bay Area do hereby honor Billy Richard Stokes, known professionally as B.R. Stokes, and

WHEREAS, in 1958 Stokes became the first employee as Director of Information for the fledging rapid transit system charged with creating a concept and a plan to help Bay Area residents visualize the potential of building and operating an unprecedented regional rail network, the first to be built in the United States in 60 years, and

WHEREAS, between 1960 and 1962 Stokes gave over 300 speeches and presentations to build public confidence in the importance and benefits a new Space-Age rail rapid transit system that would link the expansive Bay Area, create, and support new and existing employment centers and facilitate future development, resulting in a successful \$792-million bond referendum to construct an initial 75-mile system serving three counties, and

WHEREAS, in 1963 Stokes was elevated to the position of General Manager and charged with managing the building of this new rail system to serve Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties, and

WHEREAS, in 1964 Stokes presided over a momentous ground-breaking near Mount Diablo with President Lyndon Johnson as the featured speaker to herald the coming of a new era and beginning of a renaissance in public transportation in America, and

WHEREAS, Stokes guided the mammoth construction project through a challenging eight years, overlaying 75 miles of track, including three-and-a-half miles of Muni track in San Francisco, across an already established topography following key corridors in the original three BART counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco, and

WHEREAS, Stokes welcomed guests and media from around the country and world for the opening of the new system on September 11, 1972, including the Secretary of Transportation along with multiple dignitaries and soon after the opening, President Richard Nixon and First Lady Pat Nixon for a train ride from San Leandro to Lake Merritt, and

WHEREAS, Stokes remained General Manager until 1974 when he moved on to help form the American Public Transportation Association, combining bus and rail, in Washington D.C., and became its first Executive Director, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District in celebration of BART's 50th year of service to the people of the Bay Area does hereby salute and honor B.R. Stokes posthumously for his vision, determination, and enormous contribution to the building and operation of the BART system.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SECRETARY