

## Getting LGBTQ+ PRIDE Month Rolling with Capitol Leaders and Allies

June 2021

On June 1st, 2021, President Biden wrote in his [proclamation](#) on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Pride (LGBTQ+) month of the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in 1969. Commonly referred to as the Stonewall Riots, the movement was led by trans, gay, and queer women of color like [Marsha “Pay It No Mind” Johnson](#). This rebellion against violence enacted on the LGBTQ+ community grew into decades of LGBTQ+ advocacy and the Pride movement. Pride began as and continues to be a protest against unjust systems, but as the United States and the world begin to understand and appreciate LGBTQ+ culture and individuals, Pride can also be a time of celebration.



Although the famous [San Francisco Pride](#) celebration and most others around the country have been canceled this year (and last) due to the pandemic, Bay Area residents are still finding ways to celebrate. SF Pride has been holding other smaller events like a [Movie Night](#) at Oracle Park and a Black Liberation Event with the [African American Art & Culture Complex](#) (AAACC) on Juneteenth. Transportation agencies in the Bay and across the country are showing their rainbow colors in celebration too. The [San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency](#)'s theme for 2021 is "[Moving San Francisco with Pride](#)" while the [Chicago Transit Authority](#) unveiled a newly redesigned [Pride Train](#) just in time for Pride month. Although these may seem surface-level gestures at first, creating a welcoming atmosphere for LGBTQ+ community members and their allies is crucial when people who are transgender are [four times](#) more likely to be victims of violent crimes than cisgender people.

In his recent Pride Month [proclamation](#), President Biden acknowledged the equal importance of creating an environment where LGBTQ+ individuals are fairly represented. He declared, “Nearly 14 percent of my 1,500 agency appointees identify as LGBTQ+, and I am particularly honored by the service of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, the first openly LGBTQ+ person to serve in the Cabinet, and Assistant Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine, the first openly transgender person to be confirmed by the Senate.”

While equity has long been a pillar of transportation, LGBTQ+ representation has been spotlighted in recent years as society becomes more aware of the discrimination LGBTQ+ communities face in our daily lives. Under the Biden administration and U.S. Secretary of Transportation [Pete Buttigieg](#), honoring LGBTQ+ pride has increasingly become the norm. Secretary Buttigieg is the 19th Secretary of Transportation and was sworn in on February 3rd, 2021. As the first openly LGBTQ+ person confirmed

to serve in a Presidential Cabinet, he recognizes that this is a unique position that would have been much more difficult or even impossible only a short time ago. Secretary Buttigieg seized his first Pride Month in office to release a statement celebrating pride and also acknowledging those who had paved the way before him.

“What began as a protest, organized primarily by Black trans women like Marsha P. Johnson, has evolved into a defiant celebration of our love, our humanity, and our collective resilience,” [said](#) Secretary Buttigieg.

Our industry is honored to participate in the celebration of LGBTQ+ pride. This Pride Month, the [Los Angeles Metro](#) offers a limited-edition rainbow [pride access card](#). [King County Metro](#) in Washington State has updated their [Ride with Pride](#) bus, while [TriMet](#) in Portland, Oregon is [celebrating](#) with a bus wrap featuring photos of LGBTQ+ leaders. Every day, we strive to make public transit, the transportation field, our communities, and our nation a place of welcome and celebration. This month and all year long, let us celebrate leaders like Marsha P. Johnson and Secretary Buttigieg and everyone with LGBTQ+ pride.

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