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To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: Comments for BATA Oversight

External Email

Kim and Martha with thanks please forward this message to the BATA Oversight Committee in your next distribution of correspondence.

Good morning Committee Chair Amy Worth and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record, (she, her).

I bring you my miscellaneous thoughts concerning BATA, as there is no Agenda posted at this time.

Even in this summer season, things are moving along in the all electronic tolling space. A few days ago, the toll plaza at State Route 5, in Walters, Oklahoma, transitioned to full all electronic tolling methods. This work now makes the H E Bailey Turnpike a fully electronic tolled system. As I've mentioned before, this was the toll road where I first began using the Pikepass in early 1991, and did so until early 1995. More turnpikes in Oklahoma will be transitioning to the all electronic tolling methods, with toll plaza deconstruction soon to follow.

I admit to you that I have not been over the Bay Bridge much lately, given that in some situations, it is of greater advantage for me to use BART. Yet AC Transit continues to offer its "F" line service, for me it costs \$3 per trip. I am able to pay with Clipper, and also with Token Transit mobile passes, it's my way of paying to cross the bridge, even though the bridge does not get revenue from the public transit buses themselves.

I do feel that our all electronic tolling program can serve as a great unifier in helping people from equity priority communities to access the electronic payments system, and the cost saving efficiencies thereof. It takes much outreach to show others new ways of doing things. I have found that as I learn new things, there is a bit of harder work for the initial setup, then things become much easier going forward.

It is important to not presume people incapable. Often I hear of the unbanked. Yet just because a person is unbanked today doesn't mean they are forever destined to be unbanked going forward. Such things are not static, but dynamic. I remember even when I was making \$3.35 an hour in the 1980's, the bank next door to my place was happy to open an account for me with a paycheck which I think was about \$15. That was from a part time job I had, I was in my late teens. And so for almost forty years, as a person with equity needs, I have banked with someone. Even when I was unemployed I had a bank account, and a debit card. I am a person who does not fit societally established definitions, and I am with my credit union. And so I believe that Fastrak is easily obtainable even for those of the least means, I've been there myself, with my having a Pikepass in Oklahoma, in times of great economic uncertainty for me. I ask that the outreach continue, and that we always be forward thinking and empowering.

I submit that on occasion, I enjoy pulling up a livestream of the George Washington Bridge, from the New Jersey side. The video stream is provided by the Fort Lee Police Department. I am able to see the

traffic proceeding through the toll plazas and no longer needing to stop, as all electronic tolling has been implemented. There is still slow moving traffic on that bridge at times, but at least things are not as slow as they were. I anticipate soon that deconstruction activities will take place, and I'll see the progress on that video feed.

I feel it is important to convey to the Public the status of the work for the new tolling equipment and toll plaza deconstruction on the three northern bridges. This will bring about benefits of safety and efficiency that continue to be proven. I have only been through one open road tolling location myself in the last few years, the Governor Albert D Rosellini Bridge near Seattle, Washington, given that I do not have a car. But soon this will be more widespread, and I'll experience the benefits thereof.

It has been five years that I have corresponded and engaged with you as a Committee, time does indeed go by. I think back to my first time appearing before you, and speaking. I knew then that not only was I being a part of the conversation, but that I indeed had a welcome. Given that, not only must our work continue, I also look forward to attending and speaking at many future meetings with you.

Thank you.