Update on the Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Bay Area Corridor Express Lanes Category

Programming and Allocations Committee

Agenda Item 3b-26-0096

January 14, 2026

Seek Authority for Comprehensive Regional Express Lanes Network (2009)

- ## AB744 (Torrico)

  - 800-mile network that could cost $8 billion to build, finance, operate, maintain over 25 years.

  - BATA to plan, finance, manage network

  - Interagency oversight for phasing, design, and operational policies

Transportation 2035 Express Lanes Network

Rely on Existing Authority (since 2011)

- 550-mile express lanes network
  - Santa Clara VTA (140 miles)
  - Alameda CTC (80 miles)
  - MTC/BAIFA (290 miles)
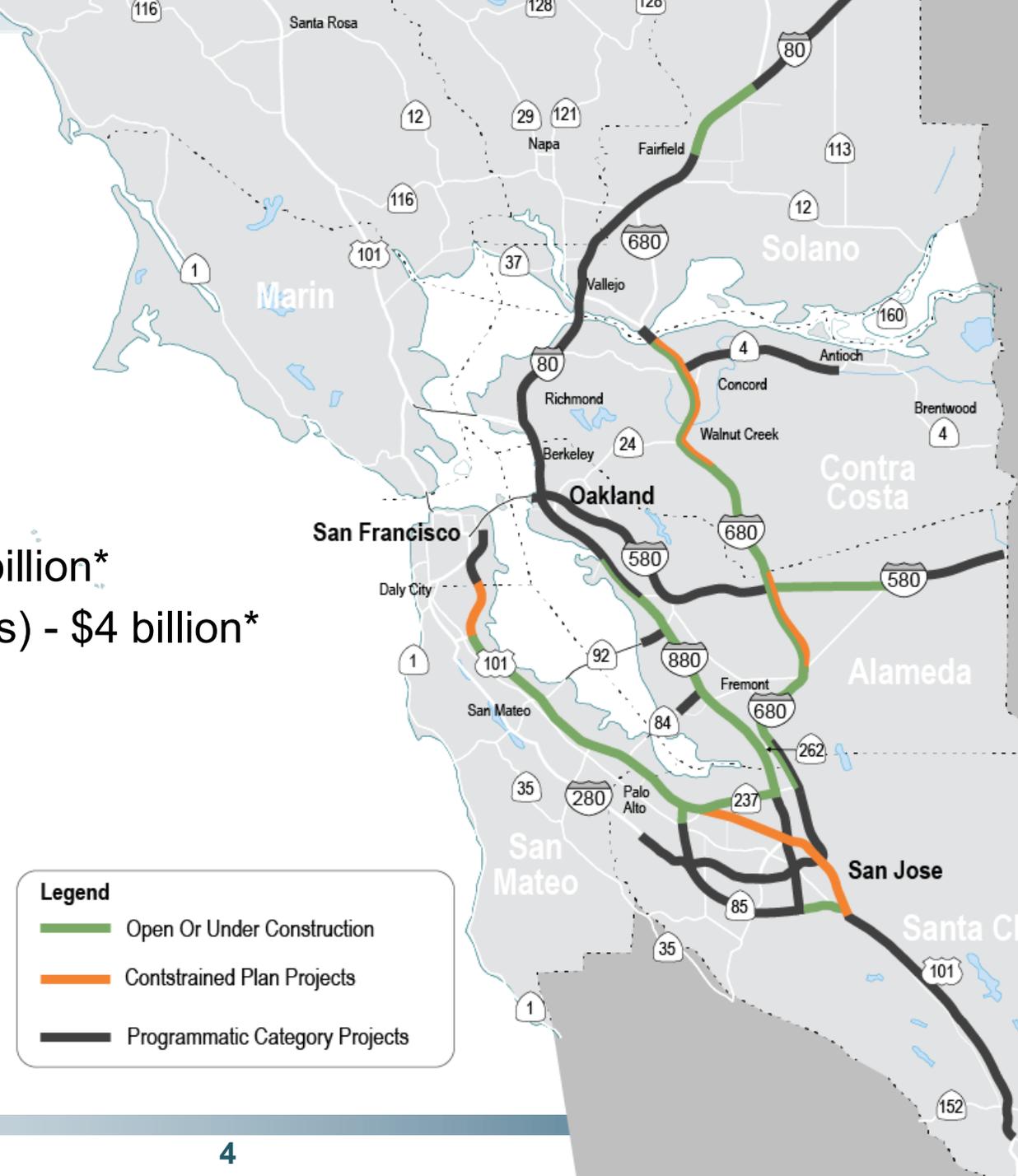 - San Mateo County Exp Lanes JPA (40 miles)
- $4 billion total cost *

*Year of Expenditure, from 2009 MTC Transportation 2035

Authorized by State

LEGEND
- ACTC Lane
- Sunol JPA Lane*
- VTA Lane
- BAIFA Lane
- SMCEL JPA Lane

*Sunol JPA was dissolved in 2024 and authorization transferred to each respective county.

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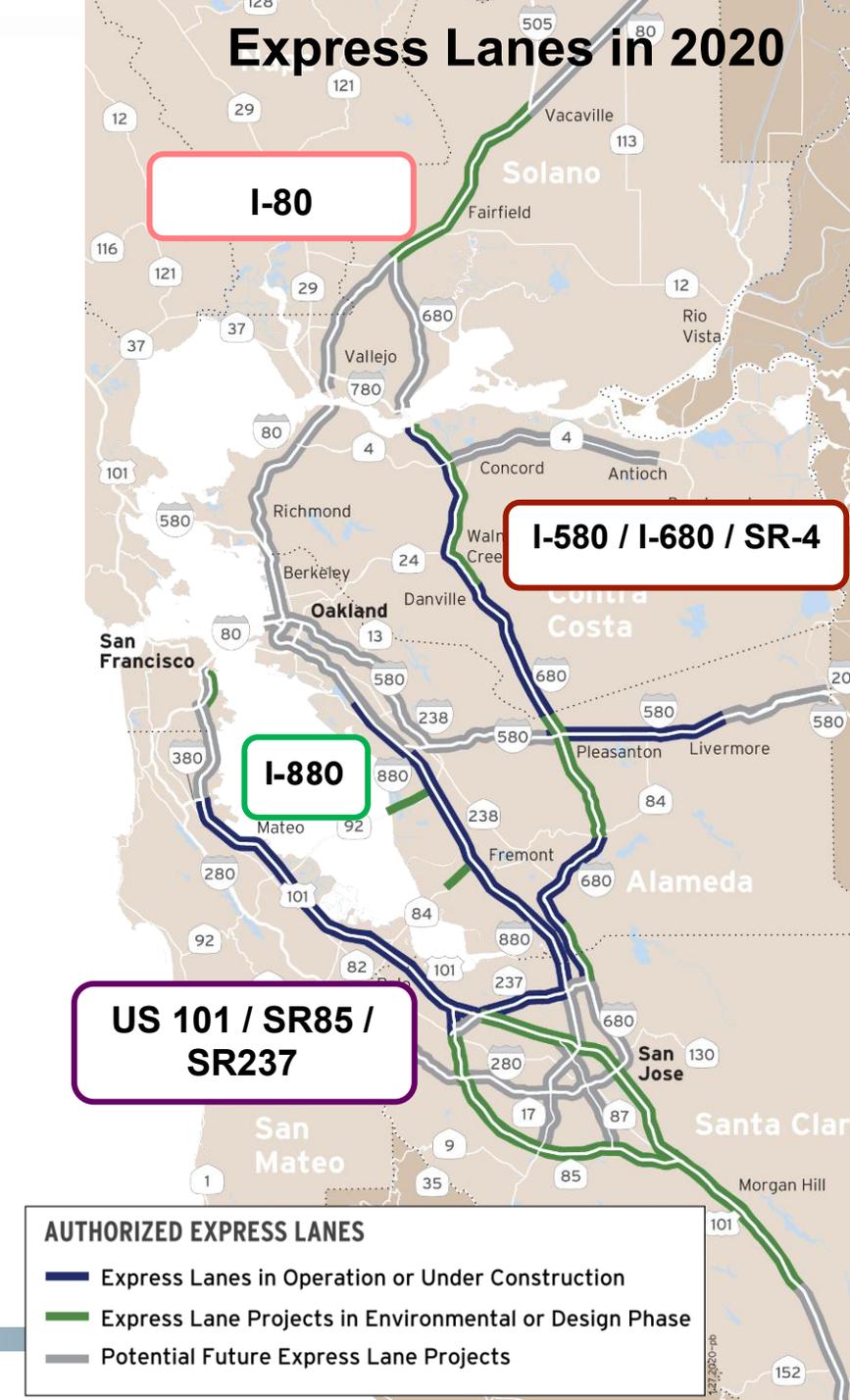# Current Funding Needs to Build Express Lanes Network

- 230 miles built or underway

- Plan Bay Area 2050+
  - Constrained Plan Projects (90 miles) - $2 billion*
  - Programmatic Category Projects (400 miles) - $4 billion*

* Year of Expenditure; developed for PBA50+ Final Blueprint; excludes VMT mitigation costs

Legend
- Open Or Under Construction
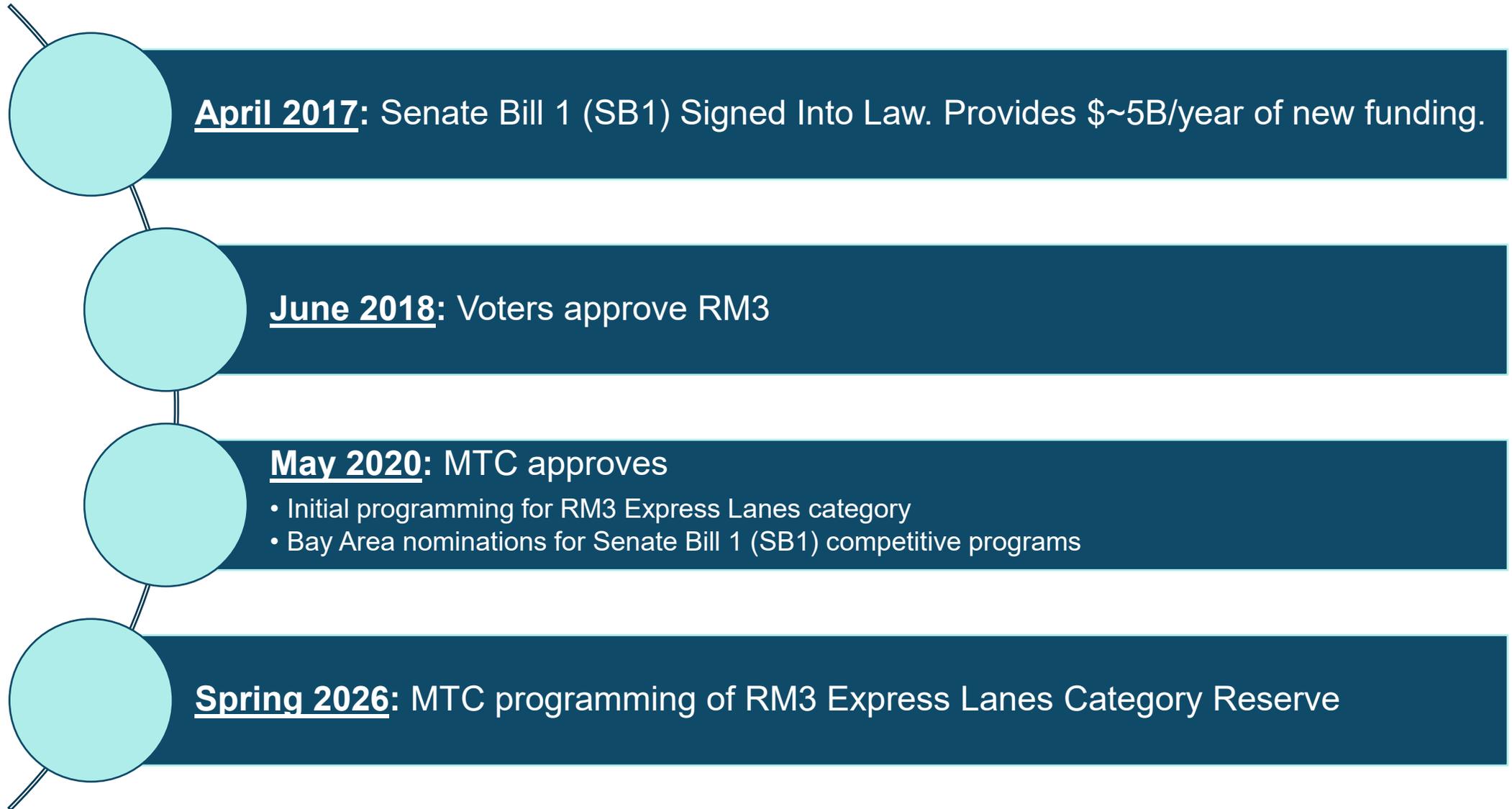- Contstrained Plan Projects
- Programmatic Category Projects

Overview of RM3 Express Lanes

- $300 million available

- Eligible projects include express lanes and supporting operational strategies

- MTC shall make funds available based on performance criteria, including benefit-cost and project readiness
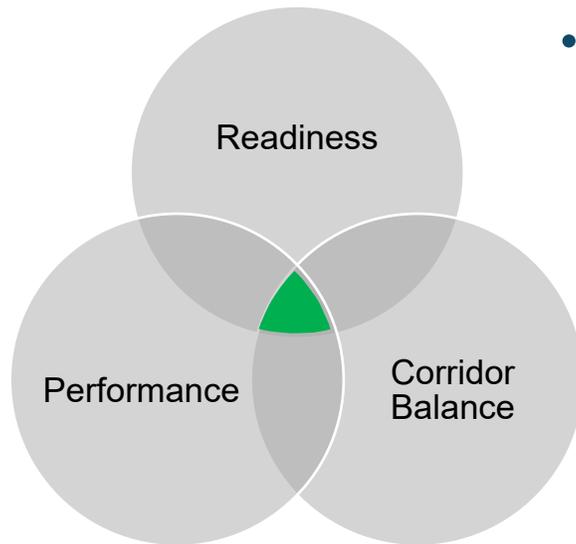
I-80

I-580 / I-680 / SR-4

I-880

US 101 / SR85 / SR237

AUTHORIZED EXPRESS LANES

— Express Lanes in Operation or Under Construction
— Express Lane Projects in Environmental or Design Phase
— Potential Future Express Lane Projects

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RM3 Express Lanes Programming Timeline

April 2017: Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Signed Into Law. Provides $~5B/year of new funding.

June 2018: Voters approve RM3

May 2020: MTC approves
- Initial programming for RM3 Express Lanes category
- Bay Area nominations for Senate Bill 1 (SB1) competitive programs

Spring 2026: MTC programming of RM3 Express Lanes Category Reserve
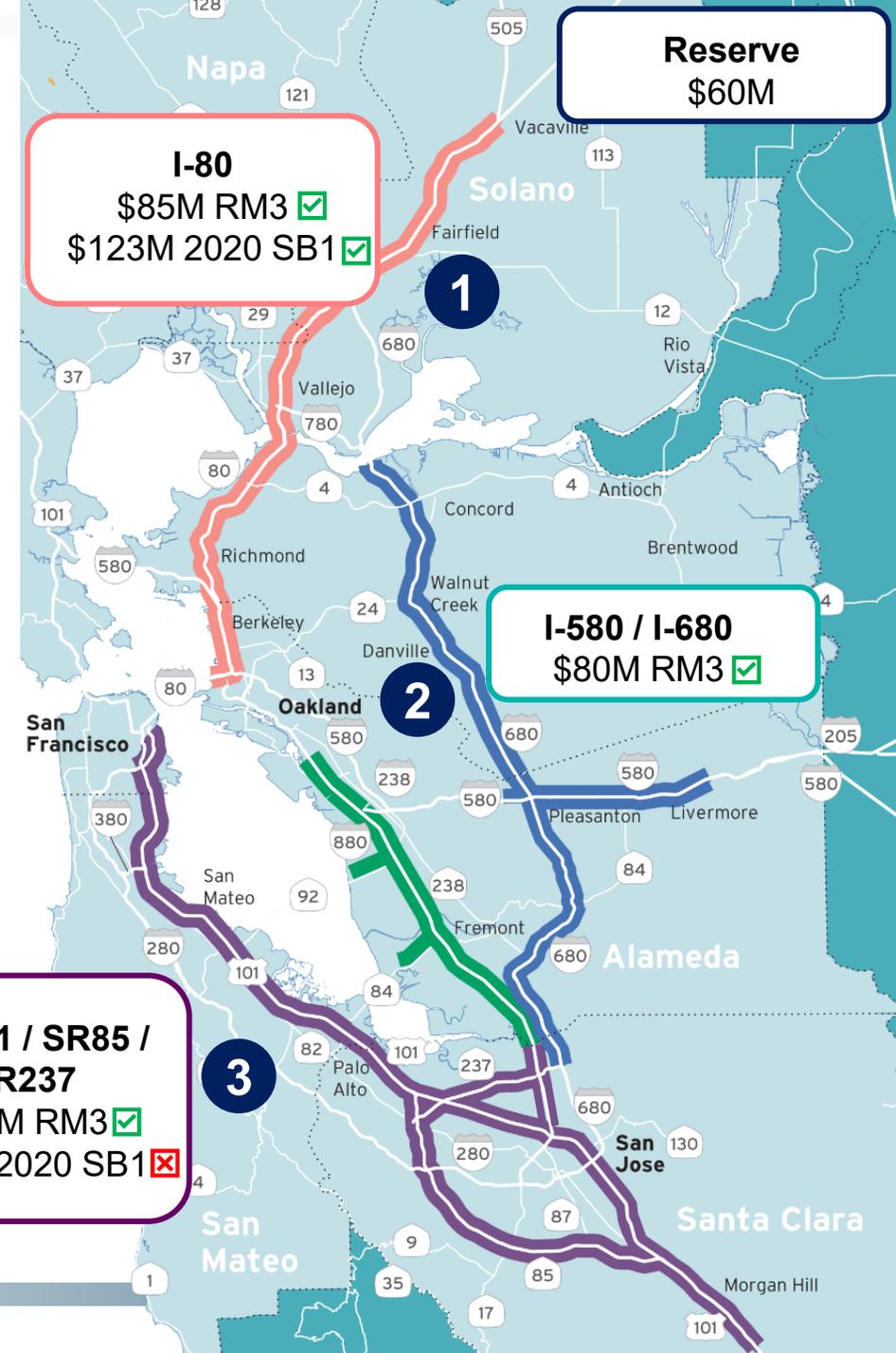
2020 RM3 Express Lanes Approach

- Deliver seamless system to Bay Area commuters

- Meet commitments by making regional funds available when needed

- RM3 funds returned to Reserve if projects fail to secure funding or meet other requirements to start construction

- RM3 to leverage SB1 funding opportunities and fund ready, high performing projects in each of 3 major express lane corridors.

Readiness

Performance

Corridor Balance

Reserve
$60M

I-80
$85M RM3 ☑
$123M 2020 SB1 ☑

1

I-580 / I-680
$80M RM3 ☑

2

US 101 / SR85 / SR237
$75M RM3 ☑
$72M 2020 SB1 ☒

3

Initial Programming for RM3 Express Lanes
MTC Resolution No. 4411, Attachment B – May 2020

	Corridor (County)	Project	SB1[1] Req. Amount		RM3 Amount
1	I-80 (Solano Co.)	Express Lanes from Red Top to I-505	$123M	✅	$85M
2	I-680 (Alameda Co.)	Express Lanes from Alcosta Blvd. to SR-84, Southbound			$80M
3	US-101 (San Mateo Co.)	Express Lanes from I-380 to Santa Clara County	$200M	✅	$75M
3	US-101 (Santa Clara Co.)	Express Lanes, Phase 5 from SR-237 to I-880	$72M	❌	
		Reserve[2]			*$60M*
		Total			**$300M**

[1] SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors and Trade Corridor Enhancement Programs
[2] The Commission prioritized a portion of reserve for I-680 in Contra Costa Co.

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RM3 Express Lanes – Program Reserve

- MTC left a $60M program reserve to:
  - Leverage future SB1 funding and other competitive funding opportunities
  - Develop a pipeline of high performing express lane projects or supportive operational improvements
  - Implement projects that align with the Express Lanes Strategic Plan
- Commission in 2020 prioritized a portion of the reserve for I-680 Northbound Express Lane in Contra Costa, conditioned on:
  - Completion of environmental review
  - Updated cost-benefit ratio in subsequent project phases
  - Full funding plan

Looking Ahead: Completing the Express Lane Network

- Interest in advancing express lane projects underway across the region despite funding shortfalls in the billions

- Leverage limited remaining RM3 reserve of $60M with other funding sources to fund construction

Express Lanes Projects on I-680 and US-101	County	Project Type	Planned Construction Start	Environmental Clearance
US-101 (NB/SB): Between SR-237 and South of I-880 ("Phase 5")	SCL	Dual Lane: New Lane plus HOV-Lane Conversion	2026	Yes
I-680 (NB): Between Livorna Rd and Arthur Rd	CC	New Lane and HOV-Lane Conversion	2026	Yes
US-101 (NB/SB): Between I-380 and San Francisco County Line	SM	New Lane	2027	By 2026
US-101 (NB/SB): Between I-880 and SR-85 ("Phase 6")	SCL	Dual Lane: New Lane plus HOV-Lane Conversion	2027	By 2026
I-680 (NB): Between SR-84 and Alcosta Blvd	ALA	New Lane	2028	Yes

Next Steps

- Continue discussions with express lane operators

- Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC) in Spring 2026:
  - Report on approaches to complete express lanes in US-101 and I-680 corridors
  - Present staff recommendation for programming the RM3 Express Lanes Reserve