

**Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority
Network and Operations Committee**

July 11, 2025

Agenda Item 5b

Solano Interstate 80 (I-80) Express Lane Weekend Pilot

Subject:

Refer to the Authority approval of a three-year pilot of weekend operations on the Solano I-80 Express Lanes when tolling commences in late Fall 2025, subject to the expiration of the 30-day waiting period for the amended and restated toll facility ordinance approved at the Authority meeting on June 25, 2025 to become effective July 25, 2025.

Background:

The Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority (BAIFA), the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) are partnering to deliver express lanes on I-80 in Solano County, which are part of the BAIFA Express Lanes Network authorized by the California Transportation Commission. STA is the sponsoring agency for civil project delivery, Caltrans is delivering the civil construction project, and BAIFA is the lead agency to deliver the toll system and backhaul communications network. The project converts existing high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to express lanes in the eastbound and westbound directions between Red Top Road and Air Base Parkway and builds express lanes in the eastbound and westbound directions between Air Base Parkway and Interstate 505 for a total of 20 express lane miles in each direction. The project started construction in April 2022 and the I-80 Express Lanes are expected to start operations in late Fall 2025.

The new express lane will be toll free for vehicles with three or more occupants (HOV3+), to match the carpool occupancy requirement in the rest of the I-80 corridor, and offer discounted tolls to vehicles with 2 occupants (HOV2), like the I-880, US 101 and State Route 237 express lanes. Single Occupant Vehicles (SOVs) will pay full toll rates. The minimum toll amount and violation penalty rates will be the same as established on other BAIFA express lanes. The lanes will operate from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

At its June 2025 meeting, the Authority approved revisions to the Authority's Toll Ordinance that allow the I-80 Express Lanes to operate and clarified BAIFA's ability to pilot projects testing changes to operational policies, such as days and hours of operation.

Through the provisions of the BAIFA Toll Ordinance regarding the adoption and operation of pilots, staff is requesting the Authority approve a three-year pilot of weekend express lane operations on I-80 in Solano County.

Weekend Operations Pilot:

In addition to operating Monday through Friday, staff is proposing a three-year pilot for express lane operations on Saturdays and Sundays to begin when Express Lanes starts operations in late Fall 2025. Similar to weekdays, the weekend operations would be from 5am-8pm and the pricing would vary according to traffic conditions. While the additional lane in the east segment is expected to reduce traffic congestion, the weekends are some of the most heavily traveled days in the corridor. Operating the express lane offers an opportunity to manage this demand on the corridor and provide reliability for carpools, public transit, and SOVs that choose to use the express lanes. The goal of the pilot is to evaluate the use of express lanes to manage weekend demand, and to understand the impacts on the freeway and surface streets. Introducing weekend express lanes hours also aligns with the planned future operations on I-80 in Yolo County. Caltrans supports the weekend pilot, and CHP would provide enforcement through the BAIFA-CHP agreement.

At its June 2025 meeting, STA voted to provide a letter of support for the pilot. STA support is contingent on the following conditions, which staff support and will incorporate into current and future work plans: expanding the Express Lanes START low-income discount pilot to include Solano I-80; providing regular updates on weekend pilot performance and requesting support on next steps at the conclusion of pilot period; funding support for a Project Improvement Document for express lane expansion through Dixon; developing a remaining revenue policy in coordination with STA staff and Caltrans; and providing a broad outreach plan for the opening of I-80 Express Lanes. Staff believe these conditions of support can be reasonably addressed and are consistent with existing statutes and policies.

In preparation for the opening of the Express Lanes, staff will plan and implement activities for the start of tolling and the weekend pilot. Staff is working with STA, local agencies, and Caltrans to prepare comprehensive public outreach and communications plans. Staff will also leverage activities with outreach efforts to increase access to FasTrak[®]. In addition, BAIFA and Caltrans staff are defining the roles and responsibilities for the pilot and finalizing the evaluation criteria. Before the end of the three-year pilot, a report would detail the performance against the evaluation criteria and recommend whether to continue weekend operations. The evaluation criteria are expected to include evaluation of conditions before and after the pilot, comparison between the express lane and general-purpose lanes, effects on certain arterials, and analysis of cost and revenue. Staff anticipate bringing interim annual evaluation reports to the Network and Operations Committee to present the progress of the pilot.

The FY 2025-26 BAIFA Operations budget assumes weekend operations and includes budget for cost and revenue.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Refer to the Authority approval of a three-year weekend operations pilot on Solano I-80 express lanes to begin when tolling commences in late Fall 2025, subject to the expiration of the 30-day waiting period for the amended and restated BAIFA Toll Facility Ordinance approved at the Authority meeting on June 25, 2025, to become effective July 25, 2025.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation



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