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Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:06 PM
To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: BATA Meeting 27 JAN 2021

External Email

Kim and Martha, please forward to the Bay Area Toll Authority Board for the Regular Meeting of 27 January, 2021.

Greetings Chair Scott Haggerty and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record.

Today I speak on miscellaneous matters concerning BATA, generally not pertaining to the posted Agenda.

We are in a new year, and much is happening. I am pleased with the rollout of the new all electronic toll payment system on the seven State owned bridges of the Bay Area. It looks like things are going smoothly and that we at BATA are not having the difficult times that other systems have experienced. It looks to me like we are very much staying ahead of the curve.

I have reported on recent progress with all electronic tolling on the New York State Thruway, and the Holland Tunnel to the BATA Oversight Committee. At this time, Florida's Turnpike is very active in this area, with new sections of AET opening, continuing construction, and demolition of old infrastructure. The Dulles Toll Road is working on this matter as well, yet a date for conversion has not been set.

Even in this challenging time of COVID and funding I maintain to you the importance of continuing the work of all electronic tolling on our system. While we have the software in place, new infrastructure work needs to continue. AET is not just about safer and more efficient methods of managing money, but in safety as well. Compared to driving at legal highway speed in an open road environment, slowing down at toll plazas can feel like threading a needle, especially with larger and wider vehicles.

In the near term the promotion of FasTrak is important, something essential in all vehicles in the nine county BATA district. We can't legislate it but I feel we can incentivize it. And I feel FasTrak is a good place to take excess jars and bottles of change and put that to work, using off board methods of payment, out in the community.

I look forward to future updates concerning the work of BATA, and that the work toward new tolling infrastructure, and eventual removal of toll plazas needs to continue.

Thank you.