

Public Hearing: Proposed Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority Toll Facility Ordinance Amendment

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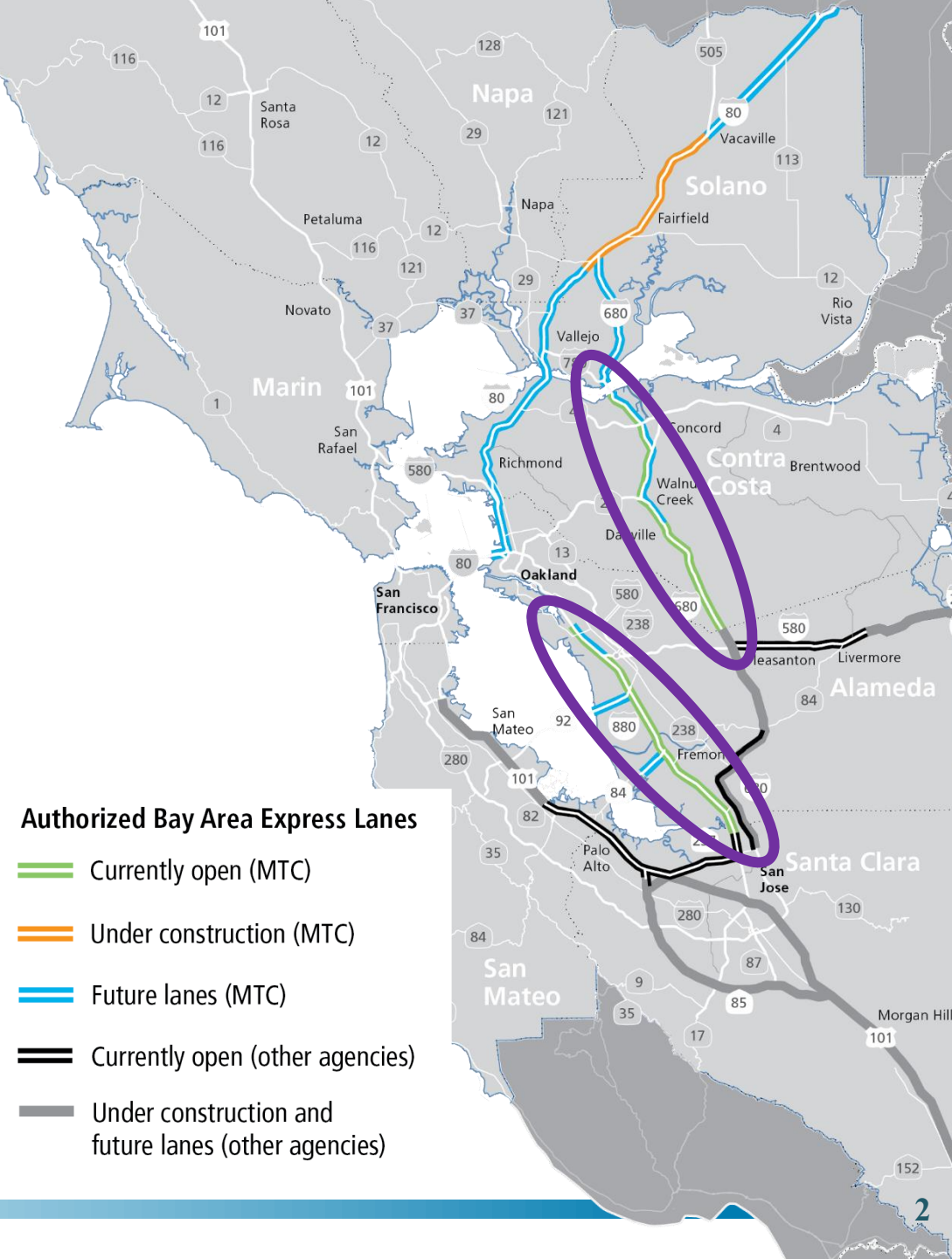
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Toll Ordinance Overview

- Allows BAIFA to enforce toll violations on express lanes: I-680 in Contra Costa County and I-880 in Alameda County
- Documents BAIFA's toll policy in context of HOV policy
- Adopted July 2016 before I-680 opened; amended January 2020 to add I-880 and clean air vehicle tolling and September 2020 to extend I-680
- Today's action: Hold a Public Hearing



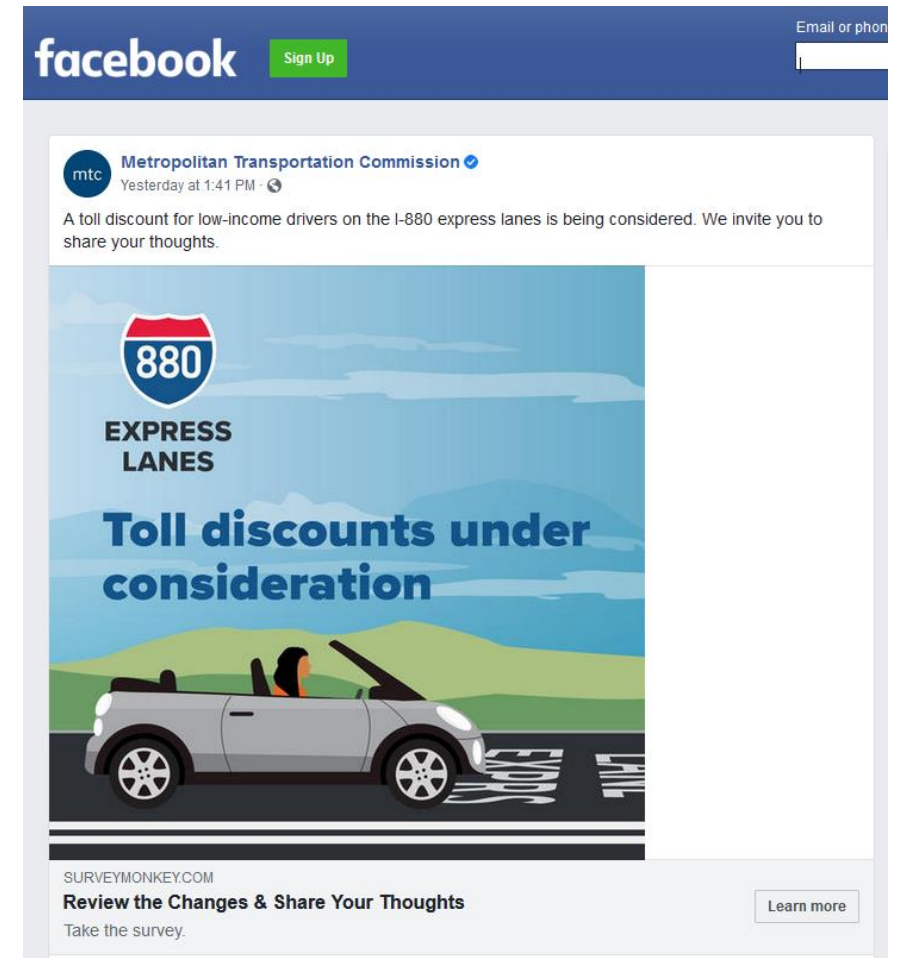
Opportunity to Listen

- Touch base with public on policies
- Regional consistency across express lanes operators is a goal
- Listening matters, but may take time to incorporate feedback into policy
- Example: Low-income toll discount program pilot



Multilingual Public Outreach

- Public notices in 5 county newspapers, plus Spanish and Chinese newspapers
- MTC press release
- Information on [MTC website](#) including amendment text and fact sheets
- 511 website promotional advertisement
- Emails to local legislators, government and community-based organizations
- Paid social media campaign
- Encouraged comments via survey form



Proposed Changes to the Toll Ordinance

1. Enable tolling pilots in general
(Note: toll discount program pilot would require separate approval)
2. Allow modifications to violation penalty amounts and exceptions by board resolution
3. Define emergency authority
4. Other minor clean-up



Early Public Comment on Tolling Pilots

- English survey responses (858): slight majority supports or neutral on toll discount program pilot with many having strong feelings
 - Income threshold should align with Bay Area cost of living; concern about fraud
- Spanish survey responses (87): significant majority supports or neutral on toll discount program pilot with less polarization
- Little opposition voiced against having authority for pilots in general

Early Public Comment on Violation Penalties

- English and Spanish survey responses (853 and 85, respectively): significant majority supports or neutral on amending toll violation penalties by resolution
 - Follow a public process including public outreach and options to weigh in
- Opinions mixed on if toll violation penalties should be lowered
 - High penalties to discourage cheating vs. low or income-based penalties for equity
 - Grace and forgiveness for first-time offenders

Early Public Comment on Emergency Authority

- English survey responses (858) and Spanish survey responses (84): significant majority supports or neutral on defining emergency authority
 - Cease tolling and open express lane in an emergency; define 'emergency' and set limits on executive director's authority

Other Observations on Public Comment

- A significant share of English and some Spanish survey respondents stated their opposition to tolls and concern for middle class
- Some English survey respondents stated their distrust of government and decision makers
- Some needed more information to answer questions
- Refer to list of public comments received as of May 20 at:
www.mtc.ca.gov/express-lanes-policies

Toll Ordinance Amendment Schedule

- Public comment from April 20 to May 24
- Public hearing on May 25
- Vote to adopt on June 22 after staff presents summary of all public comments received
- If approved, amended ordinance would take effect July 22
- More information at mtc.ca.gov/express-lanes-policies

