

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

January 24, 2024

Agenda Item 7a - HANDOUT

Highway Capacity Investments from a Future Regional Transportation Measure

Background:

The MTC/ABAG Joint Legislation Committee had a robust discussion about the extent to which a future regional transportation measure should allow the revenue to be used for highway widening/capacity expansion projects. Staff committed to bringing back some options to inform the Commission's discussion on this important topic. Attached you will find three options, of which staff recommends Option 2.

While this topic is relevant to the action the Commission is being asked to take today (endorse pursuit of enabling legislation for a future regional transportation measure), we have several months for the Commission to deliberate and provide further direction to staff on this specific topic while the bill starts navigating the legislative process. As the proposed bill sponsor, MTC's direction on this topic will hold significant weight.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 2, which proposes limiting highway capacity expansion projects to managed lanes, i.e. lanes that are tolled, or otherwise restricted in terms of vehicle occupancy (i.e. high-occupancy vehicle lanes or transit-only lanes). Under this approach, future regional transportation measure funds could not be used for general purpose lane highway expansion projects.

Staff views Option 2 as a balanced approach which would allow the revenue from a future measure to be used to help deliver key mobility improvement projects in Plan Bay Area 2050, such as the Express Lane Network and State Route 37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project, while also prioritizing projects that support the region's climate goals. Furthermore, Option 2 would exclude general purpose lane highway expansion projects that have no ability to manage congestion and provide no incentive for single-occupancy vehicle drivers to shift to higher-occupancy vehicles or other modes.

Attachment:

- Highway Capacity Investment Options for a Future Regional Transportation Measure

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew B. Fremier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew B. Fremier