

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council Equity & Access Subcommittee**

March 11, 2020

Agenda Item 4

Bay Area Express Lanes Planning

Subject: Report on the approach to develop a plan that will establish regional goals for express lanes, document the region’s priorities for express lane implementation over the next fifteen years, and align with the work underway for Plan Bay Area 2050. Staff will solicit feedback on ideas to address equity deficiencies identified in Plan Bay Area’s initial project assessment.

Background: The first express lane opened on I-680 over the Sunol Grade in 2010, nearly 10 years ago. Since then, the region has made considerable progress in building the Bay Area Express Lanes network. Today 70 miles (directional miles) of the regional network are in operation, with 140 more under construction. Collectively, that mileage represents roughly two thirds of the network presently authorized by the State. Development and operation of the network is a partnership among counties, MTC and the State. Over time, San Mateo and San Francisco counties have joined Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and Solano counties in championing Bay Area Express Lanes to manage the transportation system and increase person throughput.

Now ten years in, it is appropriate for MTC and the region to refresh the goals of the regional express lanes network and confirm our approach to implementing the next tranche of the network in the context of Plan Bay Area 2050. One key part of the vision is determining how best Express Lanes can play a role in improving social equity. Staff will present some ideas and seek input from this Subcommittee, as included in the attached presentation materials.

The Strategic Implementation Plan will affirm what the region hopes to achieve with express lanes over the course of 30 years and what it will take to get there. In the case of specific capital investments, there will be a strong focus on projects in the first half of the 30-year period.

Staff from MTC, Caltrans and the county transportation authorities began working on the Bay Area Express Lanes Strategic Implementation Plan in 2019. To date, the working group has: articulated goals for the network; identified evaluation criteria; and identified more than 40 potential future projects, some of which will remain outside the time frame of the network in Plan Bay Area 2050 (Attachment B).

Key next steps include:

- April 10 – Present to Operations Committee a status update on the Express Lanes Strategic Implementation Plan
- April 10 - Present to Policy Advisory Council a status update on the Express Lanes Strategic Implementation Plan
- Through 2020 – Staff will work on a series of white papers to analyze and address issues that will inform the final Express Lanes Strategic Plan. The topics include: equity, express bus, greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled, bond financing, cost saving measures, consistent regional policies, and strategic funding principles.
- Late 2020 – Staff will present the final Express Lanes Strategic Plan to the Operations Committee for adoption.

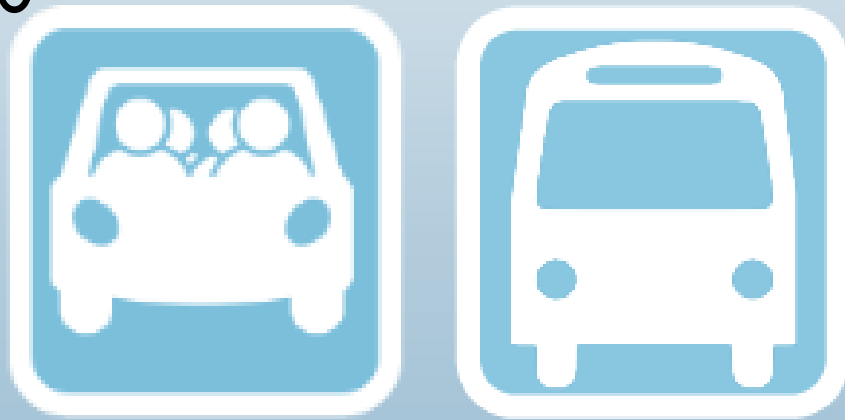
Issues: None identified.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Presentation on Bay Area Express Lane Planning
Attachment B: Bay Area Express Lane Projects Map (Unconstrained)

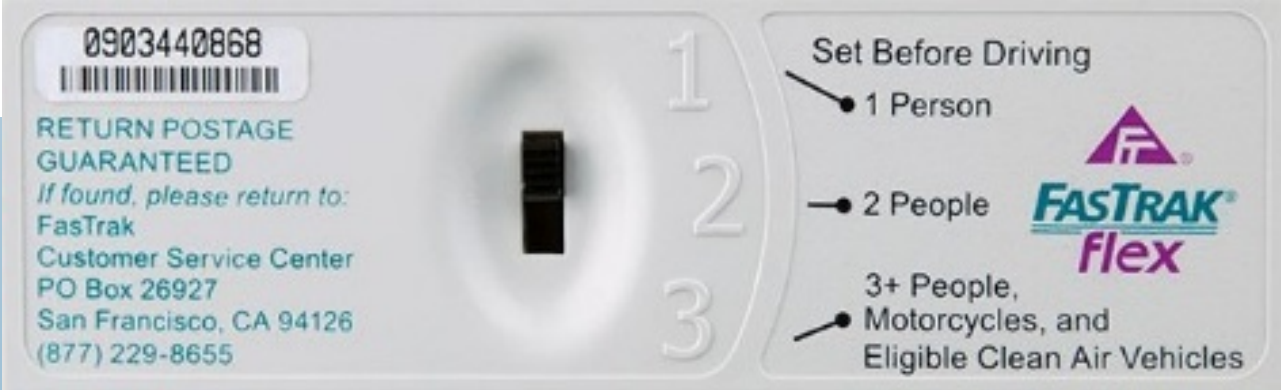
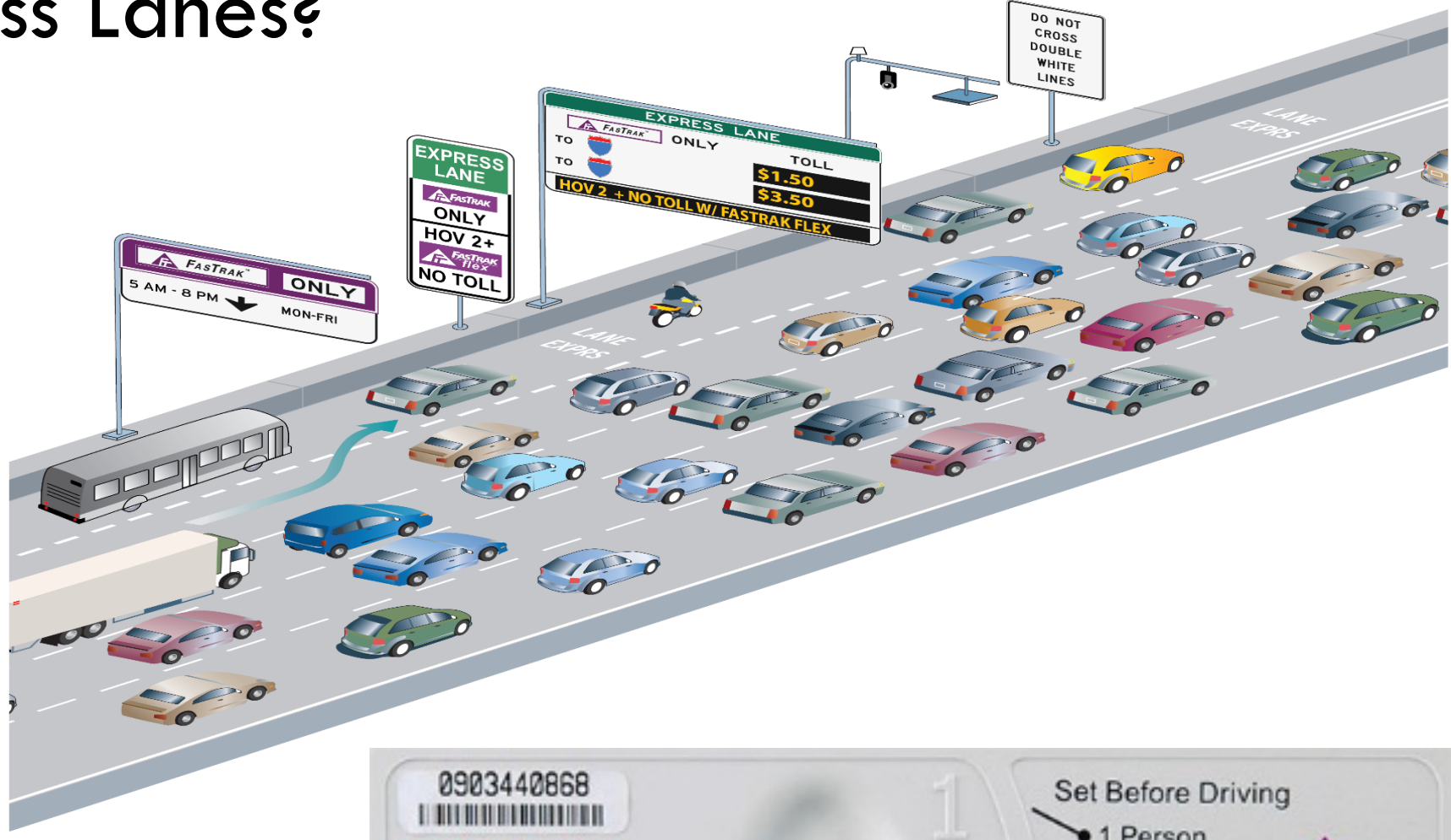
Bay Area Express Lanes Planning

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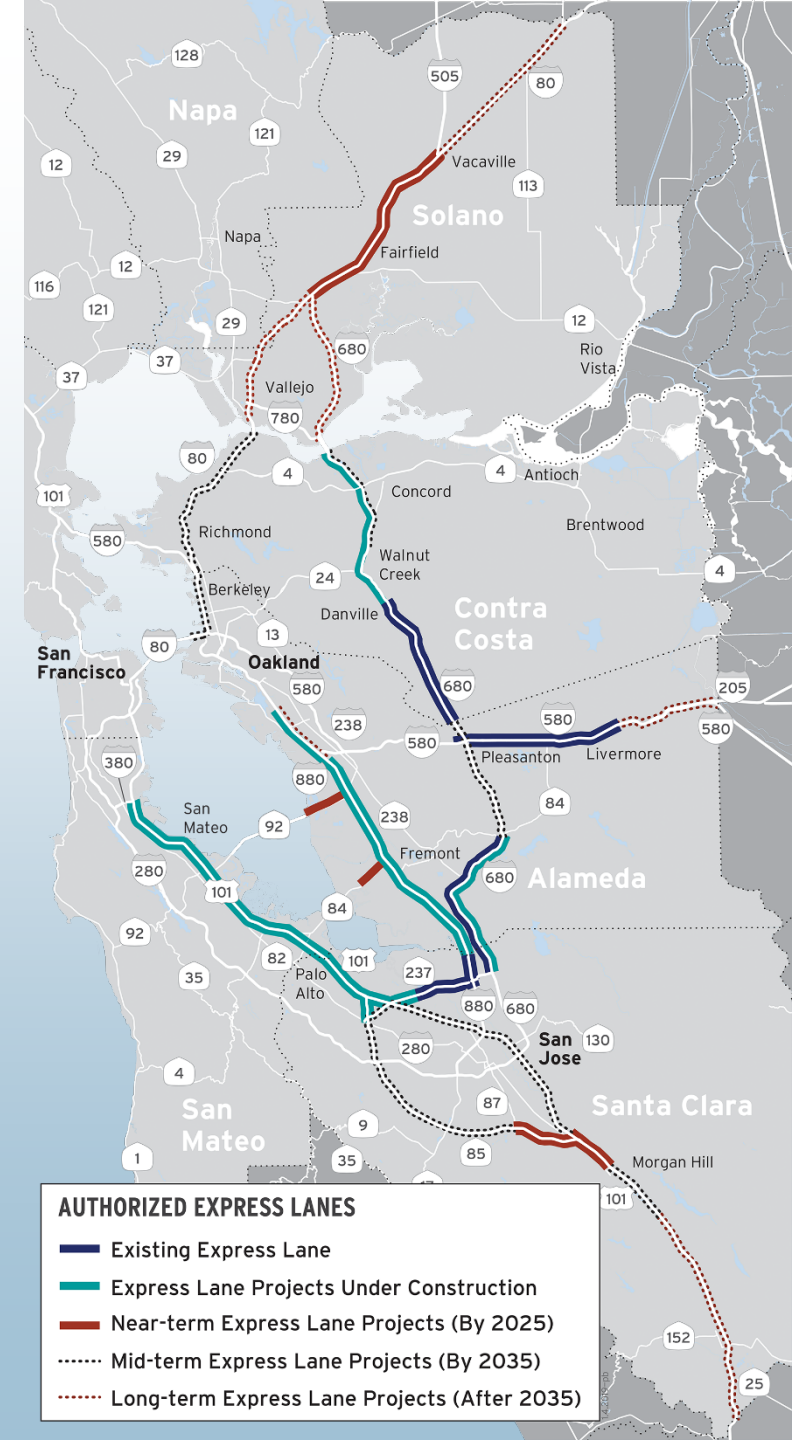
What are Express Lanes?

- ▶ High-occupancy vehicle (HOV) with toll option
- ▶ Carpools, buses, & eligible clean air vehicles are toll-exempt
- ▶ Solo drivers can choose to pay
- ▶ Tolls change with congestion
- ▶ FasTrak® tolling



Current Express Lanes Plan Largely unchanged since 2011

- Improve HOV lane performance to offer better service to carpools and buses
- Offer a more reliable trip for everyone
- Move more people with existing capacity
- Expand network for carpools and buses



Continuum of Work

Express Lanes Vision

Long-term
No funding constraint
Equitable
Fully multi-modal

Plan Bay Area 2050

Framed by parameters
30-years
Financially constrained
Greenhouse gas reduction target
Equitable
Complementary multi-modal investments

Express Lanes Strategic Plan

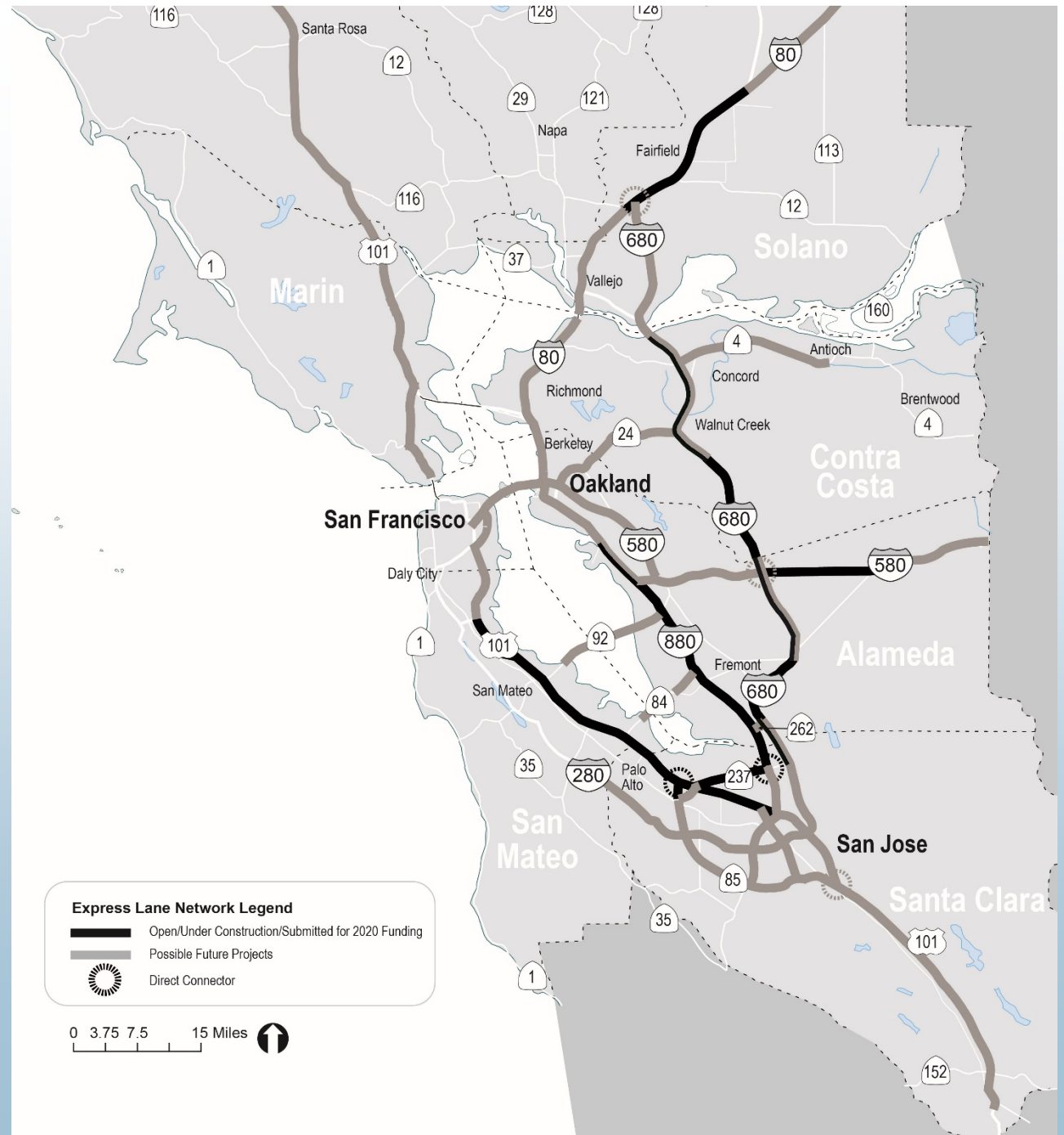
- Define Express lane network goals
- Define network
 - 0 to 15 years
 - 16 to 30 years
- Consider policy issues

Express Lanes Current Operations

Projects opening in 2020
2020 funding opportunities



Vision: Robust Regional Network that Serves Carpools and Buses



Plan Bay Area 2050

Express Lane Network Scenarios

1. Support regional express bus network
2. Minimize greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled
3. Complete existing investment and close network gaps
4. Include mega-region considerations

All scenarios must consider Plan Bay Area financial constraints



Strategic Plan Research – Inform Network Definitions and Policy Commitments

Equity

Express Bus



GHG & VMT

Bond Financing

Cost Saving Measures

Consistent Policies

Strategic Funding Principles

Ideas to Address Equity in Plan Bay Area 2050 for Express Lanes

Possible Policies

Equity

1. Means-based tolls
2. Targeted incentives (e.g., toll credit for transit use)
3. Complementary bus service
4. Fund projects with express lanes toll revenue
5. Origin-destination connections to jobs

Next Steps and Significant Dates for 2020



- Planning: PBA 2050
- **Operations: Express Lane Network Scenarios and Strategic Plan Update**
- **Policy Advisory Committee: Express Lane Network Scenarios and Strategic Plan Update**

- Finalize express lane network for Plan Bay Area 2050
- Address policy commitments (equity, GHG)

- I-880 Express Lanes Open

- **Operations: Strategic Plan Adoption**



Unconstrained Initial Project Groupings for Bay Area Express Lanes Planning

