



Re: Highway Widening
To: Metropolitan Transportation Commission
From: Greenbelt Alliance and Save the Bay

June 12, 2020

Dear MTC Commissioners,

In the proposed Bay Area Express Lanes Network Recommendations for Plan Bay Area, MTC staff are proposing 160 miles of highway widening. Per staff's own analysis, significant highway widening is expensive and inconsistent with Plan Bay Area's mandated greenhouse gas reduction targets. There is an enormous body of evidence that indicates that highway widening does not solve congestion and can actually make it worse.¹

If the Bay Area is to reach its greenhouse gas reduction targets as mandated by California law and treat the climate crisis with the urgency it deserves, Plan Bay Area must focus squarely on increasing person-throughput and reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) on our highways. Widening is far more expensive than lane conversion--we must be strategic with our limited financial resources, especially in the current financial crisis.

We are very concerned about highway widening in the express lanes plan and we urge you to take a conversion-first approach.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoe Siegel".

Zoe Siegel
Director of Special Projects, Greenbelt Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Brown".

Cheryl Brown
Political Director, Save The Bay

¹ <http://t4america.org/maps-tools/congestion-con/>