

Kimberly Ward

From: aleta dupree [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:29 PM
To: MTC Info
Subject: BATA Meeting of 24 June, 2020

External Email

Greetings Martha, please forward this message to the full Bay Area Toll Authority Board for the Regular Meeting of 24 June, 2020.

Good morning BATA Board, Chair Scott Haggerty and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record. (she, her.)

I write to you today with my various thoughts concerning BATA, some of which pertains to Budget and Operations.

A Budget is before you, it is important to approve this and move forward. A Budget needs to be a living document, given the uncertainties and challenges of this time, not particularly conducive to prediction.

COVID-19 is still indeed with us, and we need to continue to be very mindful of this crisis. In some parts of our Country, there have been substantial increases in COVID-19 cases. COVID-19 or not, I advocate for various safety related reasons that the all electronic toll collections on the bridge system continue.

I reiterate that invoicing is indeed challenging. I do firmly believe that as we become more practiced in this methodology of Revenue collection, that our timely receivables will increase.

I submit to you that in my reading of the most recent report of MTA Bridges and Tunnels (Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority), in New York, that in their all electronic tolling environment, their total rate of collections stands at about 97 percent. My reading of the most recent report of the Golden Gate Bridge implies to me an average transaction resolution rate of about 93-94 percent over time.

So given those experiences, I do believe with reasonable violation policies in place and consistent invoicing that our collections will revert to a sense of normal even in the all electronic tolling environment. We are BATA are much newer at this, but we are no less leaders.

I have read and heard about some things concerning COVID-19 and particulate pollution. I don't have a good answer on that for you. I do know this, that it is safer for the Public to travel through these toll plazas without stopping. A case of COVID-19 at a toll plaza could be quite disruptive to operations, negatively impacting all concerned.

Perhaps it is too early to tell. I do foresee bridge traffic increasing even in this crisis, as many go back to work, some of who will need to drive. Buses and trucks are also an essential part of the mix. COVID-19 or not, safety must be above all.

I ask that you approve this Budget so we can move forward. We are in difficult times. Given that, it is essential to stay the course and not revert to the manual collection of cash tolls on this bridge system.

Thank you.