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From: aleta dupree

Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:50 PM

To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>

Subject: BATA Meeting 13 January, 2021

External Email

Kim and Martha, please forward this message to the BATA Oversight Committee for the Meeting of 13 January, 2021.

Good morning Chair Amy Worth and Members.

Aleta Dupree for the record.

In this new year I bring to you my thoughts concerning BATA, mostly of a miscellaneous nature.

First this. I am pleased with the implementation of the new electronic toll collection and management system which went live on 1 January on this new year. I appreciate all of your hard work and leadership in bringing this new system into Revenue Service. I believe are new system will not only help the Public greatly, but also to be great example for others to learn from and follow.

Much is happening in the toll collection space as we go into this new year. The New York State Thruway implemented a new toll rate schedule on 1 January, showcasing the benefits of using EZ-Pass, their counterpart to our FasTrak. The Holland Tunnel, a venture of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, turned on its new all electronic tolling system on 23 December, 2020. And the OMNY fare payment system has now been turned on in all of the 472 stations of the New York City Subway, and their entire bus network as well.

We have much to do. I feel reporting on the progress of our new tolling infrastructure on the three northern bridges of our system is essential. In this challenging time of COVID-19, the need for user friendly contact free payment options has never been greater.

The implementation of modern and practical all electronic tolling systems must not end with software. It is essential to build the new physical infrastructure, the gantries and associated scanning equipment. Toll plaza deconstruction is absolutely essential as well. I find that once I have experienced the benefits of open road tolling at legal highway speed, slowing down at toll plazas, especially in large and wide vehicles, feels much like trying to thread a needle.

We indeed have more to do. How can we take Fastrak to the next level. Cellphones and in-car technology will surely play a part, it already is, but is still not very widely known. I hope to see people bring their jars and bottles of accumulated bills and change to the bank, and then use that to fund Fastrak, and enjoy the seamless experience that all electronic tolling has to offer.

I believe this new year holds much promise for BATA. I continue to maintain to you the importance of all electronic tolling on the seven State owned bridges of the Bay Area, and to move forward expeditiously with the next steps.

Thank you.