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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:38:03 AM
To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: BATA Meeting 24 FEB 2021

External Email

Kim and Martha, with thanks, please forward this message to the full Bay Area Toll Authority Board for the Regular Meeting of 24 February, 2021.

Good morning BATA Board.

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

I bring to you my various thoughts and comments concerning the work and mission of BATA.

First of all I am appreciative of the work of your former Chair Scott Haggerty over the years, not just at BATA, but at MTC and numerous other public and community works as well. I look forward to you choosing and swearing in a new Chair of BATA, and continuing the conversation.

I emphasize to you the importance of doing project work sooner rather than later. This is not just for seeing the benefits of finished projects sooner, but that projects delayed generally cost more over time due to inflation, especially when funding doesn't keep in sync with costs.

Much is going on in the toll collection space. There are systems of all electronic tolling (AET) being placed into revenue service, but also the post deployment work of deconstruction of toll plazas, and building new improved rights of way in the reclaimed spaces. Such are improvements that bring the first and foremost benefits of safety to the traveling Public.

We have done a good part of the improvement as you know with the deployment of the new cashless payment system on the seven State owned bridges of the Bay Area. Yet it is essential to continue with physical infrastructure. This involves the overhead gantries and accompanying equipment to be placed on them, as old equipment ages and needs to be replaced.

There are active programs of toll plaza deconstruction in progress in New York and Florida, mostly announced through occasional press releases and social media posts. I appreciate the detailed discussion in the meetings of the various BATA groups in bringing this most important information to the Public.

Funding is challenging but the need for improvements is great and never ending. Yet we as an agency should always strive to do things sooner rather than later.

As we move into this time of all electronic toll collection, our focus should be most of all on collecting the tolls, and not basing our budgets on fines and fees. With new things there will be questions, and it is best to work with those in arrears to collect the tolls due, Our procedures should not lean toward inadvertent creation of debts that can't reasonably be resolved. This is easier said than done, and will surely involve different solutions for diverse situations.

In closing, I maintain to you, that the work towards open road tolling on the seven State owned bridges needs to continue, with the aim for completion sooner rather than later.

Thank you.