

---

**From:** aleta dupree  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:36 PM  
**To:** MTC-ABAG Info  
**Subject:** BATA comments for 20210428

\*External Email\*

Good morning Board Chair Alfredo Pedroza and Members.

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

I speak to you today concerning with work and mission of BATA.

Much is happening in the toll agency space this week, with various progress being made on a number of issues. The Florida Turnpike Enterprise continues the work of installing automated toll collection equipment on the mainline (SR 91), with the goal of all electronic tolling systemwide. There is now a dashboard on the website of the New York State Thruway detailing the progress of toll plaza removal and interchange reconstruction. Such work in New York is forecast to be finished by the end of this year's summer.

On 27 April of this year, the House Bill 1788 was approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma. This is the enabling legislation that allows the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) to begin the work of all electronic tolling on their various toll highways under their jurisdiction.

I first drove upon the highways of the OTA in 1989, when I moved to Southwest Oklahoma. Daily I commuted on the H E Bailey Turnpike, using small change I kept in my car. In early 1991, I was afforded the opportunity to join PikePass, one of the first systems of electronic tolling implemented in the United States. PikePass worked well for me, I kept my account open until 1995, when I moved away from Oklahoma, I look back and knew I was indeed a part of history in the making.

And so a quarter of a century later, Oklahoma is now moving in the direction what we at BATA are already doing. Someday I look forward to driving the roads of Oklahoma and New York, and other places, not needing to stop, or even to set up any kind of account. These things will certainly benefit trucking, where drivers find themselves on a number of different toll highway systems in their work, and fleet managers coordinating and ensuring appropriate payment. We at BATA are surely being watched, and seen as one of the leaders in this space.

BATA and its work are definitely not new to me. I grew up riding in cars and buses on various toll highway systems in and around New York. In 1986 I found myself driving the New York State Thruway in the Albany area for the first time. I think of my first time over the Verrazano Bridge, the longest of its kind in the United States, and my first time driving through the Lincoln Tunnel, under the Hudson River. Sometimes I've driven on these systems in larger vehicles, over time one gets the knack of threading the needle through the toll lane, a few inches on each side to spare, and a much longer reach when handing money to a toll collector.

In 1993 I did actually get to drive over the San Francisco Bay Bridge, to a town just south of San Francisco called Brisbane. I still vaguely remember that day. I have not had a car in quite a while, the last time I drove myself through a

toll plaza was on the TCA Orange County toll road system, in 2006. As I think about the many roads, bridges, and tunnels that I've paid into, and driven through, I say this, it's not just necessary for many, but can be fun as well.

Again I maintain to you that the work of all electronic tolling needs to continue, as well as all the other things that make our system user friendly and safe.

Thank you.