

**Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority  
(BAIFA)**

November 17, 2021

Agenda Item 2b - 21 - 1211

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**MTC Express Lanes Quarterly Report: Second Quarter (April – June 2021)**

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**Subject:**

A report on capital project delivery progress for MTC Express Lanes and operational performance of MTC's I-680 Contra Costa and I-880 express lanes.

**Background:**

MTC issues an Express Lanes Program report quarterly that summarizes major developments, project schedules and risks, and compares forecast costs with BAIFA's Express Lanes Program Expenditure Plan. The report also documents operational performance of BAIFA's open express lanes. This report is included as Attachment B.

**Express Lanes Operations:**

Project performance for BAIFA's I-680 Contra Costa Southern Segment Express Lanes and I-880 Express Lanes is highlighted in Table 1 (read *Appendices C and D* of the attached report for more detailed statistics and commentary). Because the second quarter of 2020 was heavily impacted by COVID-19, I-680 express lanes data from the second quarter of 2021 is mostly compared to the second quarter of 2019 for trend analysis without the influence of seasonality. No such comparison data exists for the I-880 Express Lanes, which opened in Fall 2020.

- I-680 Contra Costa Southern Segment Express Lanes – Usage and tolling statistics continue to reflect a slow recovery from the COVID-19 emergency and related traffic decline. While express lane usage and tolls showed growth compared to the first quarter of 2021, they remain well-below 2019 (pre-COVID) levels. Total trips decreased 16% to 1.6 million compared to the second quarter of 2019 but increased 32% from the first quarter of 2021. Toll revenue decreased 31% to \$2.0 million compared to the second quarter of 2019 but increased 100% from the first quarter of 2021. The average toll paid was \$3.10 per trip, 21% lower than the second quarter of 2019. 76% of toll-paying customers paid \$2 or less to use the express lanes while 11% paid more than \$9. A total of 11% of trips were violations with neither a FasTrak® account nor a toll tag, which is up from the pre-COVID average of 5%. Given the decrease in toll revenue, BAIFA

requested about 50% fewer enforcement hours by CHP which explains the decrease in enforcement contacts.

- I-880 Express Lanes – Total trips increased 27% from the prior quarter to 3.3 million while toll revenue increased 82% to \$8.2 million; the sharp increase in revenue was due to more paid trips and a much higher average toll paid of \$4.40 per trip. 16% of trips were violations, lower than the prior two quarters. 39% of toll-paying customers paid \$2 or less to use the express lanes while 5% paid more than \$10.

Table 1: BAIFA Express Lanes Operations Second Quarter (Q2) Calendar Year 2021 Snapshot

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>I-680 Q2 2019</b>	<b>I-680 Q2 2021</b>	<b>I-680 Change</b>	<b>I-880 Q2 2019<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>I-880 Q2 2021</b>	<b>I-880 Change</b>
Total trips	1.9m	1.6m	-16%	n/a	3.3m	n/a
Toll-free trips <sup>2</sup>	42%	38%	-4%	n/a	28%	n/a
Half-toll trips <sup>3</sup>	n/a	1%	n/a	n/a	10%	n/a
Full-toll trips	53%	51%	-2%	n/a	46%	n/a
Violation trips	5%	11%	6%	n/a	16%	n/a
CHP contacts	1,593	727	-54%	n/a	1,434	n/a
Toll revenue <sup>4</sup>	\$2.9m	\$2.0m	-31%	n/a	\$8.2m	n/a

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<sup>1</sup> I-880 did not open until October 2, 2020, so there is no Q2 2019 data.

<sup>2</sup> On I-680, HOV2 and HOV3 vehicles travel toll free; Clean Air Vehicles (CAVs) traveled toll free until October 2, 2020. On I-880, HOV-3 vehicles travel toll free.

<sup>3</sup> On I-680, CAV's were charged half-tolls starting on October 2, 2020, so there is no Q1 2020 data.

<sup>4</sup> Toll revenue excludes violation penalties.

**Express Lanes Capital Delivery:**

Project activity is highlighted below (read *Section I. Program Highlights* and *Section III. Capital Delivery* of the attached report for more detail).

- I-680 Contra Costa Northern Segment Southbound – After completing toll system testing, BAIFA successfully began tolling this 11-mile extension of the I-680 express lanes on August 20, 2021. Staff will no longer report on capital delivery for this project.
- I-80 Solano –In June, BAIFA and the Solano Transportation Authority completed revalidation of the environmental clearance approval and updated design documents. In July, BAIFA approved a contract change order with the toll system integrator to deliver and operate the toll system. As of the end of the reporting period, construction was estimated to begin at the end of 2021.

**Issues:**

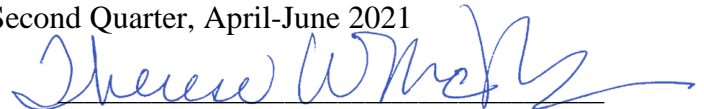
None.

**Recommendations:**

This item is provided for information only.

**Attachments:**

- MTC Express Lanes Quarterly Report: Second Quarter, April-June 2021



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