

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee

October 22, 2024

Agenda Item 4a

Express Lanes STARTSM: 12-Month Pilot Outcomes and Preliminary Recommendations

Subject:

Report on outcomes from the 12-month evaluation period for the Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority's (BAIFA's) low-income toll discount pilot on the Interstate 880 (I-880) Express Lanes (named Express Lanes START) and request feedback on preliminary recommendations for the future of the program.

Background:

In June 2022, BAIFA approved a first-of-its-kind pilot to offer half-price tolls on the I-880 express lanes to Bay Area households with income at or below the 200% federal poverty level and with a FasTrak[®] account. The pilot's goals are to improve access to the I-880 express lanes for low-income drivers, provide a good customer experience, and understand the effect on express lane drivers and operations.

Staff met with this subcommittee seven times from June 2020 to October 2022 to share information and solicit feedback on pilot design, including pilot concept, corridor selection, stakeholder and customer engagement plan, customer research results, public outreach plan, and pilot evaluation plan. The pilot launched on April 7, 2023. On March 22, 2024, Staff shared preliminary data about the first six months of program activity with this subcommittee. Data collection and analysis continued through the spring and summer of 2024. On July 12, 2024, BAIFA approved an extension of the pilot through March 2026 to provide additional time to complete the evaluation and develop recommendations.

Last year, MTC also began a parallel effort to evaluate all of MTC's means-based programs, including Express Lanes START and Clipper START, under a unified framework called the Means-Based Collaborative.

Next Steps:

In the weeks ahead, Staff will refine a set of recommendations for the future of the Express Lanes START program based on feedback received from this subcommittee, together with input from other Bay Area Express Lanes operators, advisory group stakeholders, and the broader Means Based Collaborative effort. The recommendations will be presented to the BAIFA Network and Operations Committee in early 2025.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendation:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation