ALAMEDA COUNTY
CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

1333 BROADWAY, SUITE 220 • OAKLAND, CA 94612 • PHONE: (510) 836-2560 • FAX: (510) 836-2185
E-MAIL: mail@accma.ca.gov • WEB SITE: accma.ca.gov

Memorandum

September 14, 2009
Agenda Item 5.3

Date: September 8, 2009

To: **I-580 Express Lane Policy Advisory Committee**

From: Frank R. Furger, Chief Deputy Director

Subject: Update on Express Lane Activities

Regional Express Lanes Status
The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) acting as the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), is working to implement the Bay Area Express Lanes Network. There are a number of separate but related activities underway as a result:

Status of AB 744
Assembly Bill 744 (Torrico) will provide the statutory authority for BATA to build, own, operate and maintain a High Occupancy Toll Lane Network within the 9 Bay Area Counties. The legislation provides a 1-year period for BATA to reach agreement with the JPA for the transfer of the JPA responsibilities to BATA as well as the formation of a Management and Oversight Committee that will include a representative from the ACCMA.

The bill is now a two year bill and if the legislation does get signed into law the earliest it would likely take effect would be January 2011.

Regional Concept of Operations
In order to facilitate decision making for the implementation of a regional Express Lane Network and provide guidance to the implementation of the I-680, I-580 and the SR237/I-880 Direct Connectors Express Lanes, BATA has drafted a Regional Concept of Operations. This document describes how the Bay Area Express Lane Network will look and operate. The major topics include: lane configuration, signing, striping, enforcement, incident response, toll operations, hours of operation, maintenance, customer service, marketing, and agreements. Staff will continue to provide specific input from this group to the JPA as it develops.

The draft of this document has been distributed for comment and the CMA staff will participate in this review process.

Santa Clara County Express Lanes

SR 237/I-880 Direct Connectors

The VTA received ARRA funds for this project and put a hold on the work in order to fulfill all of the federal requirements. Work will resume this month and a revised opening date will be established. It is likely to open in 2011.

SR 85

The VTA has drafted a Project Study Report (PSR) for this project that will convert the 48 miles of HOV lanes on SR 85 into Express Lanes, one southbound and 1 northbound. The PSR will be submitted to Caltrans this month. The current schedule for these lanes has them open to traffic in late 2012.

US 101

The VTA is also working on conceptual designs for the conversion of the existing HOV lanes on US 101 into Express Lanes. The scope, schedule and cost of this conversion are still in very draft form.

Marin County Study

Transportation Authority of Marin selected Parsons Brinkerhoff to conduct a traffic and revenue forecast and assessment of an Express Lane on US 101. Work began this summer.

Los Angeles County Projects

The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) received a $200+M federal grant to convert existing HOV lanes in its county to Express Lanes. The MTA Board has decided to have tags in all vehicles that will use these lanes, including carpools, and is working with BATA to develop a switchable tag that will make it possible for a driver to indicate how many people are in their car. This will improve toll collection and reduce the dependence upon CHP enforcement by using license plate recognition.