



San Mateo, Santa Clara and San Benito Counties

August 22, 2020

Via email to: San Mateo County Express Lane JPA, c/o mguilles@smcgov.org

Cc: VTA board: board.secretary@vta.org ; State Route 85 Corridor Policy Advisory Board Member Rod Sinks: rodsinks@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Guilles and the Joint Powers Authority,

Please sign onto the MTC letter on all lane congestion pricing. The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club supports dynamic congestion pricing on all freeway lanes in the county. The money should be used to pay for free bus service on the express lanes. Dynamic tolls are a charge that rises and falls due to the demand on a particular road at a particular time. These tolls are not designed to raise funds, but rather to make it costlier for people to utilize roads during peak hours so cars can travel closer to intended speeds for those roadways. They are a proven strategy worldwide for reducing emissions from transportation. We are in a climate emergency that requires us to go beyond the state goal of 40% reductions by 2030. We need bold action now. Dynamic congestion price is a bold action.

Prices should be raised to maintain speed on the freeway and with a goal to clear space so that one lane can be converted to a bus only lane with limited stops.

MTC is asking the nine Bay Area counties to sign off on the letter, including the above plan for freeway tolling so it can be included in the Plan Bay Area 2050 draft blueprint. For most major transportation projects to proceed from conception to implementation, inclusion in that plan is a key requirement.

https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/new-highway-tolling-eyed-in-bay-area/article_76f88c4e-e106-11ea-a1db-0b8015584f6c.html

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gladwyn d'Souza". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gladwyn d'Souza, Co-Chair, Conservation Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

Cc: James Eggers, Executive Director, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club