

RESOLUTION No. 60-09

A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF RICHMOND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO EXCLUDE INTERSTATE 80 IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FOR EXPRESS LANE CONSIDERATION IF ASSEMBLY BILL 744 (TORRICO) IS NOT MODIFIED TO INCLUDE WEST CONTRA COSTA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (“MTC”) as the Bay Area Toll Authority (“BATA”) proposes to create a Bay Area Express Lane Network (“Network”) by converting existing high occupancy vehicle (“HOV”) lanes to combination HOV/toll (“HOT”) lanes, and constructing new HOT lanes where HOV lanes do not currently exist; and

WHEREAS, MTC’s stated objectives for building the Network are to: 1) more effectively manage the freeways to provide higher vehicle and passenger throughput and reduce delays within each corridor; 2) provide an efficient, effective, consistent, and seamless system for customers of the Network; 3) provide benefits to travelers in each corridor commensurate with the revenues collected in that corridor; 4) expedite the implementation of the Network using a rapid delivery approach that relies on existing right-of-way and minimizes environmental impact; and 5) use express lane toll revenue to finance project development and construction of the Network, operations and maintenance of the Network, and to finance other mobility improvements to the Network corridors; and

WHEREAS, new legislation is required to authorize MTC to create the Network, and MTC is sponsoring such legislation through Assembly Bill 744 (Torrico); and

WHEREAS, Interstate 80 (“I-80”) through Contra Costa County has existing or fully funded HOV lanes that have been identified by MTC as candidates for conversion to HOT lanes; and

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (“WCCTAC”) is a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement between the cities of El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, and San Pablo, Contra Costa County, and transit operators AC Transit, BART, and WestCAT; and

WHEREAS, WCCTAC was created to protect and advance the interests of west Contra Costa County communities with regard to transportation issues in general, and to steward the appropriate use of the ½-cent County sales tax for transportation dedicated to west Contra Costa County in particular; and

WHEREAS, WCCTAC has expressed to MTC concerns about the proposed Network in general and installation of HOT lanes on I-80 in particular, including but not limited to: transportation equity; potential to induce urban sprawl; degradation of travel time advantage for transit and carpools; potential to compromise bridge toll revenues and dedicate funding to transit from those revenues if the Network does not produce sufficient revenues; uncertain cumulative impacts of the HOT lanes with the new technologies (ramp metering, variable speed limits, and lane use signals) being contemplated under the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility project; disproportionate level of local corridor control by MTC; and lack of emphasis on transit; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (“CCTA”) requested MTC to amend the language in AB 744 to address various concerns including some of the above; and

WHEREAS, WCCTAC supported CCTA’s requested amendments; and

WHEREAS, beyond the amendments requested by CCTA, WCCTAC requested both MTC and the bill’s author for the following amendments: 1) greater specificity in the scope of the project study report for each corridor, to ensure that express lanes would result in a net benefit; 2) allowance of a gap in the network if detailed studies conclude that an express lane would not result in a net benefit in a corridor; and 3) dedication to transit of at least 50 percent of net revenues available for reinvestment to ensure equity (“WCCTAC Amendments” collectively or “WCCTAC Amendment “1”, “2”, or “3”” separately); and

WHEREAS, the bill’s author verbally agreed to include WCCTAC Amendments 1 and 2 in AB 744; and

WHEREAS, MTC has agreed to incorporate CCTA's requested amendments, but has not agreed to incorporate the WCCTAC Amendments; and

WHEREAS, WCCTAC believes that the WCCTAC Amendments are critical to the successful implementation of HOT lanes on I-80 in particular and other Bay Area corridors in general; and

WHEREAS, AB 744 has successfully passed out of the Assembly without the WCCTAC Amendments, and is scheduled to be heard in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, WCCTAC intends to lobby Senate representatives to include the WCCTAC Amendments; and

WHEREAS, if the WCCTAC Amendments are not included in AB 744, WCCTAC believes that installation of HOT lanes on I-80 in Contra Costa will be detrimental to communities in west Contra Costa County, and recommends that I-80 in Contra Costa be excluded from further consideration for installation of HOT lanes on that basis; and

WHEREAS, exclusion of I-80 in Contra Costa from the Network would also require an amendment to AB 744.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that if WCCTAC proposed amendments are not included in said legislation, the City of Richmond fully supports WCCTAC's efforts to lobby for the exclusion of I-80 in Contra Costa County from the Network as an amendment to AB 744.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Richmond directs staff to forward this resolution to WCCTAC for their use in lobbying Senate legislators to exclude I-80 from the Network as appropriate.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on June 16, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes,
Vice Mayor Lopez and Mayor McLaughlin

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE McLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa :ss.
City of Richmond }