TOLL BRIDGE PROGRAM
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
CALTRANS BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee
Department of Transportation
Office of the Director
1120 N Street
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

July 12, 2013

Mr. Vincent Mammano
California Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SFOBB Bearing Shims

Dear Mr. Mammano:

The Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee (TBPOC) requests further assistance from the Federal Highway Administration to conduct an independent review of the Seismic Safety Peer Review Panel proposal to shim the bearings at Pier E2 of the new east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (SFOBB). This proposal would open the new span to traffic once the bearing shims are installed, but before the shear key retrofit is complete.

The proposal would temporarily restore shear capacity lost due to the failed bolts used to clamp down two shear keys on Pier E2. The bearings were designed to accommodate 20 mm of movement laterally before engaging during a seismic event. The shims would lock the four bearings laterally to engage simultaneously with the two remaining shear keys that are currently in place on the cross beam and functioning as designed.

I am attaching preliminary technical materials related to the bearing shims and asking your team to provide an independent review of the engineering analysis and strategy for this proposal. The TBPOC expects to receive more complete engineering analysis early next week; we will forward more detailed materials to you at that time. If you require any additional information to conduct your review, please contact me as soon as possible. Since the bearing shim proposal may offer the possibility of achieving seismic safety on the SFOBB prior to completion of the shear key retrofit, time is of the essence in the completion of your review.

Thank you for your continued assistance and cooperation in ensuring that we open a safe new bridge for the traveling public at the earliest responsible date.

Sincerely

Steve Heminger
Chair, TBPOC

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Attachments
cc: Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans
Andre Boutros, CTC
Brian Kelly, Transportation Agency