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April 1, 2014

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Deputy Executive Director, Policy

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The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal  
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee  
California State Assembly  
1020 N Street, Room 112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1811 (Buchanan)/AB 2090 (Fong) — Support and Seek Amendment

Dear Chair Lowenthal,

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) respectfully urges you to support AB 1811 and AB 2090 and to pursue amendments to the bills so that they provide consistent standards across all statutes affecting freeway express lanes throughout the Bay Area. MTC's authority under Streets and Highways Code Section 149.7 to develop a regional express lane network requires adherence to standards in various route-specific statutes (i.e. Sections 149; 149.1; 149.3; 149.4; 149.5 and 149.6) so that policy changes made in one section need to be made to the others as well. At present the bills differ with regard to the provisions related to maintaining a minimum Level of Service traffic flow. AB 2090 strikes this section of current law, while AB 1811 leaves it intact. We would prefer to remove it, as it is not consistent with federal standards and is overly rigid. The Los Angeles I-10 and I-110 express lanes were operating under the proposed more flexible framework so it makes good sense to standardize this approach statewide.

AB 1811 and AB 2090 revise current law as it relates to express lanes operated by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and the Alameda County Transportation Commission in order to improve enforcement of toll requirements in the express lanes. By removing the word "unrestricted" from the section of code related to carpool lane access, the bill clarifies that technology may be deployed to facilitate efficient express lane operation and enforcement. As the use of switchable toll tags is anticipated for the express lanes to be operated by MTC, under the auspices of the Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority, we fully support the goals of these bills.

If you have any questions regarding our position on this bill, please contact Scott Wetch or Justin Fanslau at 916-446-3413 or Duncan McFetridge at (916) 444-1380.

Sincerely,



Steve Heminger  
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Joan Buchanan  
The Honorable Paul Fong

SH:RL:MS

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