



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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April 2, 2014

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The Honorable Mike Gatto
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 2013 (Muratsuchi) — Oppose

Dear Chair Gatto,

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission respectfully urges you to oppose AB 2013, which proposes to expand from 40,000 to 85,000 the number of Clean Air Vehicle stickers available to plug-in hybrid vehicles in order to grant them access to high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes without the required number of occupants and without payment. While 85,000 is the same number of stickers that were ultimately issued for "yellow sticker" hybrid vehicles before that program was phased out, the landscape of California's HOV lanes has changed considerably since the Clean Air Vehicle program began in 2005.

Today, virtually every metropolitan region in the state is operating or has plans to operate express lanes whereby single-occupant vehicles may access the lanes for a fee, which varies depending on the level of congestion in the lane, as shown in the attached maps from Caltrans. With congestion levels shooting up again, especially in the prosperous Silicon Valley where the purchase of such vehicles is more likely, we do not believe it is appropriate to give away access to the region's HOV lanes or express lanes away for free.

Furthermore, according to a January 15, 2014 letter to Caltrans from the Federal Highway Administration, over 40 percent of the state's HOV lanes that were monitored by Caltrans failed to meet the performance standard set in federal law, requiring mitigation action. Such action could be to revise occupancy requirements, but could also include ending the state's current allowance for clean-fuel vehicles to access the lanes as a single-occupant. The point is, the system is not working optimally today and unfortunately, AB 2013 will simply make matters worse. We urge you to vote "no" on AB 2013.

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

Attachments

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi

SH:RL:MS

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High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) & Express Lanes Southern California Region



Legend

HOV/Express Lanes Status

- Direct Connector/Ramp
- Express Lane - Existing/Under Construction
- Express Lane - Planned
- HOV Lane - Existing
- HOV Lane - Planned
- Toll Road
- ==== Unconstructed
- State Highway
- County Boundary
- Urban Area

California Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Operations
December 2012

0 5 10 20
Miles





High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) & Express Lanes Northern California Region

