

Comment on Draft Plan Bay Area: No New Freeway Lanes

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Members of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Plan Bay Area 2050 Team,

I would like to submit the following comments on the Draft Plan Bay Area.

1. No freeway or highway expansion. The draft would include 450 miles of new freeway lanes by 2050, at a cost of \$20 billion, even in urban areas like San Francisco. Much of this is hidden in the Express Lane program, which will encourage new auto trips by expanding freeway capacity. Plan Bay Area's own analysis shows that building freeway lanes results in more congestion and higher emissions.

2. Create Express Lanes out of existing lanes. Instead of building new traffic lanes, Plan Bay Area should create a network of free-flowing traffic lanes by converting existing general traffic lanes to Express Lanes. This will bring in revenue, lower emissions, and improve transit service, without the added congestion and emissions that come from building new freeway lanes.

3. Remove freeways instead of building more of them. It's time to remove urban freeways that cause high rates of asthma, divide communities, are often dangerous to cross on foot or bike, and otherwise harm public health, especially in communities of color. So far, Plan Bay Area has not studied freeway removal, so we don't know how much these projects would improve congestion and emissions. Plan Bay Area should study freeway removal projects, such as I-280 and the Central Freeway in San Francisco, and I-980 in Oakland.

Scott Feeney

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