

From: [Sara Salem](#)
To: [MTC-ABAG Info](#)
Subject: NO to more highway toll lanes and lower speed limit!
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:34:41 AM

External Email

Dear MTC,

I read an alarming news report tonight in SFGate that you are planning to charge us cash to drive on our own highways. And to lower the speed limit to 55mph. On both counts I scream, "No"!

I looked on with irritation as I saw the 101 lanes between San Jose and SF be turned into a pay for speed lane rather than improving all lanes. Road tolls are a regressive tax that will harm those least able to afford it most.

Why aren't our current taxes sufficient? Why are you privatizing these roads as toll roads and placing the wedge of profit between us and a private company?

The existing train options that would allow eco friendly and faster alternative transportation are a broken and deeply inefficient travel system compared to peer cities like Boston. The train is NOT a substitute good for highway driving in many cases.

Please account to the public for why you are charging more money for a road system our taxes (federal and state) already fund, privatizing profit and socializing cost, and how exactly we the people benefit.

I urge you to reconsider charging tolls for all lanes! It's just wrong. How will this impact tourism? Surface streets? How we look to the rest of the country if we charge to use our own roads - particularly the poorest who travel long distances to escape unaffordable rents?

My household is in the highest tax bracket, and I believe we already pay more than our fair share of taxes for what increasingly looks like reduced services to the public. In the past, I have been happy to pay these taxes believing they were being used wisely to help our region prosper and improve our collective quality of life. I'm beginning to doubt assumption.

I hate little more than feeling taken advantage of by being nickled and dimed for expected public services. Get your act together!

My household has tens of thousands of reasons (\$) to move to a lower tax state already. It's a consideration seriously under review. Please don't tempt us further by reducing our quality of life by charging us to use roads we already pay for and reducing speed on highways.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

-Sara Salem


Sent from my iPhone