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**Cc:** [Cindy Chavez](#); [Dave Cortese](#); [Joe Simitian](#); [Mike Wasserman](#); [Susan Ellenberg](#)  
**Subject:** tolls and lower speed limits  
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**\*External Email\***

Folks,

I was disappointed to read your latest proposal, <https://www.sfgate.com/driving/article/Tolls-coming-to-many-if-not-most-Bay-Area-freeways-15492804.php>

Your proposal to add tolls is going to make transportation worse in the Bay Area, adding to the exodus of people leaving because they are fed up with traffic and costs.

You already get money via taxes for the roads. Now you want to charge drivers even more money.

And regarding lower speed limits, this is maddening. I'll quote from data that is readily available to the public:

Q. Don't lower speed limits save gas?

A. No, research has shown that the 55-mph National Maximum Speed Limit, which was enacted specifically to save gas, had practically no impact on fuel consumption. This is partly because people do not obey artificially lower speed limits. It is also because the differences in travel speeds that result from unreasonable limits waste gas. Most fuel is used to accelerate to a given speed. Speed limits based on actual travel speeds promote better traffic flow, which reduces the amount of braking and accelerating on our roads. This has a positive effect on fuel consumption.

Source: <https://www.motorists.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/speed-limit-fact-sheet.pdf>

Instead of lowering the speed limit and adding tolls, you should be updating the infrastructure, increasing the flow of traffic, and enabling people to travel safely. Lower speeds don't automatically mean safer roads.

Sincerely,

Greg Hansen  
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