

Marcella Aranda

From: Plan BayArea Info
Subject: FW: Plan Bay Area 2050

From: Eddie Chandler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:26 AM
To: John Goodwin <JGoodwin@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: Plan Bay Area 2050

External Email

Good evening,

I have just read about the MTC's plan on <https://www.sfgate.com/driving/article/Tolls-coming-to-many-if-not-most-Bay-Area-freeways-15492804.php> and, to be honest, I find the proposal to be poorly conceived and thought out. That, as well as being just another tax mechanism to generate revenue for "projects". And how much of the revenue generated by these toll lanes will actually be used for its intended purpose instead of money being diverted or hidden by creative book-keeping? What transparency in auditing will be visible to those that pay into this fund?

If you wish to generate revenue let me itemize some items that would quickly do this, and bring some questions to the table ...

1) Current carpool lanes and enforcement
Vehicle Code 21655.5 VC.

The current carpool enforcement is a joke. There are thousands of drivers happily, and blatantly, violating this law every single day. Where are all the CHP officers? At the posted \$571 fine, with issuing citations to a mere 1000 vehicles a day, that is \$571,000 per day until people get the message. And this amount of revenue would pay for increasing the number of CHP as well as revenue for things like housing etc. as listed in your blueprint.

2) Expired tags.

Vehicle Code 4000a1 VC - ticket and must pay a fine in the amount of \$280 plus court costs + penalty assessments.

This is another huge issue. At one point, over a two week period commuting to and from work, I noted 200 vehicles with tags expired by 1, 2, or more years. Again, lost revenue that could - and should - be claimed by the State.

3) People driving with no insurance.

Again, another big issue - and many of these are those from item #2.

California Vehicle Code Section 16029, first offence \$100-\$200 + penalty assessments plus possible impounding of vehicle

4) Vehicles with no front plates.

California Vehicle Code 5200 (a). \$196 and Up in fines plus \$1,000+ in insurance hikes and penalties.

Although, apparently, exceptions can be granted for expensive vehicles as well as some other exceptions so one has to question what the point of this Vehicle Code is? -- Either it should be applied to all vehicles or none, e.g. an exception for an expensive vehicle makes the law a double-standard namely "one rule for those that have

(lots of) money and another rule for everyone else". Should we have a two-tier legal system in California? Seriously?

5) Driving while on mobile phone
California Vehicle Code 23123 VC

Another huge problem yet so little enforcement and the fine is a joke.

This should be coupled with public endangerment and dangerous driving. Make it more of a deterrent, or suspend licenses/impound the vehicle. Life is more important than a stupid phone.

In the article, link above, the letter outlines a plan to lower the speed limit to 55mph on freeways. As with the above, I have to ask how this is going to be enforced?

a) Will there be speed cameras that photograph license plates so offenders receive a notice and fine in the mail as happens in England? - obviously you would not be able to use cameras for the front plates based upon #4 above.

b) Will tamper-proof speed limiters be installed on all vehicles? Impractical, and likely to cause an outcry by the populace. Many if not most cars already go faster than the posted limit of 65mph - let alone semis that go faster than the 55mph limit they are supposed to obey, and cars/trucks that tow and also go faster than 55mph. (I was travelling along 880S the other day and a Ford truck was towing a boat, in the fast lane in excess of 75 - I was travelling at 70 and it blew past me).

c) The Tesla Model S P85D has a governed top speed of 155 mph and the Tesla Roadster 2020 top speed over 250mph. Would legislation be passed to restrict their speed? The same for Porsche, Ford Mustangs, Dodge Chargers etc. etc. ad infinitum.

Instead of coming up with "plans" which in turn become restrictions for Californians - that many will simply ignore anyway - why not address the short-comings of the current situation that exists where huge amounts of revenue could be realized just by the enforcement of existing laws. Note: I am not stating that I wish California to become a police state however given that operating a motor vehicle requires a license which is a privilege, not a right then people become subject to those laws, which should be enforced. Otherwise there is no point to them. Personally I think that all drivers should have to take the driving test once every five years as a (minor) attempt to reinforce that people are supposed to be safe drivers; and that vehicles driven on the road should have to pass vehicle safety checks similar to other countries.

If you have read through this 'novel' I would appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,
Eddie Chandler