

TO: Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee DATE: September 4, 2015

FR: MTC Executive Director and ABAG Executive Director W.I.: 1121

RE: Amendment to Plan Bay Area

Staff has prepared the Proposed Final Amendment to Plan Bay Area and the Proposed Final Amendment to the 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (Revision 2015-18) to add the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project into both planning documents. Two companion technical documents were also prepared – Proposed Final Addendum to the Plan Bay Area Final EIR and Proposed Final Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

Sponsored by the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project (Project) will reduce congestion by converting the existing breakdown lane on eastbound I-580 to a peak period use lane between Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (Marin County) and Marine Street (Contra Costa County). It will also upgrade the current bicycle access that relies on the shoulder of I-580 with a separate bicycle/pedestrian path on the north side adjacent to westbound traffic. For the first time ever, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will connect the Bay Trail between Contra Costa and Marin Counties for bicyclists and pedestrians. This estimated \$74 million project is fully funded with BATA toll funds, which are already identified in Plan Bay Area (Plan) and 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Notably, regionally significant projects such as this Project cannot seek state or federal funds, receive federal action nor be implemented unless included in a Plan and TIP that meet federal and state planning laws.

Amendment to Plan Bay Area

Staff has prepared the planning documents described below as part of the overall process to amend the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project into the Plan and TIP. In June 2015, the MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee authorized staff to release these documents for a 30-day public review period starting on June 19, 2015 and closing on July 20, 2015. Staff received some 220 comments; of the comments, over 90 percent were supportive of the improvements. A summary of the key themes heard in the comments and our responses are provided in **Attachment A**. Staff also prepared a project performance assessment that found the project to be a middle-performer with good benefit/cost and target score (see details in **Attachment B**). The four planning documents that are subject to your review and approvals are included as **Attachments C through F**.

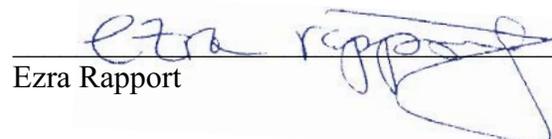
- **Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis:** This conformity analysis was prepared in accordance with US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conformity rules and MTC Resolution 3757. It was also vetted with the Air Quality Conformity Task Force, which is comprised of staffs from US EPA, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Caltrans, and other partner agencies. With the Project, the estimated total emissions projected for the Plan and TIP remain within the emission limits established in the latest applicable federal air quality plan. In addition, the timely implementation of federal transportation control measures is not affected.

- **Addendum to Plan Bay Area EIR:** This EIR Addendum was prepared in accordance to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The addition of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project into the Plan did not result in new significant impacts or substantial increase in the severity of any impacts that were previously identified in the certified Plan Bay Area Final EIR. The public comments received did not alter the environmental assessment but did result in further clarification and minor technical corrections to the Proposed Final Addendum. Except for minor technical revisions, the original environmental assessment for Plan Bay Area remains unchanged.
- **Amendment to Plan Bay Area:** This Plan Amendment adds the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project into the financially constrained Plan. This Project will draw upon the already identified 25-year funding of BATA toll revenues for the Bay Area bridge seismic and rehabilitation program. The addition of this Project does not conflict with the financial constraint requirements of the Plan. No other changes or revisions are made of part of this Plan Amendment.
- **Amendment to 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (Revision Number 2015-18):** This TIP Amendment adds the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project into the financially constrained four-year funding plan. This Project will draw upon the already identified 25-year funding of BATA toll revenues for the Bay Area bridge seismic and rehabilitation program. The addition of this Project does not conflict with the financial constraint requirements of the TIP.

Staff Recommendations

1. The MTC Planning Committee approve and refer **MTC Resolution No. 4196** to the Commission that finds the Proposed Final Amendment to Plan Bay Area and Proposed Final Amendment to 2015 TIP (Revision 2015-18) are in conformance with the applicable federal air quality plan for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulates.
2. The MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee approve and refer **MTC Resolution 4197 and ABAG Resolution 07-15** to the Commission and ABAG Executive Board (respectively) that find the Proposed Final EIR Addendum has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the Commission and ABAG Executive Board reviewed and considered the information in the Proposed Final EIR Addendum prior to considering the Proposed Final Amendment to Plan Bay Area.
3. The MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee approve and refer **MTC Resolution 4198 and ABAG Resolution 08-15** to the Commission and ABAG Executive Board (respectively) that adopt the Proposed Final Amendment to Plan Bay Area.
4. The MTC Planning Committee approve and refer **MTC Resolution No. 4175, Revised** to the Commission that adopts the Proposed Final Amendment to the 2015 TIP (Revision 2015-18).


Steve Heminger


Ezra Rapport

Attachment A: Comments and Responses to Comments

Attachment B: Project Performance Assessment Results for Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access Impvt. Project

Attachments C-F: (C) Proposed Final Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis, (D) Proposed Final Addendum to Plan Bay Area Final EIR, (E) Proposed Final Amendment to Plan Bay Area, and (F) Proposed Final 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (Revision 2015-18)