



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Commission

DATE: February 20, 2008

FR: Legislation Committee

W. I.: 1131

RE: Committee Recommendation

The Legislation Committee met on February 8 and referred one item to Commission.

- **Freeway Performance Initiative**

There is interest on the part of some legislators to propose an increase to the existing registration fee paid by motorists in the Bay Area. Accordingly, the Legislation Committee refers to the Commission an amendment to MTC's 2008 Legislation Program to include an effort to increase the SAFE vehicle license fee.

SAFE currently receives \$1 per registered vehicle in the Bay Area, which totals approximately \$6 million per year. An increase to the vehicle registration fee would not only ensure that all current activities are sustained but would allow a modest beginning toward implementing MTC's proposed freeway performance initiative. The effort would address the many operational strategies to improve the existing freeway system, such as a) expand the popular and cost-effective roving tow trucks that operate on Bay Area freeways; b) complete the detection system needed to monitor freeway conditions; and c) advance the proposal to expand ramp metering on the Bay Area freeway system. Equally important, an increase in the vehicle registration fee will be needed to continue providing the local match that leverages state and federal dollars.

Committee Recommendation: Amend MTC's 2008 Legislative Program to include an effort to seek legislation to increase the vehicle license fee for SAFE (Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways).