



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5a

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## *Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: Mar. 6, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: AB 628 (Block): "Pay-by-Plate" Toll Collection Authorization

### **Description**

AB 628 (Block) would authorize California drivers to pay electronic tolls via license plate. While electronic tolling is now widespread throughout the state with the use of FasTrak<sup>®</sup>, California law does not permit the collection of tolls from license plates.

**Recommendation:** Support

### **Discussion**

In recent years, toll collection technology has progressed to the point where toll authorities are able to charge and collect tolls using digital images of license plates. This has been implemented on toll facilities in the U.S. and around the world. It is generally used as an alternative, or supplement, to transponder-based electronic toll collection. The technology has proven to be particularly useful for infrequent toll facility users who might not have regular or ongoing need for a transponder-based (FasTrak<sup>®</sup>) account.

The California Vehicle Code allows the use of license plate capture technology to enforce toll violations, but it does not specifically allow for payment of tolls by license plate. AB 628 would allow BATA, along with other toll operators statewide, the option to offer customers the ability to pay tolls using their license plate. The same license plate privacy and security data required of toll operators for processing toll violations would apply to pay-by-plate toll collection. The bill requires valid license plates to be displayed on the front and back of any vehicle paying tolls under the pay-by-plate option. Toll operators that choose to offer this option would be responsible for developing policies, procedures and business rules for communicating and implementing this "pay-by-plate" option.

As such, the legislation would expand the toll payment options available to Bay Area motorists while also providing congestion relief at the toll plazas by reducing the number of cash transactions. For these reasons, we recommend a support position on AB 628.

### **Known Positions**

Support

South Bay Expressway

**Known Positions (cont'd)**

Oppose

None



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Steve Heminger

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