



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4a

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: May 1, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: AB 254 (Jeffries) – Emergency Vehicles/Toll Exemptions

Description

AB 254 (Jeffries) requires that authorized emergency vehicles responding to “urgent” or “emergency” calls be granted toll free access on any vehicular crossing or toll highway.

Recommendation: Oppose

Discussion

Current state law authorizes the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) to grant toll-free passage to emergency vehicles using the region’s seven state-owned toll bridges while responding to or returning from an emergency.

Broadening the terminology that exists in the law from “emergency” situations to those that are “urgent,” the bill would significantly increase the circumstances whereby authorized emergency vehicles could travel toll-free. The lack of definition for the term “urgent” in the bill makes it impossible to determine with any precision exactly how much revenue would be lost; clearly, the bill would result in a loss of toll revenue relative to current law. Under Streets and Highways Code Section 30963, the State of California is obligated to take no actions that could impair the terms of any bonds issued by BATA. This bill appears to violate that requirement.

We recommend an “oppose” position on this bill because current law properly limits toll-free access to authorized emergency vehicles responding to or returning from a bona fide emergency.

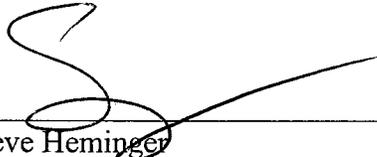
Known Positions

Support

Peace Officers Research Association
City of Murietta
Fire District’s Association
San Bernardino County Fire Department

Oppose

Orange County Fire Authority



Steve Heminger