

SB 205(Hancock) - FACT SHEET
Congestion Management
As amended April 14, 2009

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

SB 205 authorizes a countywide transportation planning agency to place on the ballot a local measure that would impose a fee of up to \$10 on each vehicle registered in that county.

PROBLEM & NEED FOR THE BILL

While the passage of Proposition 1B provided a significant investment in California's transportation infrastructure, the declining value of fuel tax revenue and the increase demands placed on the state and local system is forcing local agencies to do more with less.

To maximize the capacity and improve the efficiency of the transportation network, local transportation agencies are relying more on intelligent transportation strategies (ITS). These strategies include signal light coordination, and monitoring real-time traffic conditions at intersections and on freeways which allow the agency to adjust signal times and update travel times on freeway message signs. This technology allows better management of congestion and incidents along these routes, improves mobility, and provides timely multi-modal transportation information.

Prop 1B dedicated \$250 million to intelligent transportation systems and local agencies have invested STIP dollars as well. Unfortunately, there remains a lack of a stable funding source to pay for the ongoing operations and maintenance of technology based improvements.

While bonds and fuel taxes are an important component in financing transportation projects, a stable funding source for a wide range of congestion mitigation projects is urgently needed. In addition to funding the operation and maintenance of ITS, funding is needed to bridge funding gaps on improvement projects, as well as establishing a local funding source to address a growing concern of how to fund the local implementation of SB 375 and other AB 32 requirements.

Vehicle fees are an affective means of aligning the cost of operating and maintaining the transportation

system with those who use it. SB 205 is drafted in a manner that provides the countywide transportation planning agency the flexibility to craft an expenditure plan that meets the priorities of the county, This may range from ITS, transit improvements, to air quality improvement programs and local street and road maintenance. Vehicle registration fees are an appropriate source for these long term costs.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES

SB 205 authorizes a countywide transportation planning agency to seek voter approval for a fee on each registered vehicle in the county.

SB 205 requires the Board of the transportation planning agency to adopt at a public meeting the following documents:

- ◆ a resolution imposing the fee,
- ◆ an expenditure plan on how the funds will be spent including performance measures, and
- ◆ a finding that the projects or programs to be funded have a relationship or benefit to the persons who will pay the fee and are consistent with the regional transportation plan.

The revenue generated would be spent on congestion and environmental mitigation projects and programs identified in an expenditure plan. The expenditure plan may include funding for the following programs:

- ◆ Leverage funding programs contained in Proposition 1B and Proposition 84.
- ◆ Construction and operation of HOV and HOT lanes.
- ◆ Installation and operation of intelligent transportation systems on state highways and local arterials.
- ◆ Construction and operation of Bus Rapid Transit systems.
- ◆ Bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- ◆ Highway operational improvements, such as auxiliary lanes and interchange

improvements.

- ◆ Local street and road rehabilitation projects
- ◆ Storm water runoff projects
- ◆ Air quality improvement projects such as incentives for alternative fuel vehicles, and free transit on Spare the Air Days.

SUPPORT

Sponsor: Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA)
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit)
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
TransForm
Transportation Authority of Marin

OPPOSITION

AAA of Northern California
Automobile Club of Southern California
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

KEY CONTACTS

Office of Senator Loni Hancock
Marla Cowan, (916) 651-4009

ACCMA
Steve Wallauch, (916) 442-0412