



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item No. 5

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*Memorandum*

TO: Operations Committee

DATE: December 4, 2009

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1229

RE: SFOBB Closure for Emergency Eyebarr Repair: Regional Transportation Response Efforts

Staff has prepared a report (attached) that summarizes MTC's and the regional transportation agencies' coordinated response to the six-day San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge emergency closure—Tuesday, October 27 to Monday, November 2, 2009—for the second repair of the failed eyebarr. This report describes what happened, what was done in response to the incident, and identifies lessons learned that will be useful in preparing for a future incident or catastrophic disaster.

Summary of Events

During the closure, substantial delays occurred on freeway detours routes that exceeded normal levels by more than one hour. This delay was attributed to four major bottlenecks at key interchanges. More preparation can and will be done to prepare for these problems in advance of future incidents.

Use of transit jumped during the closure, but the ability of transit agencies to provide much additional service was constrained by recent budget cuts and by the amount of rolling stock available during peak commute periods. Use of transit during major closures on weekdays will continue to be a challenge. MTC's daily Regional Transit Coordination Conference calls to exchange information between agencies were instrumental in coordinating transit services and maintaining up to date information on changes in service.

511 was the principal source of multimodal information. Nearly all major news outlets pointed users to 511.org, or linked to 511.org from their web pages. Within the first hour of the closure, the 511 website was updated with a special bridge closure web page, alerting motorists of the closure and recommending the use of alternate bridges.

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Steve Heminger

SH: RTV

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