



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4c

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee
FR: Executive Director
RE: MTC Sponsored Legislation

DATE: March 5, 2010
WI: 1131

MTC is sponsoring three new bills this year, consistent with our 2010 Legislative Program. This memo provides a brief summary of the status of these proposals.

AB 1097 (Eng): Temporary License Plate Requirement

Assembly Member Mike Eng has agreed to author MTC's bill to require new vehicle dealerships to place temporary license plates on vehicles at the point of sale to eliminate the lag time — as long as six months in current law — between when a vehicle is purchased and when it is required to be affixed with a license plate. The goal of the bill is to close the loophole that currently allows vehicles without license plates to use FasTrak[®] lanes without payment since toll agencies have no way of identifying and ultimately recovering payment from a vehicle without plates. The bill will be incorporated into AB 1097, which was introduced last year and deals with the positioning of license plates. It has already passed the Assembly and currently resides in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. MTC staff is coordinating with our partner toll agencies from across the state, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the California New Car Dealers Association on bill language, which we hope to finalize by the end of the month.

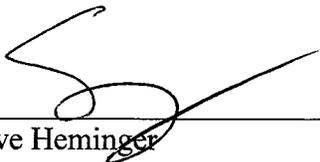
SB 1418 (Wiggins): Safe Freeways and Expressways Fee Increase Authorization & Modernization

Assembly Member Pat Wiggins agreed to author SB 1418, a bill MTC is co-sponsoring with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to modernize the statutes that govern the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) program to clarify that the funds are not restricted to call boxes installation and maintenance, but may also be used for a broad array of motorist aid services, including traveler information, freeway service patrol and other intelligent transportation systems. The bill also authorizes regional transportation planning agencies that operate as SAFEs to double the existing \$1 vehicle registration fee on vehicles in their region for this purpose. For the MTC region only, the bill will also allow MTC to use SAFE funds to install call boxes in parking lots in state and federal parks where telecommunication service (either landline or cellular) is unavailable. There are a number of parks in Marin and Sonoma Counties where MTC has been asked to install call-boxes in the interest of public safety, but current restrictions on the use of SAFE funds would not allow them to be used for this purpose.

AB 2516 (Hill): Improve Townhome Accessibility for Townhomes Located Near Public Transit Stations

MTC’s Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC) championed the need to make townhomes located near public transit more accessible to persons using wheelchairs. While state and federal accessible housing requirements mandate accessibility for multifamily housing units, townhomes are largely exempt from these requirements, with the exception that California law requires 10 percent of townhomes to have a bathroom on the ground floor of the unit, so that it is “visitable” by a person using a wheelchair. At EDAC’s request, MTC sought an author to expand this requirement so that persons using wheelchairs can actually *live* in 10 percent of townhomes near public transit.

At MTC’s request, Assembly Member Jerry Hill (San Mateo County) introduced AB 2516, which requires 10 percent of the units in townhomes located within one-half mile of a public transit station to be designed with a full bathroom, a kitchen and a bedroom on the ground floor. However, this was done with the understanding that the bill will be amended in the near term to address objections raised by the California Building Industry Association about the practicality of such a mandate as it relates to the typical townhome design (which often includes a garage on the first floor, taking up significant square footage) and general concerns given the impact the economic downturn has had on the housing industry. MTC staff and lobbyists will work with Assembly Member Hill’s office to craft a meaningful bill that lays the groundwork for substantive improvements to townhome accessibility near public transit stations.



Steve Heminger