Agenda Item 5

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: September 3, 2010

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: Countywide Vehicle Registration Fees

Background

In November 2010, voters in seven of the nine Bay Area counties (Napa and Solano being the exceptions) will have an opportunity to vote on a countywide vehicle registration fee of $10 per year to fund transportation improvements within each county.

The fee would not be subject to expiration, with the exception of San Mateo County, where it would sunset in 25 years. The enabling statute caps administrative costs at 5 percent of the total fees collected. The congestion management agencies for the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma each developed an expenditure plan and adopted a finding that the projects and programs to be funded by the fee have a relationship or benefit to the persons paying the fee and are consistent with the regional transportation plan (RTP), *Transportation 2035*. In addition, since MTC is the agency that prepares and adopts the RTP, MTC made an official finding, adopted in Resolution No. 3977, that the expenditure plans are consistent with the RTP.

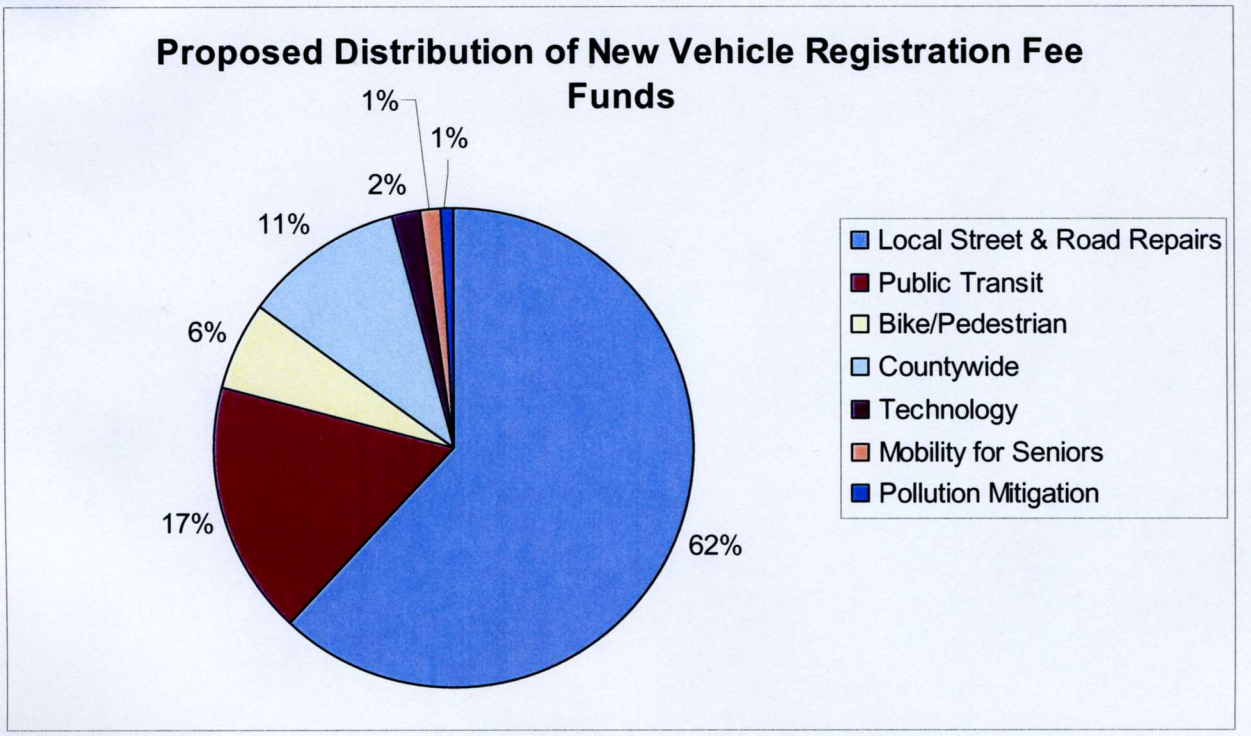
Recommendation: Support

Discussion

This fee was authorized in 2009 in legislation supported by MTC — Senate Bill 83 (Hancock), Chapter 554. The bill specified the types of projects eligible for funding, to include, but not be limited to:

- Providing matching funds for transportation projects funded by state general obligation bonds
- Creating or sustaining congestion mitigation programs
- Creating or sustaining pollution mitigation programs

In total, the fees will generate an estimated $54 million per year region-wide and be spent primarily on local streets and roads and public transit, as shown in the following chart.



These measures are consistent with the RTP, in terms of emphasizing the Commission's policy of "fix it first" and dedicating funds to public transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, transportation for seniors, climate change and environmental mitigation. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission support the vehicle registration fee measures on the November 2010 ballot in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma.

Steve Heminger

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