METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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: Commission

DATE: June 20, 2012

FR: Executive Director

RE: AB 1780 (Bonilla): Project Initiation Documents (PIDs)

Background
AB 1780 (Bonilla) requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to pay for the review and approval of project study reports (PSRs) or equivalent planning documents that are prepared by a local agency for projects that are in an adopted regional transportation plan, a voter-approved county sales tax measure or another voter-approved transportation program. For other projects, the cost of review and approval shall be borne by the local agency that prepared the report.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion
This bill seeks to provide a long-term solution to what has become an annual budget battle over who should pay for Caltrans's cost of reviewing and approving locally-sponsored PSRs. In the Governor's FY 2011-12 state budget, it was proposed that local agencies reimburse the cost of Caltrans review and approval of local transportation agencies' PIDs. The Legislature rejected this proposal — switching this workload to state funding — but Governor Brown vetoed the Legislature's action, leaving this work unfunded in the budget. As a result, PSR work for locally-sponsored projects is currently funded on a reimbursement basis only, which requires the adoption of a cooperative agreement with each local agency and results in significant delay. For example, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority had to postpone work on at least three PSRs this year due to lack of a final cooperative agreement with Caltrans.

For the FY 2012-13 budget, the Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees have authorized state funding for this work, providing a one-year fix to the problem. Nevertheless, in order to provide a long-term fix, staff recommends we support AB 1780, while also urging the Administration to retain state funding for the review and approval of PSRs in the FY 2012-13 budget.

Known Positions

Support
Self-Help Counties Coalition
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Oppose
None

Steve Heminger