



Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority  
 101 8th St., Oakland, CA 94607  
 TEL 510.817.5700  
 EMAIL info@mtc.ca.gov  
 WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

## *Memorandum*

TO: BAIFA

DATE: February 18, 2015

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 6840

RE: Cooperative Agreements Amendments: Caltrans

- i. Regional Express Lane Network Phase 1 Project Initiation Document and Project Approval/Environmental Document (\$500,000)
- ii. Oversight of Final Design and Right of Way Phases for I-680 Express Lanes Southern Segment in Contra Costa County (\$495,000)

This memorandum requests Authority approval to amend the cooperative agreements listed above to provide additional funds for the State Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) oversight of the: (i) project initiation and environmental phases for express lanes on I-680 Southern Segment in Contra Costa County, I-880 in Alameda County and the westbound approaches to the San Mateo and Dumbarton bridges; and (ii) final design and right of way phases for the I-680 Southern Segment.

### Background

BAIFA has entered into cooperative agreements with Caltrans for oversight of the project approval/environmental, design and right-of-way phases for conversion of an initial set of existing high occupancy vehicle lanes to express lanes. The scope and progress of this work includes:

- i. **Regional Express Lane Network Phase 1 Project Initiation Document and Project Approval/Environmental Document.** This agreement has an authorized budget of \$1,470,000 assuming a single environmental clearance for Phase 1 - I-680, and I-880 and the San Mateo and Dumbarton bridge approaches ("I-880/92/84"). Because the I-680 project was able to proceed more quickly, staff elected to clear it separately. Caltrans approved the project report and Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion for the I-680 Southern Segment in Contra Costa County in August 2014. Staff anticipates completion in July 2015 of project approval and environmental work for I-880/92/84, including the backhaul communications network.

Caltrans requires additional funding in the amount of \$500,000 to complete the environmental phase review for I-880/92/84. In October 2014 BAIFA authorized a cooperative agreement with Caltrans in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 for the right-of-way and design phases of the I-880 Express Lane. Caltrans recently submitted a revised budget totaling \$2,000,000. The \$500,000 in savings will be redirected to the I-880/92/84 environmental document.

The cost of this work has increased beyond the original, authorized budget for a number of reasons. Completion of two environmental clearances rather than one doubled the number of technical reports reviewed by Caltrans. Also to improve the effectiveness of express lane operations, the projects now include the backhaul communications network, toll operations at the Caltrans District 4 Traffic Management Center, and use of the Benicia Bridge toll plaza for the express lanes tolling host system. These elements, which were not initially anticipated, require additional review by and coordination with Caltrans. In addition, Caltrans has tackled new issues, policies and procedures, such as signing for continuous access express lanes, managed

lanes safety analysis, and heightened coordination among multiple Bay Area operators. Since BAIFA facilitates a large number of regional coordination efforts, much of Caltrans' participation cost is attributed to BAIFA's projects. Finally, the duration of the work was extended from 24 to 36 months due to the factors noted above and to staff's decision to postpone environmental studies for I-880 to allow discussion of limited access design with cities in Fall 2014.

- ii. **Oversight of Final Design and Right of Way Phases for I-680 Express Lanes Southern Segment in Contra Costa County** This agreement has an authorized budget of \$505,000. Work is nearing completion on the right-of-way and design phases of the I-680 Southern Segment. Staff submitted final design documents for the civil roadway improvements in January 2015 and anticipates Caltrans will issue the encroachment permit in April. Staff will submit the 100% design documents for the backhaul communications network later this month and anticipates the permit in July. Caltrans will also review the toll system integrator design in the next nine months; staff anticipates Caltrans will issue an encroachment permit for the installation of electronic tolling equipment in Fall 2015.

Caltrans requires additional funding in the amount of \$495,000 to complete the final design and right of way phases for I-680. The cost of this work has increased beyond the original budget due largely to inclusion of the backhaul communications network, which is using Caltrans' Permit Engineer Evaluation Report process (environmental review is concurrent with final design). Caltrans provides oversight for these technical studies and environmental approval under this cooperative agreement, though this was not included in the original estimate. In addition, BAIFA's initial submittal for the backhaul communications network required a revised submittal and review by Caltrans. Staff and the design consultant has taken steps to avoid resubmittals in the future.

Staff is working actively with Caltrans to improve both agencies' procedures for tracking costs against budgets. These include: more frequent reporting of Caltrans expenditures, regular review of expenditures compared to budget, and more carefully managing materials submitted for Caltrans review, expectations for reviews and meetings. In addition, staff notes that several elements of the express lane projects, particularly the backhaul and improvements to observation areas for the California Highway Patrol, are betterments that improve express lanes but also provide general benefits to the state highway system beyond the scope of the express lanes. Staff intends to pursue discussion with Caltrans about future "credit" for such betterments.

#### Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Authority authorize the Executive Director or his designee to negotiate and enter into amendments to the following cooperative agreements with Caltrans as follows:

- i. **Regional Express Lane Network Phase 1 Project Initiation Document and Project Approval/Environmental Document** – Amend the agreement in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to complete oversight of the project initiation and environmental phases of the I-880/92/84 project, including the backhaul communications network.
- ii. **Oversight of Final Design and Right of Way Phases for I-680 Express Lanes Southern Segment in Contra Costa County** – Amend the agreement in an amount not to exceed \$495,000 to complete oversight of the design and right of way phases of the I-680 project.



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Steve Heminger

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## REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY APPROVAL

### Summary of Proposed Cooperative Agreement Amendment

Work Item No.: 6840

Agency: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Work Project Title: Regional Express Lane Network Phase 1 Project Initiation (PID) Cooperative Agreement

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the Phase 1 Express Lane projects is to develop Express Lanes that utilize the current excess capacity of the existing High Occupancy Vehicle lanes on I-680 Southern Segment in Contra Costa County, I-880 in Alameda County and westbound Approaches to the Dumbarton (SR-84) and San Mateo (SR-92) bridges. The projects will also provide non-carpool eligible drivers with a reliable travel time option.

Brief Scope of Work: Caltrans will provide oversight for the project initiation document (PIDs) and project approval/environmental documentation (PA/ED) phases of the I-680 and I-880/92/94 projects. Caltrans will conduct the safety analyses. Caltrans will attend project planning meetings and monthly PDT meetings and will review and approve environmental technical and project approval documentation for the projects.

Cost Not to Exceed: \$500,000 (this amendment)

Total Agreement before this amendment: \$1,470,000  
Total Authorized Agreement with this amendment: \$1,970,000

Funding Source: BATA Capital Program Budget

Fiscal Impact: Funding is included in the Express Lane Capital Project Budget, as adopted in the FY 2014-15 Toll Bridge Program Operating and Capital Budget (BATA Resolution No. 113. Revised).

Motion by Authority: That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a cooperative agreement amendment with Caltrans as described above and in the Executive Director's memorandum dated February 18, 2015, and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds in the amount of \$500,000 for such amendment.

BAIFA:

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Chair

Approved: Date: February 25, 2015

## REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY APPROVAL

### Summary of Proposed Cooperative Agreement Amendment

Work Item No.: 6840

Agency: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Work Project Title: Oversight of Final Design and Right-of-Way Phases and Design Phases for I-680 Express Lanes Southern Segment in Contra Costa County

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the BAIFA I-680 Express Lane project is to develop Express Lanes that utilize the current excess capacity of the existing High Occupancy Vehicle lanes. The project will also provide non-carpool eligible drivers with a reliable travel time option.

Brief Scope of Work: Caltrans will attend project planning meetings and monthly PDT meetings. Caltrans will also review and approve engineering studies, reports, plans, specifications, estimates and right-of-way documentation required for construction of the I-680 Express Lanes from Alcosta Blvd. to Rudgear Rd.

Cost Not to Exceed: \$495,000 (this amendment)  
Total Agreement before this amendment: \$505,000  
Total Authorized Agreement with this amendment: \$1,000,000

Funding Source: BATA Capital Program Budget

Fiscal Impact: Funding is included in the Express Lane Capital Project Budget, as adopted in the FY 2014-15 Toll Bridge Program Operating and Capital Budget (BATA Resolution No. 113, Revised).

Motion by Authority: That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a cooperative agreement amendment with Caltrans as described above and in the Executive Director's memorandum dated February 18, 2015, and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds in the amount of \$495,000 for such amendment.

BAIFA:

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Chair

Approved: Date: February 25, 2015