



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: March 18, 2015

FR: Legislation Committee

W. I.: 1131

RE: Committee Recommendations

The Legislation Committee met on March 13, 2015 and referred the following four items to the Commission:

- **AB 464 (Mullin): Local Option Sales Tax Cap.** AB 464 would raise the cap for local option sales taxes from 2 percent to 3 percent, giving local jurisdictions more options to seek voter approval for additional sales taxes to support transportation. Additionally, passage of AB 464 would allow voters to approve additional local taxes for a maximum combined rate of 10.5 percent.

Committee Recommendation: Support AB 464 (Mullin).

- **AB 157 (Levine): Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Improvements.** AB 157 is an urgency statute related to the Interstate 580 Access Improvement Project at the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge consisting of converting the shoulder in the eastbound direction to a new peak traffic lane and converting the shoulder in the westbound direction to a barrier separated bicycle-pedestrian path.

Committee Recommendation: Support and seek amendment on AB 157 (Levine).

- **H.R.680 (Blumenauer): Update, Promote, and Develop America's Transportation Essentials (UPDATE) Act of 2015.** H.R. 680 would restore solvency to the Highway Trust Fund by raising the federal excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuels. The tax increase would generate approximately \$170 billion over ten years.

Committee Recommendation: Support H.R.680 (Blumenauer).

- **H.R. 990 (King): Transportation Fringe Benefit: Transit/Parking Parity.** H.R. 990 (King) would restore equality in the federal transportation fringe benefit program by ending the financial advantage provided to those who drive to work as compared to those who take transit or vanpool. The resolution would standardize the amount for these three modes at \$235/month and increase the monthly bicycle benefit from \$20 per month to \$35 per month. All amounts would be adjusted annually for inflation beginning in 2017.

Committee Recommendation: Support H.R. 990 (King).



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4b

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: Legislation Committee

DATE: March 6, 2015

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 157 (Levine): Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Improvements

Background

AB 157 is an urgency statute related to the Interstate 580 Access Improvement Project at the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge consisting of converting the shoulder in the eastbound direction to a new peak traffic lane and converting the shoulder in the westbound direction to a barrier separated bicycle-pedestrian path. The bill requires design work for the project to be conducted simultaneously with the environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Recommendation: Support and Seek Amendments

Discussion

The primary purpose of this legislation is to help expedite construction of the peak period third traffic lane on the eastbound Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. MTC is in full support of the intentions of AB 157 and we are working with Caltrans to shorten the project development time by commencing simultaneous design work for the needed safety improvement and the environmental reviews.

MTC staff will work closely with Caltrans, the Transportation Authority of Marin, CCTA and Assembly Member Levine's office to identify potential amendments to this bill that will deliver the Interstate 580 Access project as quickly as possible.

A fact sheet regarding the scope, cost and schedule for the project is attached.

Known Positions

Support

None on file

Oppose

None on file



Steve Heminger

SH: RL



Project Overview

The Project will reduce congestion on the Richmond-San Rafael (RSR) Bridge by converting the existing shoulder on eastbound I-580 to a 3rd travel lane between Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (Marin County) and Marine Street (Contra Costa County).

To allow for the 3rd eastbound travel lane and maintain bicycle access to Point Molate, the Project will upgrade the current bicycle access that relies on the I-580 shoulder with a separate bicycle/ pedestrian path on the north side of I-580 adjacent to westbound traffic.

The Project will also install a concrete barrier system on the upper deck of the Richmond San Rafael Bridge to convert the existing freeway shoulder to a barrier separated path for bicycles and pedestrians.

3rd Eastbound Lane on I-580 Freeway

Converting the existing freeway shoulder into a 3rd eastbound travel lane will reduce congestion currently experienced during peak commute hours by creating an additional general purpose lane. The third lane will require the reconstruction of some components of the freeway to accommodate the additional traffic. These include:

- Reconstruction of Main Street On-Ramp and with a retaining wall to improve the traffic merge with the new 3rd lane .
- Replace pavement structural section on bridge approach to accommodate traffic loads.
- Reconstruct retaining wall in Richmond to achieve a safe sight distance for vehicles traveling in the new eastbound lane.
- Provide a barrier separated bicycle and pedestrian access to Point Molate.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Path across RSR Bridge

To complete the path across San Francisco Bay, the westbound shoulder on the RSR Bridge may be converted with a movable barrier separated bicycle-pedestrian path. The movable barrier would allow Caltrans and BATA to complete bridge maintenance activities during short duration closures of the path. These closures will typically occur at night. The path will be 10 ft wide and will comply with standards outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Project Schedule (January 2015)



Project Benefits

- Reduces traffic congestion in eastbound direction of I-580 in Marin County
- Provides bicycle and pedestrian access between Contra Costa and Marin Counties

Cost Estimate (January 2015)

Cost Estimate by major project element	
3rd I-580 Eastbound Lane	\$30 M
RSR Bridge—Bicycle Pedestrian Path	\$29 M
Contingency	\$15 M
Total	\$74 M



Above: Eastbound I-580 requires widening in Contra Costa County to accommodate the 3rd eastbound lane. The retaining wall shown must be removed and replaced with a wall set further back from I-580.

For more information visit www.mtc.ca.gov or contact MTC Public Information at (510) 817-5757.

I-580 Access Improvement Project



Going Green! Connecting Marin County and Contra Costa County for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

For the first time ever the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will connect the Bay Trail between Contra Costa and Marin Counties for bicyclists and pedestrians. Adding another link to the future 500-mile bicycle and hiking network benefits residents in both counties. The proposed path will begin in Richmond at Marine St and continue adjacent to westbound 580 to Main Street in San Rafael. A mix of permanent and moveable barriers will separate bicyclists from vehicle traffic.



Above: A rendering shows the proposed 10-foot bi-directional bicycle-pedestrian path on the upper deck of the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. Path users will be separated from traffic by a concrete barrier system.

