

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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March 30, 2005

Mr. Steve Heminger, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Heminger:

I know you are aware of the recent projections of a cost increase on the Benicia-Martinez Bridge project. In keeping with the policy I've initiated of early notification regarding problems on major transportation projects, I am advising affected members of the Legislature and other project stakeholders about the cost issues involving this important project.

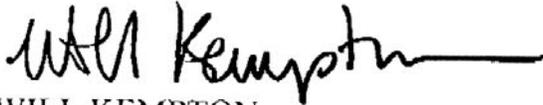
It is my understanding that the latest construction issue affecting the cost for this project involves the stringent mix requirements for the lightweight concrete used in building the superstructure. Evidently, this mix is overheating during the curing process and this is creating problems for the concrete as it sets. To resolve this situation will require integration of an expensive cooling application while the concrete is hardening so that the proper structural strength is achieved. I am also informed that the costs to correct this problem are in the range of \$80 to \$130 million.

As partners in the construction of this facility, I am also proposing that we meet as soon as possible to discuss the implications of the increased costs, including the development of a funding plan to address the increase. Further, I would like to propose that we jointly investigate the circumstances surrounding the reasons for the cost increase, meeting as necessary with the design consultants and the contractor to determine how this problem developed, why it was not foreseen earlier and what we can do to reduce the risks for any future issues of this nature. Coming on the heels of a \$405 million budget increase for this project last year, which was projected and confirmed by BATA and your consultant, I am very concerned that we take whatever steps are appropriate to more effectively project and control construction cost and schedule impacts in the future.

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I look forward to working with you on this important issue. I will be in touch with your office shortly to make arrangements for us to meet. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Kempton" followed by a horizontal line.

WILL KEMPTON
Director

- c: Chair and Members, Metropolitan Transportation Committee,
acting as the Bay Area Toll Authority
- Bob McCleary, Executive Director, Contra Costa Transportation Authority
- Daryl Halls, Executive Director, Solano County Transportation Authority