



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Administration Committee

DATE: February 28, 2007

FR: Executive Director

RE: Resolution No. 3805 to Accept State Funds for Phase 3 of Regional High-Occupancy/Toll Lane Network Feasibility Study

MTC staff requests that the Committee approve Resolution No. 3805 to authorize the Executive Director or his designated representative to enter into a fund transfer agreement with the State of California to accept \$300,000 in state funding for Phase 3 of the Regional High-Occupancy/Toll (HOT) Lane Network Feasibility Study.

In *Transportation 2030*, MTC proposes creating a regional network of HOT lanes by converting existing HOV lanes to HOT lanes and expanding the HOV/HOT system where possible. Benefits of HOT lanes include more efficient use of freeway capacity and a more reliable and faster travel option. Revenues remaining after operations and maintenance of HOT lanes could be used to expedite completion of the HOV/HOT lane network.

MTC and Caltrans, in cooperation with partner agencies, are currently undertaking a Regional HOT Lanes Feasibility and Implementation Study. Preliminary findings from the initial study phases suggest a regional network of HOT lanes is feasible. Remaining tasks in Phases 1 and 2, to be completed this summer, will define a phased implementation plan and lay the ground work for a policy framework.

As is appropriate for a first-order feasibility assessment, Phase 1 and Phase 2 use a simplified approach to costing and demand and revenue forecasting. Phase 3 of the study will develop planning-level corridor layouts and refined capital cost estimates. Phase 3 will identify locations with opportunities for HOT lane ingress and egress as well as for merge lanes and enforcement areas. The information generated in Phase 3 will provide a basis for more detailed traffic and revenue forecasts and project development activities to be undertaken in the future.

MTC expects to conduct this eight-month effort in cooperation with Caltrans Headquarters and Caltrans District 4. Staff intends to amend the existing contract with Parson Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc., the consultant for the work currently underway, to include the Phase 3 work. Caltrans is providing a total of \$300,000 for this effort. MTC may wish to commit additional funding in the fiscal year 2007-08 budget to supplement the Caltrans commitment.

Steve Heminger

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