

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

January 10, 2024

Agenda Item 3b - 24-0091

Public Hearing: Proposed Amendments to the Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Program

Subject:

MTC Resolution No. 4621. Regional Measure 3 Program Amendments. A summary of public comments received and recommendation to modify five existing projects and reassign \$16.7 million in Regional Measure 3 (RM3) funds, specifically to:

- Redirect \$16,700,000 in funds from the Solano County I-80/I-680/SR-12 Interchange Project (RM3 project #21) to the Solano I-80 Express Lanes (Toll System) project – part of the Bay Area Corridor Express Lanes suite of projects (under RM3 project #2)
- Modify scope of Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) project (RM3 project #7) to clarify eligibility of the multi-use pathway along SMART right-of-way.
- Modify scope of Highway 101-Marin/Sonoma Narrows (RM3 project #20) to extend the project limits approximately 4.5 miles from Petaluma Blvd. South to Petaluma Blvd. North in Petaluma and approximately three (3) miles from Atherton Ave. to State Route 37 in Novato.
- Add the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) as a joint project sponsor to State Route 37 Improvements (RM3 project #23)

A public hearing was held on December 13, 2023 to take comments on the proposal.

Background:

On June 5, 2018, Bay Area voters approved RM3, a toll increase of three dollars (\$3) phased in over time, including a one dollar (\$1) toll increase on January 1, 2019, a one dollar (\$1) toll increase on January 1, 2022, and a one dollar (\$1) toll increase on January 1, 2025, for vehicles traveling on the state-owned bridges located in the San Francisco Bay Area. Pursuant to California Streets and Highway Code Section 30914.7(e), MTC is to hold a public hearing when considering changing the scope or reassigning funding of projects included in RM3. MTC held a public hearing on December 13, 2023 to take oral comments on the proposal. Further discussion of the proposals and a summary of the public hearing comments are included below.

Bay Area Corridor Express Lanes & Solano County I-80/I-680/SR-12 Interchange

MTC proposes to transfer \$16.7 million from the I-80/I-680/SR-12 Interchange project to the Solano I-80 Express Lanes (Toll System) project within the Bay Area Corridor Express Lanes suite of projects. In June 2020, MTC concurred with an amendment to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to transfer \$16.7 million in STIP funds from the Solano I-80 Express Lanes project to the I-80/680/SR-12 Interchange Package 2A project. The STIP funds were used to cover a cost increase on the Interchange project since RM3 funds were not available due to ongoing litigation. As part of the STIP amendment concurrence, the partners agreed that the Express Lanes project would be repaid by the Interchange project once RM3 clears legal hurdles. The proposed action would reconcile this loan arrangement by transferring funds from the Solano Interchange to the Solano Express Lanes project, resulting in a net zero change.

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit

MTC proposes to clarify that the multi-use pathway along the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District's (SMART's) right-of-way is an eligible component to the project, in addition to the rail system.

Highway 101-Marin/Sonoma Narrows

MTC proposes to modify the scope of the Highway 101-Marin/Sonoma Narrows project (RM3 project #20) to extend the project limits approximately 4.5 miles from Petaluma Blvd. South to Petaluma Blvd. North in Petaluma and approximately 3 miles from Atherton Ave. to State Route 37 in Novato. The proposed change is a correction to the project description to capture the project limits accurately.

State Route 37 Improvements

MTC proposes to amend the scope of the State Route 37 Improvements project to include MTC as a joint sponsor of the project. MTC and four North Bay County Transportation Agencies (CTAs) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the funding and implementation of the SR-37 Improvements project, and MTC is leading implementation of

portions of the project. Adding MTC as a joint sponsor will streamline administrative actions, such as contracting, invoicing, and reimbursement.

Public Hearing Summary

MTC conducted a public hearing at the December 13, 2023 Programming and Allocations Committee to take comments on the proposed amendments. The comment period opened on November 30, 2023, and closed on December 30, 2023. The Committee received two public comments, summarized below:

- Aleta Dupree commented support for the proposed amendments.
- Howard Wong commented concern about other quality-of-life issues confronting the region aside from transportation; MTC invited Mr. Wong to submit written comments due to bad audio quality.

MTC has not received other written comments.

Issues:

None

Recommendation:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4621 to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: MTC Resolution No. 4621



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