Bay Area Toll Authority
Oversight Committee

November 9, 2024 **Agenda Item 6a-24-1183**

Information –Toll Increase for BATA Bridges

Subject:

Staff will seek feedback on a proposal for a phased toll increase beginning in January 2026 to maintain the State-owned bridges in a state of good repair, while acknowledging cost pressures facing the region's residents.

Background:

At the April 25, 2024 Commission Workshop, staff provided an overview of the BATA toll bridge program and toll revenue portfolio, including investor communication, capital structure, debt issuance considerations, asset management and rehabilitation program funding needs. At the July 9, 2024 Committee Meeting, staff presented traffic and revenue trends, tolls, expenditures and toll bridge capital program needs as a follow on to the April Workshop. Staff sought direction on the revenue stream needed to fund the maintenance of the bridges in a state of good repair, in light of pressures on the program. Committee members underscored the need for revenue to preserve toll bridges and that the approach to funding preservation must consider timing and impact on customers. Commissioners posed several questions to staff, and staff returned to the September 11, 2024 Committee meeting with responses to the feedback provided at the July Committee meeting. Additional feedback from Commissioners in September focused on the need to improve access to FasTrak® to meet customers where they are. Staff also committed to refining data on bridge usage by customers residing in equity priority communities.

At this Committee meeting, staff will present toll schedule changes that would provide BATA with additional revenue necessary for funding the operations and maintenance of the bridge system, while mitigating the impact to customers by phasing the toll increase over time. The proposal includes tiered pricing based on method of payment (toll differential) to increase FasTrak uptake and to help recoup the increased costs of collecting tolls via license plate accounts or invoices. Staff will also present additional data on toll bridge customer use of the bridges as well as opportunities to make FasTrak more accessible to customers.

Staff seeks feedback from the Committee on the proposed toll increase. Staff will collect and incorporate the feedback into its proposal and return to the full BATA Board at its October 23rd meeting for furtherinput prior to releasing a proposal for public comment in November and final proposal for Authority approval in December.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

None. Information Only.

Attachments:

- Presentation

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