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MTC approves transportation bond wish list

State commission will weigh which Bay Area projects should be financed by Prop. 1B

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Inside Bay Area

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Bay Area transportation leaders Wednesday approved the region's final, \$2 billion list of projects they hope to fund with money from Proposition 1B, the infrastructure bond voters passed in November.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission voted unanimously to forward the list of 18 projects to the California Transportation Commission, which will cull similar requests from all over the state.

The state commission is charged with parceling out Proposition 1B's \$20 billion.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission had to pick the projects from among roughly 50 applications — totaling \$4 billion — from the Bay Area's counties and cities. The final list includes \$1.6 billion for projects to improve the most congested highways and \$400 million for safety and other improvements.

"There are a lot of good projects that are not on the list," said MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger.

For example, the Golden Gate Bridge District failed to get \$20 million for a moveable barrier to separate southbound and northbound traffic.

Still, the final list was compiled remarkably quickly and with surprisingly little public bickering.

"This is a once-in-a-generation chance," said Jose Luis Moscovich, executive director of the San Francisco Transportation Authority.

The money the Bay Area is trying to get will come from 1B's largest program, the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account, which has \$4.5 billion for alleviating highway bottlenecks. The state Transportation Commission will parcel out the rest of the bond money, such as \$4 billion for public transit and

\$2 billion each for trade corridors and local roads.

The Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano county projects sent to the California Transportation Commission for consideration are as follows:

- \$294 million: I-580 high occupancy vehicle, or carpool, lanes from Hacienda/Foothill to Greenville, including Isabel/SR 84/I-580 improvements
- \$175 million: fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel
- \$150 million: I-80/I680/State Route 12 Interchange and I-80 HOV extension
- \$108 million: I-880 southbound HOV extension from 98th Avenue to Marina Avenue
- \$88.6 million: State Route 12 Jameson Canyon Widening from two to four lanes
- \$85 million: State Route 4 HOV extension from Somersville to State Route 160
- \$63.3 million: I-80 integrated corridor mobility
- \$10.5 million: I-680 northbound HOV extension from North Main Street in Walnut Creek to State Route 242.