

MTC seeks public input on allocating bond money

Infrastructure funds approved Nov. 7 must be dispersed quickly

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The public has until Jan. 10 to comment on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's \$1.9 billion list of highway projects to be financed out of the \$20 billion transportation bond approved by voters Nov. 7.

The \$4.5 billion Corridor Mobility portion of the bond was written in such a way that transportation officials statewide have to figure out how to spend the money quickly, so that voters will see some congestion relief within a few years of the bond's approval.

Among the projects are a fourth two-lane bore for state Highway 24's Caldecott Tunnel linking Oakland and Contra Costa County.

If the item survives the commission's Jan. 10 vote, the body would request \$175 million in bond money to complete the \$420 million needed for the project.

The list also includes new carpool lanes for the even more congested Interstate 580 corridor; a sophisticated traffic management system for Interstate 80 between the Carquinez and Bay bridges; and projects to add carpool lanes and extra capacity to U.S. Highway 101 in Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

During Wednesday's commission meeting, an official from the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District asked MTC members to add \$20 million to the list for a solid, movable barrier to separate northbound and southbound traffic.

The current barrier of short plastic tubes won't stop head-on collisions and leaves motorists wary of using the far left lane, he explained.

Commission member Tom Ammiano of San Francisco said he supported the idea, but there was simply not enough support to add it to the list.

A copy of the list is available online at mtc.ca.gov/funding/infrastructure/4b-CMIA-Item.pdf.

Comments should be e-mailed to mtcinfo@mtc.ca.gov or mailed to Alix Bockleman, director, MTC Programming and Allocations, 101 8th St., Oakland 94607.

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