



## SACOG Board of Directors

Item #06-2-24  
Workshop

February 9, 2006

### Metropolitan Transportation Plan Issue Papers

**Issue:** Presentation of issue papers.

**Recommendation:** None, this item is for information purposes only.

**Discussion:** This item was brought to the Board in January; however due to lack of time, the workshop was not given. Staff is continuing work on topical issue papers for the MTP 2030. A key goal of the effort is to improve the information base of the current Board and help frame issues for discussion in advance of the major public outreach activities during the spring of 2006. Each paper is being incorporated into public education materials under development. Two to three papers will continue to be presented to the Board each month through February 2006.

Papers on road expansion, transit expansion, and freeway high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes are attached. Comments from the Transportation & Air Quality Committee (TAQ), Regional Planning Partnership, and Transit Coordinating Committee are reflected in the papers.

The road expansion paper begins to lay out the issues related to the region's need for additional roadway capacity over the MTP planning horizon. The paper addresses some of the key issues concerning road expansion. Important issues for decision makers to consider are: What are the objectives and consequences of expanding roads? How does congestion relate to road expansion? How should roads serving local access be treated differently from roads serving through trips?

The road pricing paper provides definitions, objectives and policy considerations for high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, fast and intertwined regular (FAIR) lanes, and tollways, HOT lanes combine High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) and pricing strategies through allowing single occupancy vehicles to gain access to HOV lanes by paying a toll. The lanes are "managed" through pricing to maintain free flow conditions even during the height of rush hours. FAIR lanes are similar in concept, but do not involve HOV lanes—instead, the freeway lanes are divided into "fast" (priced) and "regular" (free) lanes. Tollways require payment from all drivers to use the facility. In assessing opportunities and challenges for HOT lanes in the Sacramento region, the paper highlights relevant applications elsewhere and summarizes potential features and management strategies.

The transit expansion paper explores the issues and choices that underlie the expansion of transit services over the MTP planning horizon. This paper was given to the Board in January and is currently being revised to reflect comments received. The paper will be sent under separate cover.

Approved by:

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Attachments

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