

San Francisco Bay Area Awarded \$158M by U.S. Department of Transportation to Tackle Congestion

*Initiative to Focus on Tolling of Doyle Drive - Transit, Traffic Flow
and Parking Improvements Also Included*

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA – On Tuesday, August 14, the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) designated the San Francisco Bay Area as an Urban Partner, securing \$158.7 million in federal funds to implement innovative congestion relief programs in the region, the second most congested in the country. The Urban Partnership Program is part of a larger US DOT initiative to reduce congestion across the nation. The program is intended to encourage cities to develop an integrated response to congestion through deployment of the Department's 4T's of congestion management: tolling, transit, technology, and telecommuting.

The US DOT award centers on the San Francisco Doyle Drive Value Pricing program, which was included in a package of proposals from across the Bay Area that was submitted to Federal authorities by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission earlier this year. The grant will enable San Francisco, the recipient of approximately \$140 million in funds, to showcase the potential for tolling to manage congestion on Doyle Drive, the elevated access road connecting the Golden Gate Bridge to downtown San Francisco. The funds would also help pay for the aging facility's replacement with a modern, earthquake-safe parkway. The initiative encompasses a number of complementary improvements to transit service, traffic flow and real-time traveler information, as well as a state-of-the-art parking management program. Implementation will require the coordinated efforts of the San Francisco Transportation Authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, California Department of Transportation, and Alameda-Contra Costa County Transit District.

"I'm gratified and thankful that the Federal Government has recognized San Francisco's comprehensive approach to managing mobility and improving the environment," stated Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, Chair of the Authority. "We're thrilled that San Francisco is being recognized as a policy innovator, and that we will have the opportunity to develop congestion management techniques that can



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serve as a model for the rest of the country.”

“We thank the US DOT for this significant investment in San Francisco’s infrastructure,” stated Mayor Gavin Newsom. “I am pleased that SFGo is receiving significant funding. This program helps public transportation to run on time and reduces traffic.”

The San Francisco proposal involves charging drivers on Doyle Drive a fee according to the level of congestion, and using the revenues to completely rebuild the roadway to earthquake safety standards, improve parking, and provide better transit service, a concept known as “congestion pricing.” Specifically, the proposal includes:

- introducing a toll on Doyle Drive that would vary with demand (the fee would be collected electronically through overhead sensors, not at a separate toll plaza);
- funds to help pay for the reconstruction of Doyle Drive to modern, earthquake-safe standards;
- improved parking access to Golden Gate Transit ferry services;
- “smart” parking management and payment systems for the Civic Center and Downtown areas, including new parking meters that accept credit cards;
- expansion of SFgo, the city’s real-time traffic information and management system to smooth traffic flow, provide transit priority at signals, and manage traffic incidents; and
- development of a telecommuting/ride-sharing program for municipal workers.

Elsewhere in Bay Area, the grant will fund expansion of MTC’s 511 real-time traveler information systems, provide travel demand modeling tools for AC Transit’s Grand Avenue/MacArthur Boulevard corridor improvements, and support a demonstration of Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII) technology in the Doyle Drive corridor.

“The Urban Partnership grant will complement the investment San Franciscans are already making in local transportation infrastructure through Proposition K, the local sales tax for transportation,” said José Luis Moscovich, Executive Director of the San Francisco Transportation Authority, “It will help us deliver a new Doyle Drive and accelerate other key transportation improvements through comprehensive management of our pricing and parking programs.”

“This Urban Partnership award from USDOT is welcome news and we are greatly appreciative of the metropolitan focus that clearly recognizes MTC’s and the Bay Area’s national leadership in promoting transit, technology, telecommuting and tolling with the FasTrak® electronic payment system in use

on all the region's bridges," said Steve Heminger, executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. "The decision to direct funds to Doyle Drive is especially welcome and timely, following as it does the successful efforts by MTC, San Francisco and the California Transportation Commission to secure \$400 million in State Highway Account funds for seismic safety just months ago."

About the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (www.sfcta.org)

Created in 1989, the Authority is responsible for long-range transportation planning for the city, and it analyzes, designs and funds improvements for San Francisco's roadway and public transportation networks. The Authority administers and oversees the delivery of the Prop K half-cent local transportation sales tax program, serves as the designated Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for San Francisco, under state law, and acts as the San Francisco Program Manager for grants from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA). The Authority Board consists of the eleven members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who act as Authority Commissioners. Commissioner Jake McGoldrick is Chairman of the Authority Board, and José Luis Moscovich is the Authority's Executive Director.

About the Metropolitan Transportation Commission

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC operates the regional telephone and Web-based 511 traveler-information system, oversees implementation of the TransLink® transit-fare smart card and, in its role as the Bay Area Toll Authority, manages the FasTrak® electronic toll collection system in use on all Bay Area toll bridges.

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

The District is responsible for the operation of Golden Gate Bridge, Golden Gate Transit, and Golden Gate Ferry using tolls, transit fares, limited grants, and advertising and concessions.

About the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)

Established by voter proposition in 1999, the SFMTA, a department of the City and County of San Francisco, oversees both the Municipal Railway (Muni) and the Department of Parking and Traffic. With five modes of transit, MUNI has 700,000 passenger boardings each day. Over 35,000 extra vehicles enter San Francisco on any given business day, and rely on DPT to keep the flow of cars, transit vehicles, delivery trucks, pedestrians, and bicycles moving smoothly through the streets.

About the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District is the third-largest public bus-only system in California, serving 13 cities and adjacent unincorporated areas in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. AC Transit has been serving the East Bay

since 1960, taking over from the Key System and its predecessors, which carried passengers via buses, horse-drawn rail, electric streetcars, and ferries over the previous 100 years. AC Transit carries 67 million riders each year.

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