

**MOTION BY MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA,
DIRECTOR DIANE DUBOIS & DIRECTOR MEL WILSON**

Special MTA Board Meeting

May 18, 2010

Interstate 405 Inter-County HOT Lane Corridor

The I-405 San Diego Freeway is one of the most congested freeways in the U.S. with two the top five freeway interchange bottlenecks.

According to the 2009 Texas Transportation Institute Mobility Report, travelers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana area waste 70 hours a year stuck in traffic and has the dubious distinction of ranking number one in the U.S. in annual delays per commuter travel.

MTA is tackling this issue – in part – through the development of two high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes projects along the I-110 and I-10 freeways.

The MTA Board also adopted the concept of a countywide HOT lane network in the "Strategic Plan Highway" category of the 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Orange County also is considering implementation of HOT lanes.

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in cooperation with Caltrans, is proposing to widen the I-405 freeway between the SR-73 and the I-605 (Los Angeles County line).

Both Caltrans and OCTA are in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for this project.

The I-405 EIR/EIS is studying four alternatives to help relieve traffic congestion along the 13-mile project segment.

CONTINUED

One of the alternatives being studied in the EIR/EIS is the "Express Facility Alternative" (Alternative 3) where new high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes would be built next to the existing carpool lane.

HOT lanes let drivers voluntarily pay a toll to use a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) when they would normally not meet the occupancy requirements of the lane (e.g. solo driver using 2+ carpool lane).

The effectiveness of a HOT lane system increases as its reach expands.

Conversely, ending a new freeway widening and HOT lane facility at the I-605 will constrict the project's effectiveness and potentially create an unintentional bottleneck.

MTA should determine whether it would be beneficial to continue the HOT lanes in Los Angeles County north of the I-605.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the MTA Board:

1. Direct the CEO to report on the progress of the OCTA EIR/EIS during the July 2011 Board cycle
2. Direct the CEO to provide an update on the traffic analysis (previously directed via Board-adopted motion in September 2010) during the July 2011 Board cycle, and;
3. Amend the FY 2012 Budget to add \$500,000 from the "General Fund: HOV Fines, FY 12 Estimated Ending Fund Balance" (Fiscal Year 2012 Proposed Budget, p.33, line 35; \$2.9 million available) to further analyze and begin an environmental review of HOT lanes in Los Angeles County north of the I-405/I-605 (e.g. along the I-105, I-405, I-605, and/or surrounding freeways)

###