

TO: WCCTAC Board
FROM: Christina Atienza, Executive Director
DATE: 14 July 2009
RE: Updates

Update on AB 744 – Regional Express Lanes Network

At the Board's special meeting last Monday, the Board considered several amendments proposed by MTC, including ones that would directly and positively address the amendments that we had requested at the outset, namely: 1) acknowledgement that the project study report would be used to assess not just feasibility, but also desirability, of express lanes for a particular corridor; 2) allowance for a gap in the network if express lanes are not expected to result in significant net benefits to the travelers of a corridor; and 3) highest priority given to transit projects for reinvestment of net revenues. The Board voted to change its position to "support" if these amendments were included in the bill, and instructed staff to communicate this position to MTC staff. MTC staff have in turn responded by stating that while the bill is still being finalized, they expect the subject amendments to make it to the final version. As well, they noted that they would be glad to have WCCTAC's support.

The next Senate Trans hearing, which was supposed to be today, has been postponed to Thursday, July 16, after the Senate Floor session. The latest version of the bill, which still includes the amendments of primary interest to us, is attached. I'd like to note that the current version of the bill goes a long way toward positively addressing not just WCCTAC's issues, but most of the issues raised by the Senate Trans Committee and advocacy groups.

Point Molate EIR Released

The Draft EIS/EIR for the proposed Point Molate Resort and Casino has been released. We will be sending paper copies of the Executive Summary (over 100 pages in length) and a CD of the entire DEIS/DEIR to all WCCTAC Board members and alternates within the next few days. Comments are due on Sept. 23. Originally, our Board meeting in Sept. was scheduled for the 25th, but that date conflicts with the League of Cities Conference. We will try to find a suitable time to meet prior to Sept. 25th so that we can both avoid the conflict and also discuss the Point Molate proposal before the comments are due. The DEIS/DEIR is also available online at www.ci.richmond.ca.us/planning and at www.pointmolateeis-eir.com.

You may recall that the City of Richmond offered to make a presentation to WCCTAC on this matter. I will be inviting them for both a preliminary presentation at our July 31 meeting, and for a more detailed Q&A at the Sept. meeting. (Note that Board is in recess in August.)