

**BOARD COMMUNICATION: YOLO TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT**

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<b>Topic:</b> Yolo 80 Managed Lanes Project Update	<b>Agenda Item#:</b>  <b>Agenda Type:</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Informational</b>
		<b>Attachments:</b> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>No</b>
<b>Prepared By: Brian Abbanat</b>		<b>Meeting Date: October 9, 2023</b>

*Staff Note: YoloTD staff are aware of recent media reports regarding the demotion of Caltrans Headquarters Director of Planning over alleged concerns raised about the pavement rehabilitation project currently under construction on the Yolo Causeway as well as the I-80 Managed Lanes project.*

*YoloTD is not, and has never been, involved in the pavement rehabilitation project currently under construction on the Yolo Causeway. YoloTD is the recipient of federal funds for the Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project to add a lane in each direction to the Yolo Causeway to improve mobility in this corridor and doing so in an environmentally responsible way. YoloTD does not control the planning, environmental review, design, or construction for the Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project – Caltrans does. While the issues raised in the article are internal to Caltrans, they are troubling and should be addressed by Caltrans.*

*Consistent with our role in the Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project, staff continues to coordinate with Caltrans District 3 to advance the Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project in accordance with YoloTD’s Board-adopted goals.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational. This staff report reflects the monthly written update on significant Yolo 80 Managed Lanes Project activities.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since the last update in September, important project activity has occurred that improves the clarity of the Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project’s short-term future.

*Draft Environmental Impact Report Release Pending Decision by Governor’s Office*

Recall, the California Transportation commission (CTC) did not recommend the \$103 million Trade Corridors Enhancement Program (TCEP) grant application by Caltrans and YoloTD, which introduced project uncertainty. Subsequent to the CTC’s decision, Caltrans notified us there would be a delay of the Draft Environmental Document (DED), in this case an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

Additionally, because the project’s DED is among the first in the region to address emerging California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations on freeway expansion projects, specifically Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) impacts, Caltrans Headquarters and District 3 needed additional time to coordinate on the DED prior to its release, contributing to the delay.

YoloTD understands that the DED has been finalized by District 3 and Caltrans Headquarters for release, which now sits at the Governor’s office and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) – the

state agency which oversees the state’s transportation entities - for final review. No new release date has been provided to us.

*Phase 1 Build Options*

District 3 and YoloTD continue coordinating on potential Phase 1 Build Options under different funding scenarios. Meaningful conversations have occurred at high state government levels to identify funding that would enable a Phase 1 project to be delivered as a tolled express lane, a project alternative most consistent with YoloTD Board-adopted project goals. In this scenario, YoloTD-led tolling advance planning work must proceed at an accelerated rate.

*DED Release Impact on Schedule*

While encouraging funding signs have surfaced at the state level, District 3 and YoloTD have established Phase 1 project contingency plans depending on the environmental process outcome. This is possible given many baseline project features are common to all DED alternatives. However, each day of DED delay compresses the schedule to prepare a Phase 1 Build Option, making it increasingly difficult to obligate the \$86 million INFRA funding by September 2023. Project design and tolling advance planning must be completed by late spring 2024, approximately 6-8 months for activities more commonly requiring up to 18 months, including, potentially:

Tolling Advance Planning (YoloTD)

- Concept of Operations
- Revised Traffic & Revenue Study
- Establishment of Interagency Tolling Authority
- Revenue Expenditure Plan
- Application to CTC for Tolling Authority

Capital Project (Caltrans)

- Complete environmental review
- Complete 100% design & engineering
- Secure additional funding
- List project for construction bids

In June 2023, YoloTD was awarded \$2 million in funding for the Tolling Advance Planning activities, above. Staff are actively working with Caltrans to obligate this funding so Tolling Advance Planning work can begin. All necessary documentation has been submitted and staff are waiting for a Notice to Proceed. While Tolling Advance Planning reimbursable expenses should be approved soon, whether the activities can be completed within the remaining timeline available is a concern.

Circumstances surrounding the Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project continue to evolve each month. Staff will continue to provide project monthly updates to keep Board members apprised of its progress.