

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS: YOLO TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT**  
**350 Industrial Way, Woodland, CA 95776---- (530) 661-0816**

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| <b>Topic:</b><br>Yolo 80 Managed Lanes Project Update | <b>Agenda Item#:</b><br><br><b>Agenda Type:</b> | <b>4</b><br><br><b>Informational</b>  |
| <b>Prepared By: Brian Abbanat</b>                     |   | <b>Attachments:</b> Yes <u>No</u><br><b>Meeting Date: November 13, 2023</b> |

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational. This staff report reflects an update on significant Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project activities.

**BACKGROUND:**

*Key Activities since September 2023 Board meeting*

The Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project has rapidly evolved since the September Board meeting. In September, the project team was assessing if/how a Phase 1 project could be delivered in the wake of the \$102 million TCEP grant non-award. Additionally, delays in releasing the Draft Environmental Document (DED) – in this case an EIR – reduced time available to prepare for a Project Alternative that could include an express (toll) lane. Over the past two months, extensive coordination between Caltrans District 3 (D3), Caltrans Headquarters, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), SACOG, and Yolo Transportation District have resulted in substantial progress toward the possibility of a Yolo 80 Managed Lanes Phase 1 project in closer alignment with the December 2021 Board-adopted project goals.

*Draft Environmental Impact Report Delay and Expected Release November 13*

The project’s DED is among the first in the state to address emerging California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations on freeway expansion projects, specifically Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) impacts. The original target release date of June 30, 2023 was delayed as Caltrans Headquarters and D3 needed additional time to coordinate on the DED prior to its release. To YoloTD’s understanding, these issues are resolved, and the Governor’s office and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) – the state agency have reviewed and confirmed an intent to release on Monday, November 13 – the same day as this Board meeting. This does not allow enough time for an informed Board discussion of the DED findings at this Board meeting. However, staff looks forward to a robust discussion on this topic with the Board at the December meeting, which falls within the DED’s 45-day review period.

*Project Funding Recap and Outlook*

In early 2023, a project expectation was the \$102 million D3 Trade Corridors Enhancement Program (TCEP) grant application submitted in December 2022 would be awarded funding. This would have largely filled the project’s funding gap and enable an express (toll) lane project to advance according to schedule and to obligate the awarded \$86 million federal Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects (INFRA) funds by the Congressionally mandated September 2024 deadline. In June, the project team learned the Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project was not selected for TCEP funding, which required additional time and coordination through summer 2023 to determine if an initial project phase could be delivered consistent with the INFRA funding project goals. Subsequently, meaningful conversations have occurred at high state government levels to identify funding to enable a Phase 1 project to be delivered as an 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 Delay and its Impact on Schedule*

D3 and YoloTD established Phase 1 project timelines that are contingent on the timeline of the environmental review process. This is possible due to baseline project features common to all EIR alternatives. However, the EIR's release delay significantly compresses the schedule to prepare a Phase 1 Build Option, increasing the challenge to obligate the \$86 million INFRA funding by September 2023.

### *Tolling Advance Planning*

In the event a tolling alternative is selected by Caltrans as the final project, and additional funding is identified to cover the costs of tolled elements in the project design, then key tolling advance planning activities must be completed by late spring 2024, approximately 6-8 months for activities more commonly requiring up to 18 months, including, potentially:

Commission for Tolling Authority

#### Tolling Advance Planning (YoloTD)

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

#### Capital Project (Caltrans)

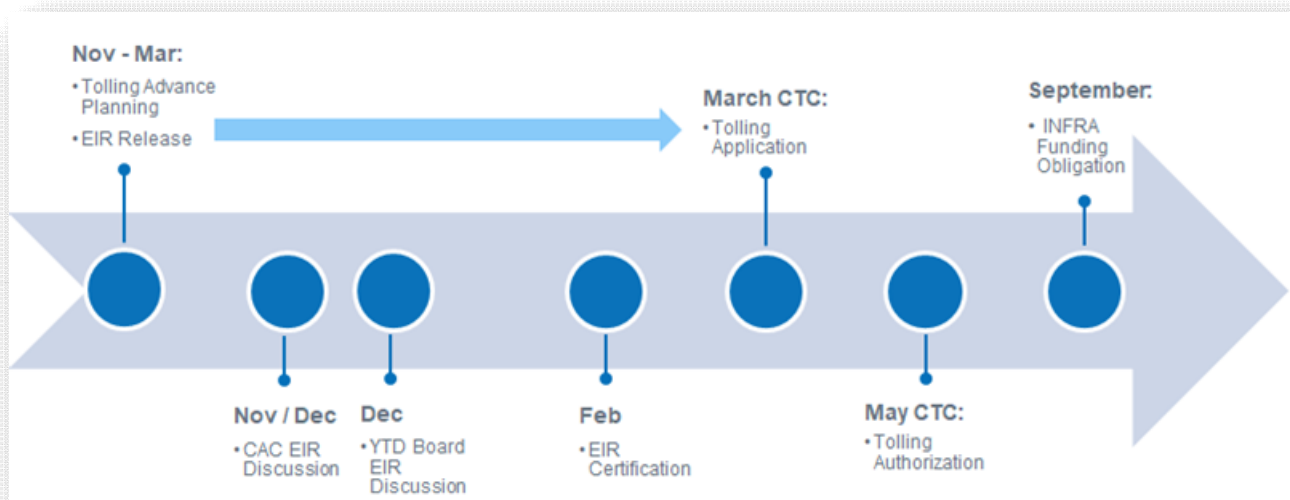
- Complete environmental review
- Complete 100% design & engineering
- Secure additional funding
- List project for construction bids

The Tolling Advance Planning process was delayed due to the uncertainty related to the environmental review process. However, YoloTD has engaged our relevant regional transportation agency partners (SACOG, Caltrans, Sacramento Transportation Authority, Placer County Transportation Planning Authority, and El Dorado County Transportation Commission) in a series of working group discussions to lay the foundation for establishing a regional tolling authority. Those conversations – which are ongoing - have been productive. Their staff are aware of the changing Yolo 80 Managed Lanes project landscape and its potential effect on a regional tolling authority's initial composition, including representation.

In June 2023, YoloTD was awarded \$2 million in SACOG Regional Funding for the Tolling Advance Planning activities, above. Staff have obligated this funding and received a Notice to Proceed. Thus, Tolling Advance Planning activities costs can be reimbursed with this funding. However, the level of effort within the remaining time available is substantial. Staff and consultants have continued Tolling Advance Planning activities and, following a late summer pause, re-engaged the Regional Working Group for tolling policy to update them on the project status and potential paths forward.

### *Project Schedule*

An ambitious, but potentially achievable schedule below illustrates how a Phase 1 express lanes project could unfold:



### *Tolling Advance Planning Committee*

The Board's Tolling Advance Planning Committee continues to meet and discuss the project monthly including their October 2 and November 6 meetings. Topics discussed included updates on the environmental process, progress on tolling authority / governance discussions with regional transportation agencies, project schedule, as well as use of SACOG funding awarded for tolling advance planning (see Agenda Item 5). Their perspective has helped staff navigate the complexities of this project.

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

### *Citizens Advisory Committee*

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was given a project update at the November 7 meeting. As an advisory committee to the YoloTD Board, one CAC member suggested that a special CAC meeting should be scheduled to hear a presentation on the DED. Staff will follow up to poll the CAC members on their interest and availability for a special meeting prior to the December 11 Board meeting.