



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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September 27, 2013

The Honorable Diane DuBois and Members of the Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
1 Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, California

Re: Monthly Maintenance Fee for the Transponders to Use the ExpressLane Projects

Dear Chair DuBois and Members of the Board,

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) strongly supports permanently waiving the monthly maintenance fee for the ExpressLanes for all participants who work or reside in Los Angeles County.

As the SBCCOG has been assisting Metro to publicize the need for transponders, we are still encountering people's reluctance to get transponders since their use of the ExpressLanes is only occasional and they are concerned that the fee waiver is only temporary. In our experience, the monthly fee has definitely created an additional barrier and continues to do so because of the uncertainty as to whether it will be resumed.

Additionally, we feel that it is important to note that with the maintenance fee, the I-110 & I-10 freeway users were the only drivers in Los Angeles County that were paying for the right to use a carpool lane because of the need for a transponder. It was not equitable.

Furthermore, we understand that the last time you heard this issue, there was an amendment introduced that which would have accounts terminated after 6 months of inactivity. Once again, we strongly object to this proposed policy change. It is a further barrier to those in the county that only use the lanes occasionally, such as going to cultural or sporting events downtown.

We urge the Metro Board to permanently waive the monthly maintenance fee for L.A. County residents and workers in the interest of equity and mobility as well as allow accounts to remain open whether active or not.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Medina
SBCCOG Chair
Mayor Pro Tem, Gardena

cc: Art Leahy, CEO

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