

June 20, 2025

Sent via Electronic Mail

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Ms. Dina El-Tawansy
Director, District 4
California Department of Transportation – District 4
111 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Letter of Support for Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority's
Proposed Interstate 80 Weekend Express Lanes Pilot Program in Solano County**

Dear Ms. El-Tawansy:

The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) submits this letter of support for the proposal by the Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority (BAIFA) to conduct a Weekend Express Lanes Pilot Program on Interstate 80 (I-80) in Solano County for a period of three (3) years. This Pilot Program is slated to commence at the same time when weekday operations begin for the high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on I-80 in Fall/Winter 2025 with a scheduled sunset to the Pilot in Fall of 2028.

BAIFA is working in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Highway Patrol, and STA to implement HOT lanes on I-80 in the County. This strategy aligns with efforts of local and regional agencies in the Bay Area to implement a regional Bay Area Express Lanes network, consistent with Metropolitan Transportation Commission's adopted regional transportation plan – the Plan Bay Area 2050. The HOT lanes on I-80 will add 18 miles of express lanes to the network and increase throughput in the corridor, while offering motorists a choice to reduce travel time by paying a toll and rewarding carpoolers equipped with the appropriate FasTrak transponder (which can be obtained at <https://www.bayareafastrak.org/en/home/index.shtml>) with the same travel time-saving benefits at a lower cost.

The proposal by BAIFA to pilot I-80 express lane operations on weekends (Saturday and Sunday, from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.) is important. One of the main reasons for this is the mitigation of anticipated traffic demand and congestion increases on the corridor on weekends in the coming years. I-80 is an important corridor for motorists and freight traffic, connecting County residents with the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento region. Planned housing and commercial developments along I-80 in several jurisdictions in the County are also intensifying such as the Lower Lagoon Valley and North Village developments. At the end of the Pilot Program, BAIFA will evaluate the effectiveness of weekend express lanes use and any other relevant impacts.

Overall, by extending express lanes use into the weekend for a period of three (3) years, the Pilot will seek to accomplish the following: curb future traffic demand; set traffic patterns at implementation to optimize and reduce future congestion; provide travel time reliability for HOVs; as well as create a more efficient and environmentally friendly transportation system. Continued partnership with the District 4 Managed Lanes Committee will be important to implement and evaluate the proposed Weekend Express Lanes Pilot Program on I-80 in the County. This Pilot will inform and quantify the benefits of express lane operation on weekends for the corridor and regionally.

STA Ltr. to Dina El-Tawansy at Caltrans dated June 20, 2025
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STA looks to continue the partnership with BAIFA and Caltrans in achieving and furthering Greenhouse Gas reduction and Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure goals. The operation of Express Lanes can coincide with these goals if the system continues to be built out with Transit Demand Management (TDM) incorporated into the corridor. STA's support of this request is contingent upon Caltrans and BAIFA commitment that:

- BAIFA's Express Lanes START program is incorporated within the Pilot Program for qualified low-income participants
- BAIFA return to the STA Board for regular updates and feedback on development of the Pilot related to operations, revenue, expenses and impacts to the community
- BAIFA return to the STA Board at the conclusion of the Pilot for decision of support to continue or modify the program
- BAIFA support funding for the Project Initiation Document for Express Lanes expansion in Solano County's I-80 corridor through Dixon
- BAIFA develop the remaining revenue policy in coordination with STA staff and Caltrans with a return to source funding for Solano County, including transit service or TDM, which are essential for achieving State, Regional, and local goals.
- Caltrans and BAIFA commit to public outreach and education of the Pilot Program

Solano County sits at a critical junction on the I-80 corridor connecting the two regions of the Bay Area and Sacramento into one megaregion where innovative concepts must be embraced to solve the challenging future ahead. Please contact Nicholas Burton at (707) 399-3233 or nburton@sta.ca.gov for any further information about STA's support for this Pilot Program.

Sincerely,



Mitch Mashburn

Solano County Board of Supervisor, District 5
Chair, STA Board

Cc: STA Board Members
Andrew Fremier, MTC Executive Director
Daryl K. Halls, STA Executive Director
Nicholas Burton, STA Director of Projects
Joe Rouse, Caltrans District 4 Chief Office of Highway Operations