



## Land Use & Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Date: June 6, 2019

Agenda Item No. 4

Preview of June Board Workshop: Market-priced Express Lanes--Cutting Congestion and Boosting Transit

Information

**Prepared by:** Bruce Griesenbeck

**Approved by:** Clint Holtzen

**Attachments:** No

### 1. Issue:

The June board meeting will include a workshop on pricing express lanes.

### 2. Recommendation:

None, this item is for information and discussion.

### 3. Background/Analysis:

In 2018, two board workshops were organized that featured road pricing experts outside the region. A third workshop on roadway pricing has been organized for the June board meeting featuring Robert Poole from the Reason Foundation.

Mr. Poole's presentation will focus on the potential to both reduce congestion and improve transit services through the implementation of priced express lanes. Express lanes are a subset of lanes within a roadway that require single-occupant vehicles or trucks to pay a toll, but are free or provide access at a reduced price for high-occupancy or transit vehicles. Regular un-tolled lanes run next to the express lanes, and have slower speeds and less reliable travel times than the express lanes. Mr. Poole will also bring information on emerging trends in how express lane projects are being designed and implemented around the country.

Robert Poole is the director of transportation policy and Searle Freedom Trust Transportation Fellow at Reason Foundation. Poole, an MIT-trained engineer, advised the Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush administrations on infrastructure issues. Mr. Poole has argued forcefully for many years that the two of the ills plaguing our roadways, congestion and deterioration, are outcomes of the way we fund and provide the infrastructure. Mr. Poole has written extensively on the subject. His most recent book is *Rethinking America's Highways: A 21st-Century Vision for Better Infrastructure*.

### 4. Discussion/Analysis:

The goal of the latest pricing workshop is to provide an additional opportunity to the board to learn about priced roadways and be in a better position to critically evaluate the potential for including priced express lanes in the corridor investment strategies being developed in the SACOG region. The two earlier board workshops provided staff valuable input for the pricing policies and strategies being developed for the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy.

In a later month, staff will return to the Transportation Committee and provide an update on ongoing managed lanes project development work in the Sacramento region (e.g., the ongoing managed lanes studies for I-80 in Yolo County, I-5 north from Downtown Sacramento to the Airport, and the Capital City Freeway) as well as those planned for the future (e.g., SR-65 in Placer County and I-80 in Placer and Sacramento counties). Staff is working with Caltrans to schedule this.

**5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

There is no additional impact to SACOG's operating budget other than what was already included in the agency's overall work program.

**6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:**

7 - Deliver Key High-Profile Transportation Projects