

ATTACHMENT B

BILL: AB 620

AUTHOR: ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROGER HERNANDEZ
(D-LOS ANGELES)

SUBJECT: METRO EXPRESSLANES

STATUS: SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

ACTION: NEUTRAL

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors adopt a NEUTRAL position on AB 620 (Hernandez) as amended.

ISSUE

AB 620 (Hernandez) addresses outreach efforts for the Metro ExpressLanes Low Income Assistance Program. In April 2015, the Metro Board of Directors adopted an OPPOSE position on AB 620 as introduced. The author has amended AB 620 which now would:

- Require LA Metro and Caltrans to continue to increase enrollment and participation in the Metro's current ExpressLanes Low Income Assistance Plan.
- Require LA Metro and Caltrans to report back to the Legislature on its efforts to improve the program by 2018.

DISCUSSION

As amended, AB 620 would require LA Metro and Caltrans to increase outreach efforts and continue to increase enrollment in the Low Income Assistance Program and report back to the State Legislature in 2018 on progress and performance of those efforts. Current law requires Metro to maintain a program that addresses equity issues associated with the ExpressLanes Program, and, that Metro work with affected communities and provides mitigation measures that include reduced toll charges and toll credits to commuters. Metro established the Low Income Assistance Program to address these issues.

Staff worked with Assembly Member Hernandez to address the language of the bill from the date of its introduction and shared information regarding the structure of Metro's existing program and discussed potential negative impacts from the bill. Overall, the goal of Metro's ExpressLanes program is to improve mobility for all commuters in the

two corridors in which the project is located. In the past year, staff has increased outreach and access to Metro ExpressLanes Low Income Assistance Program. Participation has increased by 32 percent in the last year, with over 8,000 participants enrolled in the program.

Staff was successful in communicating the Board adopted OPPOSE position on the bill to the author and State Legislature. Metro staff offered amendments to the bill that would effectively address the author's concerns with Metro's performance in implementing the Low Income Assistance Program that would not jeopardize or negatively impact the administration of that program and the ExpressLanes program overall. The author accepted Metro's proposed amendments and has since amended AB 620 to delete previous language and replace it with language that discusses efforts to increase outreach, and includes the one time reporting requirement in 2018.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

Staff has reviewed the legislation to identify an impact to safety at Metro and have found that the measure has no negative impacts on safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff has reviewed the legislation to identify fiscal impacts and has found that additional data is needed to quantify the impact of the legislation. Metro and Caltrans would experience additional costs to improve outreach for the program and prepare the required report.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Staff has considered continuing to oppose the legislation due to previous Board direction. However, as amended, the measure does not significantly change the way the Low Income Assistance Program is currently administered.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board decide to adopt a NEUTRAL position on this bill, staff will monitor the bill and work with the author to ensure that Metro's priorities are reflected in any future amendments and continue to keep the Board informed as this issue is addressed throughout the legislative session.