

BILL: ASSEMBLY BILL 2542

AUTHOR: ASSEMBLYMEMBER MIKE GATTO
(D-GLENDALE)

SUBJECT: STREETS AND HIGHWAYS: REVERSIBLE LANES

STATUS: ASSEMBLY FLOOR CONSENT CALENDAR
SCHEDULED: MAY 9, 2016

ACTION: SUPPORT IF AMENDED

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a SUPPORT IF AMENDED position on Assembly Bill 2542 (Gatto) as amended on March 15, 2016.

ISSUE

Assemblymember Mike Gatto has recently amended AB 2542, a bill that would require the Department of Transportation or a regional transportation planning agency, when submitting a capacity-increasing project or a major street or highway lane realignment project to the Transportation Commission for approval, to demonstrate that reversible lanes were considered for the project.

AB 2542 would:

- Require that Caltrans or a regional transportation planning agency to demonstrate that reversible lanes were considered in the planning, design and evaluation of a capacity increasing project on a major street or highway.

DISCUSSION

Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan includes a number of highway capacity increasing and efficiency projects. The provisions of AB 2542 would potentially require that Metro evaluate the use of reversible lanes for capacity increasing projects to mitigate impacts to vehicle traffic on major streets and highways.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation finds that reversible lanes add peak-direction capacity to a two-way road and decrease congestion by "borrowing" available lane capacity from the other (off-peak) direction. The lanes are particularly beneficial where the cost to increase capacity is expensive, like on bridges and in dense urban areas.

AB 2542 as amended does not specifically outline how Caltrans or a regional transportation planning agency would demonstrate that reversible lanes were considered in the planning or design of a highway or major street project. Staff finds that the bill's provisions could be clarified so that the CTC could determine how operationally the reversible lane evaluation could be integrated into the project development process.

Staff is recommending that the Board of Directors adopt a SUPPORT IF AMENDED position on the measure AB 2542 (Gatto).

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

Staff has determined that there is no direct impact to safety as a result of this proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Staff has determined that there are no negative financial impacts to the agency as the result of the provisions outlined in this bill.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Board of Directors could consider adopting an OPPOSE position on this legislation; however, this would be inconsistent with our agency's goal to increase mobility in the region.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board decide to adopt a SUPPORT IF AMENDED position on AB 2542 (Gatto), staff will communicate the Board's position to the author and work to address any concerns that the agency has with respect to potential impacts to the Long Range Transportation Plan for highway projects. Staff will continue to keep the Board informed as this issue is addressed throughout the legislative session.