



MEETING DATE: 3/21/05
ITEM NO. 7

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: MARCH 14, 2005

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: DEBRA J. FIGONE, TOWN MANAGER

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY TRAFFIC RELIEF LEGISLATION FOR THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION SURCHARGE SENATE BILL (SB680) SPONSORED BY THE SILICON VALLEY MANUFACTURING GROUP (SVMG)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution in support of the Santa Clara County Traffic Relief Legislation for the Vehicle Registration Surcharge Senate Bill (SB680) sponsored by the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group (SVMG).

BACKGROUND:

The Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group (SVMG) is sponsoring a bill that would fund a number of modestly-priced but key traffic congestion relief projects throughout the county. The bill is being carried by State Senator Joe Simitian with Senator Elaine Alquist and Senator Liz Figueroa serving as principal co-author.

Assembly members Ira Ruskin, Joe Coto, Rebecca Cohn, Sally Lieber, John Laird, Alberto Torrico, and Simon Salinas are principal co-authors. The bill is modeled on AB 1546, a bill Senator Simitian carried for the City-County Associations of Governments (C/CAG) of San Mateo County last session that was signed by the Governor.

DISCUSSION:

AB 1546 authorized C/CAG to impose an annual fee of up to \$4.00 per vehicle registered in San Mateo County to pay for congestion management projects (ramp metering, shuttles, road reconstruction, etc.) as well as storm water pollution prevention activities (street sweeping, storm inlet cleaning, auto repair shop inspections, etc.). The fee will sunset in 2009.

PREPARED BY:

John E. Curtis
JOHN E. CURTIS

Director of Parks and Public Works

Reviewed by: RS Assistant Town Manager OK Town Attorney _____ Clerk Administrator
se Finance _____ Community Development

Revised: 3/14/05 1:17 pm

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MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY
TRAFFIC RELIEF LEGISLATION FOR THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION
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MARCH 14, 2005

The bill will impose a \$5.00 annual surcharge on vehicles registered in Santa Clara County and would primarily fund congestions management projects. The fee would sunset in 2014. Based on 1.4 million registered cars (the number registered in 2004 in Santa Clara County), a \$5.00 registration surcharge would generate approximately \$7 million/year or \$56 million over eight years (2006-2014).

SVMG's goal in sponsoring this bill is to move a number of meaningful traffic relief projects forward throughout the county. SVMG also sees the bill as a means to help rebuild the collaborative, can-do spirit that in the past has enabled the Valley to successfully address common challenges. The funding categories, criteria for selecting projects within those categories, and percentages of funding of each category described below, have been developed in consultation with transportation professionals throughout the county. The selection criteria for projects funded by this bill will include geographic equity, congestion relief, cost-effectiveness, and identified county priority.

The expenditure framework is as follows:

- \$560,000 to DMV (approximately 1% of total revenues).
- \$4 million for Caltrain capacity improvements. These funds could be used for Santa Clara County's share of the cost of purchasing additional Baby Bullet train cars, or making station or parking improvements. All improvements must serve Santa Clara County.
- \$4 million for litter removal and landscape restoration (\$500,000 per year). This money can be used on highways or county expressways. Any unused funds would revert to competitive pool (#2) described below.

The remaining \$47 million would be divided into thirds:

- \$16 million for Tier 1A county expressway improvements in the County Expressway Plan, including signal timing/coordination and ramp metering, small scale congestion relief projects, and funding matches for larger projects.
- \$16 million for competitive pool for cities/towns and county for road operational and ITS improvements (such as small scale congestion relief projects, signal timing/coordination and ramp metering, and funding matches for larger projects).
- \$16 million distributed to cities/towns/county on a pro rata basis related to vehicle registration. A jurisdiction may use these funds for the same types of projects outlined in the above two categories.

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Local public officials who have endorsed this bill concept to date:

- Chair and member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Liz Kniss
- Santa Clara County Supervisor Don Gage
- VTA Board Chair and Los Gatos Council member Joe Pirzynski
- VTA Board Vice Chair and San Jose Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez
- San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales

Attachment 2 is a letter from State Senator Joe Simitian encouraging communities to support SB680.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that Council support the Santa Clara County Traffic Relief Legislation for the Vehicle Registration Surcharge Senate Bill.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Los Gatos' share of the \$16 million pro-rata pool would represent approximately \$33,000 per year, based on an estimate of vehicle registrations, which could be appropriated for traffic calming, ITS improvements, or other capital projects which meet the criteria of the category.

Los Gatos can further submit grant proposals to VTA, the granting authority, for project funding meeting the criteria in the competitive pool. This pool may have a cap on any one project, but this will be determined at a later date when the bill has been passed.

Attachments:

1. Resolution in support of the Santa Clara County Traffic Relief Legislation for the Vehicle Registration Surcharge Senate Bill.
2. Letter from State Senator Joe Simitian

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS IN SUPPORT OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY TRAFFIC RELIEF LEGISLATION FOR THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION SURCHARGE SENATE BILL (SB680) SPONSORED BY THE SILICON VALLEY MANUFACTURING GROUP (SVMG)

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is a county within the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is the largest and most populous county in Northern California with highly urbanized, rural, and mountainous areas; and

WHEREAS, the locally owned and operated County Expressway system, local arterials, and rural county roads are the workhorses of Santa Clara County's road system, carrying the vast majority of all trips by all modes other than rail; and

WHEREAS, the Caltrain rail system relieves pressure on Santa Clara County's local roadway by replacing medium distance auto trips; and

WHEREAS, the County Expressways, local arterials, county roads, and the Caltrain system are in need of improvements, modernization, and upgrades to the traffic signal systems; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate litter control and landscaping restoration on the state highways and County Expressway systems is creating aesthetic and environmental problems;

WHEREAS, state and federal funding for transportation projects have been inadequate to meet Santa Clara County's transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, current local funding sources are inadequate to fill the gap; and

WHEREAS, other counties within the State of California have enacted temporary supplements to the Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) levied on vehicles registered within their borders to meet local transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, (SB 680) proposes a five-dollar (\$5) supplement to the VRF on vehicles registered within Santa Clara County for a term of eight (8) years; and

WHEREAS, (SB 680) proposes to use these funds for local transportation system improvements on the County Expressway System, local arterials, rural county roads, the Caltrain system, and for litter control and landscape restoration on state highways and County Expressways; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Los Gatos is a Town within Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos wishes to submit a formal resolution of support to the State Legislature for (SB 680).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos, County of Santa Clara, State of California, that the Council supports the goals of (SB 680) and encourages the California State Legislature to adopt and the Governor of California to sign (SB 680) into law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos, California, held on the day of , 2005, by the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

AYES:

NAYS

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

SIGNED: MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:

CLERK ADMINISTRATOR OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

California State Senate

SENATOR
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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MAR 14 2005



March 9, 2005

The Honorable Mike Wasserman
Mayor
Town of Los Gatos
110 East Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Dear Mr. *Mike* Wasserman,

At the request of local business and community leaders, I have agreed to carry legislation that would provide an opportunity for the communities of Santa Clara County to address some of the top priority transportation needs in our county. This bill (SB 680) would authorize (but not require) the Valley Transportation Authority to impose a \$5 (maximum) surcharge on vehicles registered in Santa Clara County to fund primarily congestion management projects, with a sunset provision for 2014. Based on 1.4 million registered cars (2004 statistics), a \$5 registration surcharge would generate approximately \$7 million/year or \$56 million over eight years (2006-2014).

As you may know, last year I carried a similar bill for the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, AB 1546, which was signed into law by the Governor. We were successful because every city in the county was behind the effort. This demonstrable support was critical.

The request for your support of this bill will come forward from your staff in the form of a resolution presented to your City Council. In order to ensure consensus to the greatest degree possible an expenditure framework was developed by a technical advisory committee which included staff from all Santa Clara County's cities, the county, VTA and SVMG, the bill's sponsor. The expenditure framework will also be shared with you at that time. The bill also includes a required 2/3 vote of the VTA board before the surcharge may be imposed and the expenditure plan finalized. The 2/3 requirement will ensure consensus support for the fee itself, and the equitable county-wide use of funds.

I request that your Council approve a resolution in support of this county-wide transportation effort.

Thank you, and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Rosendahl in my district office at (650) 688-6384.

Sincerely,



S. Joseph Simitian
Senator, Eleventh District

cc: City Council Members

SJS:sd

*Thanks a
million!*