

# Highway Capacity Investment Options for a Future Regional Transportation Measure

January 24, 2024

Below are options to inform the Commission's discussion related to the enabling legislation for a future regional transportation measure and eligibility of funds for highway capacity investments.

## **Option 1:** No Explicit Limitations on Highway Capacity Increasing Projects

Rely upon existing state policies which currently steer investment away from highway capacity expansion by imposing an extremely high cost for mitigation of induced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- Excluded: N/A
- Eligible: Projects to improve traffic flow, interchange and roadway safety projects, express lanes (conversion and expansion), high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, general purpose lane expansion.

## **Option 2:** Limit Highway Expansion to Managed Lanes (e.g. Priced, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV), or Transit-Only)

Exclude highway capacity-increasing projects unless priced or managed lanes. Prioritize projects that support the region's climate goals.

- Excluded: Freeway widening for new general purpose lanes
- Eligible: Projects to improve traffic flow, non-capacity increasing interchange and roadway safety projects, express lanes (conversion and expansion), high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. (Specific project example: State Route (SR) 37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project, which includes a combination of a new toll lane and conversion of existing lane to HOV.)

## **Option 3:** Prohibit Use of Funds on *Any* Highway Widening Projects

Exclude from eligibility any project that widens highways or otherwise adds highway capacity, based on Office of Planning & Research (OPR)/Caltrans definition under SB 743 framework.

- Excluded: All highway capacity increasing projects, whether general purpose lane, HOV lane, or tolled lane. (Specific project examples that *could not* be funded include SR 37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project and Express Lane gap closures that assume widenings.)
- Eligible: Projects to improve traffic flow, non-capacity increasing interchange and roadway safety projects, HOV to express lane conversions.