

Comments Received

LM2BT Bridge Funding Proposal

The proposal for LM2BT bridge funding is dense reading, and an ad-hoc committee worked by consensus to summarize the proposal for Coalition readers. In the course of that work, individual members of that committee submitted comments, which are excerpted below. These comments may provide useful insight regarding the funding proposal:

- *I found it very difficult to sort out what DD funds have been spent to date, what future DD funds are needed, and what specific DD funds are proposed to be used for LM2BT.*
- *The project seems only to be seeking funds from Measure DD, not from Measure KK, not from the State's Active Transportation Program, not from the Bay Trail section of Regional Measure 3, etc.*
- *The project plans to rely on grants to fund construction but reports "no outstanding grant requests at this time".*
- *The proposal says that 35% plans are complete and will be posted on their website by the end of September 2017, but we don't see those plans there yet. It provides only a "rough guess" in-house cost estimate for the project, but at the 35% stage the consultant would typically have provided a very detailed and fairly reliable cost estimate. That would be good to see.*
- *The proposal reports a 2012 DD allocation to the bridge of \$1.53M and a 2017 DD allocation of \$2.36M. However, at the September Coalition, Lesley said these statements of allocation were not correct, leaving uncertainty.*
- *I am concerned that the cost of "project management" to date (over \$1.3 million) has been spent mostly on prep work and planning -- but not yet on project management. Typically, similar-type projects would be funded by "planning grants" which fund activities through the phases of feasibility and preliminary design. The Meas DD allotment can be easily expended in pre-project activities with no funds available for actual management during project implementation.*
- *The planning and management of the bridge project seem independent from the rest of Measure DD.*
- *To me, the key factor in getting coalition buy-in is a better understanding the amount of funds requested and the expenditure plan for them. I think it's fair to say that most coalition members approve of the concept of LM2BT but are concerned about the potential impact of this funding request on existing DD projects (as well as others on the "wish list" that might be displaced by LM2BT). Best I can tell, we do not yet have adequate information about spending to date (primarily used for staff time?), and we're getting mixed signals as to whether future funding will be used for staff time or matching construction grants.*
- *While the "flyway" is acknowledged by most as a worthwhile accomplishment if realized, I do not recall the Coalition ever endorsing the "flyway" as a project to be supported by DD funds in excess of the \$2 million that is budgeted.*
- *If we can pull off this project it would be a great asset for the waterfront.*
- *I am supportive of the concept, but reluctant to move forward without more details on past and future expenditure of DD funds. To me, the key points that need to be addressed before the coalition can make a decision are:*
 - *What has been spent to date?*
 - *What were the expenditures?*
 - *What section of DD was used for that funding?*
 - *How much future expenditures are being requested?*
 - *How are those future expenditures allocated between staff time and matching construction grants?*
 - *If those future expenditures are made, what other DD projects (or wish list items) will be impacted?*