



Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025

Agenda Item No. 9

Capital Area Regional Tolling Authority Board April - June Recap

Receive and File

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Attachments: Yes

Referring Committee: Not applicable

Issue:

This item recaps the actions of the Capital Area Regional Tolling Authority (CARTA) between April and June 2025.

Request:

Receive & File

Recommendation for Board:

None; this item is for information only.

Recommendation for Committee:

None; this item is for information only.

Background:

Although CARTA is an independent agency, the information it receives and the actions it takes directly impact SACOG's current and future work. Staff have developed this quarterly report to keep SACOG Directors informed of CARTA's activities. More information on CARTA, including board meeting materials and recordings, is available at captollauthority.org.

Discussion/Analysis:

The CARTA board held three meetings in the second quarter of calendar year 2025: on April 9, May 28, and June 11. The April meeting was off-site at the Caltrans Transportation Management Center in Rancho Cordova and included two substantive items:

- The CARTA board adopted toll policy around hours of operation, eligibility, and technology. The Yolo 80 toll lanes will operate 24/7 but will switch into non-tolling mode (where anyone can use the lane for free) when traffic volumes are very low. To use the Yolo 80 toll lanes, customers must use a FasTrak® transponder and have a valid, paid FasTrak® account. CARTA's Draft Toll Policy Register, which documents each policy, is included as Attachment A to this staff report.
- The CARTA board also heard an information item on the traffic and revenue study that Yolo Transportation District (YoloTD) is conducting for Yolo 80. The presentation described the study which will forecast a high and low scenario of transactions and gross toll revenue. The study will also include

findings on optimal toll prices and how use of the Yolo 80 toll lanes could change as the region grows.

The May meeting included three substantive items:

- The CARTA board adopted pricing and account management toll policy. The Yolo 80 toll lanes will be dynamically priced, meaning the tolls will be adjusted as traffic increases and decreases, aiming to maintain speeds in the toll lane above 45 mph, which is the federal standard. The Yolo 80 toll lanes will also use segment-based pricing, meaning vehicles that choose to exit the toll lane halfway across the causeway will not pay half a toll. This policy discourages weaving in and out of the toll lane, which can create congestion. CARTA has previously elected to partner with an existing California back office rather than build its own. The account management policy reaffirms that decision by making clear that CARTA's back office partner will own, maintain, and provide customer service to any accounts that customers open with them.
- The CARTA board adopted final annual budget and reviewed a five-year budget forecast. CARTA's five-year forecast estimates about \$56 million in expenditure to get into its first few years of toll revenue service. While CARTA will ultimately be self-funded by tolls, its start-up construction costs will need to be funded by the Yolo 80 project and start-up operating costs will need to be covered by loans from local agencies. The draft budget forecast is included as Attachment B to this staff report.
- The CARTA board had a workshop on discounts and exemptions. The discussion was high level, focusing on the exemptions that are required or generally provided (for transit vehicles as an example) vs those that are discretionary (veteran discounts as an example). The board discussed the importance of taking a measured approach and exercising fiscal constraint as discounts are considered.

The June meeting included four substantive items:

- The CARTA board built on the May workshop and adopted a policy exempting legally-required and generally-exempt vehicles from paying tolls on Yolo 80 including transit, emergency, and maintenance vehicles.
- The CARTA board authorized staff to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultant services to support CARTA's toll program. These contracts implement the staffing structure previously approved by the CARTA board, which relies heavily on consultants but brings on an executive director in 2026.
- The CARTA board had workshop discussing violations and enforcement. This overview distinguished between the moving violations enforced by CHP in the toll lane (as in other lanes) and toll violations for non-payment that will be enforced by CARTA.
- The CARTA board also reviewed a draft Multiyear Workplan, called the Roadmap, that outlines the sequence and interdependence of tasks to get to collecting its first toll on Yolo 80 in 2028. The Roadmap provides a framework for CARTA to monitor progress and report to the board if individual task delays will impact the "critical path". The draft Roadmap is included as Attachment C to this staff report.

Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Costs associated with SACOG staffing CARTA are included in the adopted Overall Work Program/Budget and are paid by CARTA on a reimbursement basis.

List of Attachments:

Attachment A: Draft CARTA Toll Policy Register

Attachment B: Draft CARTA Five-Year Budget Forecast

Attachment C: Draft Roadmap