

Contact:
John Grubb
Vice President, Communications
Bay Area Council
O: 415-946-8705
Cell: 415-847-6320
jgrubb@bayareacouncil.org



**BAY AREA COUNCIL RELEASES STATEMENT ON
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT FUNDS**

BAY AREA, February 26, 2007 — Today the Bay Area Council released the following statement attributable to Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council:

“The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is preparing to allocate the first \$4.5 billion from the Proposition 1B transportation measure on Wednesday, March 28. The Bay Area Council has been working for weeks to ensure our region received funding commensurate with the traffic we face. The Bay Area holds the honor of the second worst traffic in the entire United States.

“The initial signals from the CTC staff were, to be blunt, terrible.

“While the Bay Area has 85 percent of Northern California’s congestion according to Caltrans, projects here were proposed to receive merely 49 percent of Northern California’s share of funds, and many of our most important projects were ignored, in favor of rural projects.

“Today, the staff revised their proposal, instead recommending that 61 percent of the funds available to Northern California go to Bay Area projects. Yet the staff proposal still neglects critically important congestion reduction projects in the Bay Area: the Highway 101 Novato Narrows; westbound I-580 carpool lanes; the 80-680-12 interchange; and the 880-280 interchange. At the same time, the proposal, like its predecessors, directs \$177 million to the Willits Bypass to solve a ‘congestion’ problem so minor that it does not even register on Caltrans’ Highway Congestion Monitoring Program.

“I strongly urge the CTC commissioners put these funds to better use on projects that relieve the crippling congestion that is threatening the economy and fiscal health of the state as a whole. The \$4.5 billion from Proposition 1B cannot address all transportation needs in California. But it is absolutely possible to make substantial progress on the traffic challenge, especially if the limited funds are spent in the most effective manner possible to reduce congestion.”

#

About the Bay Area Council

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council (www.bayareacouncil.org) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and researches critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for hundreds of major employers throughout the Bay Area region whom employ more than 501,000 workers, or 1 of every six private sector employees in the Bay Area.