

REGIONAL MEASURE 3 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated February 7, 2023

1. *What is Regional Measure 3?*

Regional Measure 3 (RM 3) was a ballot measure on the June 5, 2018, ballot in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The measure, which was approved by 55 percent of voters in the nine Bay Area counties, identified a plan to build major roadway and public transit improvements via an increase in bridge tolls on all Bay Area toll bridges except the Golden Gate Bridge. RM 3 was authorized by the State Legislature by Senate Bill 595 (authored by then-Senator Jim Beall of San Jose) and signed into law by then-Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in 2017.

2. *What is the goal of RM 3?*

The goal of RM 3 is to reduce traffic congestion and improve transportation options throughout the San Francisco Bay Area's state-owned toll bridge corridors.

3. *What projects are funded by RM 3?*

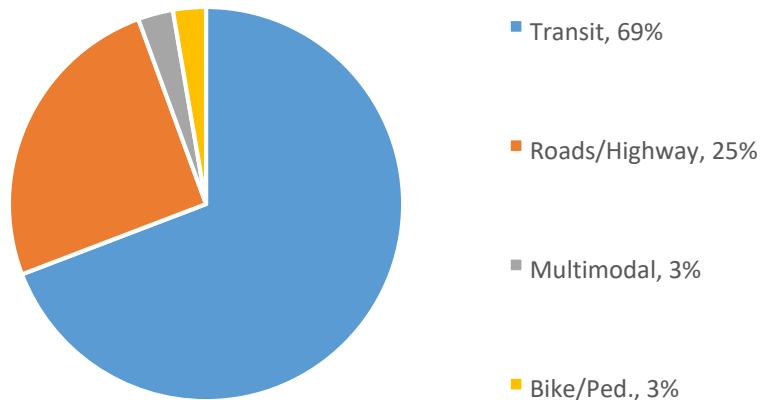
The measure will build urgently needed transportation improvements, including, but not limited to:

- New BART cars
- The extension of BART to Silicon Valley
- New high-occupancy vehicle lanes in Marin and Sonoma
- Improvements to State Route 37 serving Solano, Marin, Napa and Sonoma counties
- More frequent and expanded ferry service
- Improvements to the Interstate 80/680/State Route 12 interchange
- the extension of Caltrain to downtown San Francisco.

Review the complete [Regional Measure 3 Expenditure Plan](#) and the [map of projects](#).

4. *How will RM 3 spend toll funds by project type?*

RM 3 Expenditure Plan by Transportation Mode (Capital & Operating Funding over 25 Years)



Note: For this analysis, operating funds were discounted at a 2.2%/year to account for inflation.

5. *How much does RM 3 raise tolls?*

RM 3 increased tolls by \$1 in 2019 and \$1 in 2022, and will increase tolls by \$1 in 2025. BATA will be allowed to adjust the RM 3 portion of the tolls to account for inflation after the RM 3 toll increase is fully phased in.

6. *Which bridges are affected by the toll rate increase?*

The toll rates affect the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges: the Antioch Bridge, the Benicia-Martinez Bridge, the Carquinez Bridge, the Dumbarton Bridge, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge. Tolls on the Golden Gate Bridge are not affected, as it is owned and operated by an independent district not overseen by BATA.

7. *When did the toll rates go into effect?*

RM 3 increased tolls by \$1 in 2019 and \$1 in 2022, and will increase tolls by \$1 in 2025.

8. *Do carpools receive a discount?*

Carpools receive a 50% discount on tolls during carpool hours.

9. *Are trucks included?*

Trucks, regardless of the number of axles, are subject to the same toll increase as passenger vehicles.

10. What is the discount for commuters who use more than one bridge during their commute?

Commuters (including carpoolers) who pay tolls on two bridges during commute hours receive a 50% discount on the RM 3 portion of the toll paid on the second crossing within a one-day period. For example, for the current \$7 full toll, which includes \$2 of the RM 3 portion of the toll, a commuter would get a \$1 discount on the second trip. Toll payers must pay their tolls via FasTrak® to be eligible for this discount and trips on the Golden Gate Bridge do not count towards this discount.

11. How much money will be raised by RM 3?

Based on estimated traffic volumes, each dollar increase generates approximately \$125 million in annual toll revenue. The Regional Measure 3 Expenditure Plan identifies projects that will be funded by the toll increase of \$3 over six years. The annual revenue will be used to finance a \$4.5 billion slate of highway and transit capital improvements along with \$60 million annually to provide new bus and ferry service in congested bridge corridors and improved regional connectivity at the Transbay Terminal.

12. What accountability and oversight provisions are included in the measure?

RM 3 includes the following oversight components:

1) A Citizen Oversight Committee

Modeled on the approach taken in local county sales tax measures dedicated to transportation, RM 3 establishes an independent oversight committee to ensure spending of all RM 3 revenue is consistent with the Expenditure Plan. County supervisors in each of the nine Bay Area counties appoint two representatives to this committee.

2) Performance Measures

Prior to allocating operating funds to bus or ferry service, MTC will develop performance measures, such as ridership targets, to help ensure tolls are used cost-effectively and highlight the need for adjustments to be made if service falls short of the desired performance measures. A similar requirement existed for RM 2 and led to changes in service and the elimination of certain routes that did not attract sufficient riders to be cost-effective.

3) Office of BART Inspector General

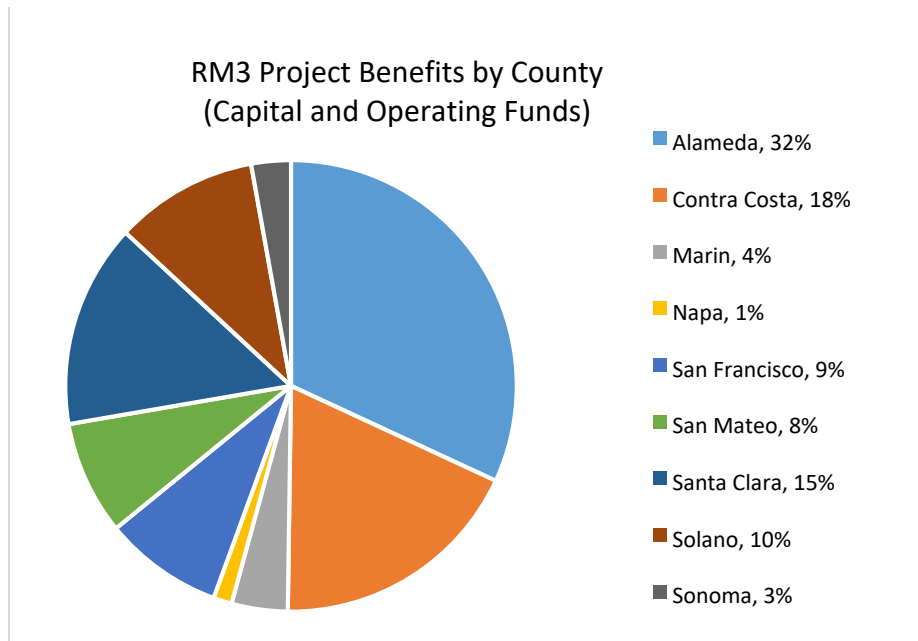
RM 3 established an independent Office of the BART Inspector General to ensure BART uses bridge toll funds and other revenues efficiently and effectively.

13. How much money is generated from bridge tolls today and where do these funds go?

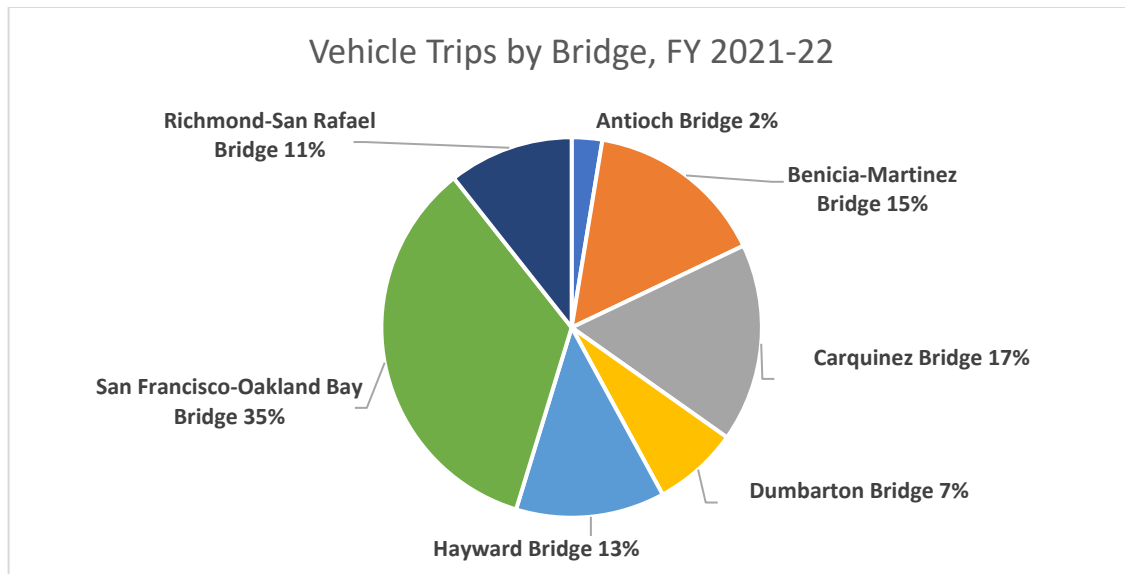
In FY 2021-22, toll revenue generated approximately \$756 million. Of this amount, \$362 million was for the seismic retrofit program and \$234 million was for Regional Measures 1 and 2. These funds pay for ongoing transit service along with debt service for the capital projects funded by the Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program, Regional Measures 1 and 2 and bridge maintenance and rehabilitation.

14. How much does each county benefit from the RM 3 expenditure plan?

MTC conducted an analysis of each capital and operating projects in the RM 3 plan and determined the following breakdown by county over a 25-year period.



15. What is the share of total vehicle trips by bridge?



16. When were the tolls last raised and by how much?

The table below provides a breakdown of the current \$7 toll rate for passenger vehicles.

Toll Increase	Amount
Regional Measure 1 (1989*)	\$1 (standardized all tolls at \$1)

Seismic Surcharge (1998)	\$1
Regional Measure 2 (2004)	\$1
Seismic Surcharge (2007)	\$1
Antioch/Dumbarton Seismic Surcharge (2010)	\$1
Regional Measure 3 (2019)	\$1
Regional Measure 3 (2022)	\$1
Total Auto Toll (2022)	\$7

* Regional Measure 1 was approved in 1988, but the toll increase went into effect on January 1, 1989.

17. What are Regional Measure 1 and Regional Measure 2?

Regional Measure 1 – approved by Bay Area voters in 1988 – established a uniform \$1 base toll on the Bay Area’s seven state-owned toll bridges. The toll increase ranged from 25 cents to 60 cents at six Bay Area toll bridges – tolls at the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, already \$1, were unchanged by the measure. BATA used the increased revenues to issue bonds that financed major bridge and highway projects throughout the region.

Voters in 2004 approved Regional Measure 2, raising the toll on the region’s seven state-owned toll bridges by \$1. The measure established a Regional Traffic Relief Plan to finance highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects in the bridge corridors and their approaches, and to provide operating funds for key transit services. See the chart below for a list of major capital projects financed through these measures.

Major RM 1 and RM 2 Projects	Regional Measure	Funds (Dollars in Millions)
New Benicia Bridge	1	\$1,200
Carquinez Bridge Replacement	1	\$518
Transbay Transit Center*	2	\$353
BART to Warm Springs*	2	\$304
e-BART/Highway 4 Widening	2	\$269
New I-880/92 Interchange	1	\$235
San Mateo-Hayward Bridge Widening	1	\$210

Oakland Airport Connector*	2	\$146
I-80 HOV Lanes/Truck Scales*	2	\$123
Richmond-San Rafael Trestle and Deck	1	\$117
SMART Rail Extension	2	\$82
AC Transit Rapid Bus	2	\$78
Transit Center Upgrades and New Buses	2	\$65
Regional Ferry Vessels	2	\$46
Bayfront Expressway Widening	1	\$36
BART Tube Seismic Retrofit	2	\$34

Note: Not a comprehensive list of expenditure plans. Projects marked with an asterisk have received additional toll revenues in addition to Regional Measure 2.

18. *How do Bay Area bridge toll rates compare to other major bridges, tunnels and toll roads?*

See the chart below for toll rate comparisons:

Facility	Standard Auto Toll
BATA Bridges	\$7.00
Golden Gate Bridge	\$8.80/\$8.40 (Plate/FasTrak)
MTA Verrazano Narrows Bridge	\$10.17/\$6.55 (Mail/EZ-Pass)
Port Authority of New York/New Jersey (Bridges and Tunnels)	\$17.00/\$14.75/\$12.75 Mail/Peak/Off-Peak