



January 30, 2017

Chairman Jim Beall  
Senate Transportation & Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2209  
Sacramento CA 95814

Chairman Jim Frazier  
Assembly Transportation Committee  
1020 N St, Room 112  
Sacramento CA 95814

Secretary Brian Kelly  
California State Transportation Agency  
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B  
Sacramento CA 95814

**Re: Transportation Funding Proposals in Governor's January Budget, Senate "California Rebuild" Infrastructure Package, and Assembly Bill 1**

Dear Senator Beall, Assemblymember Frazier, and Secretary Kelly,

The undersigned organizations represent active transportation, public transit, public health, social justice, environmental, and environmental justice organizations that have a strong interest in how California invests federal and state transportation dollars. Our coalition has actively participated in the transportation funding dialogue throughout the last two years, and provided recommendations aimed at improving past legislative and budget proposals.

We appreciate the importance of maintaining our existing road infrastructure, and the urgency to find a funding solution as maintenance costs continue to climb. With that recognition in mind we have focused our collective position on five priority recommendations, as well as support for provisions currently in print in one or more of the funding proposals. However, we still strongly believe that funding for our roads must be balanced with investments in a future transportation system that protects our environment, promotes social and economic justice, and improves our communities.

The three transportation funding proposals under consideration--the Governor's January Budget, SB 1, and AB 1--are not balanced. All three propose more than a billion dollars a year to build new and

expand existing roadways, in addition to several billion dollars more for road maintenance, dwarfing proposed investment to build and operate public transit systems and facilities for walking and bicycling.

**We support the “fix-it-first” concept in these proposals, and the following specific provisions for investment in active transportation, public transit, and cleaner air:**

- **Combine Legislative and Governor’s recommendations to the Active Transportation Program (Walking & Bicycling)** - We strongly support both the Governor’s Budget proposal for \$100 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), and the proposal in SB 1 and AB 1 for \$150 million from the State Highway Account to increase the Active Transportation Program (ATP). We recommend including both proposals in the final funding package to assist local communities in their efforts to build walking, bicycling, and safe routes to school projects and ensure that rural and urban communities alike share in the benefits of this program.
- **Increase Diesel Sales Tax 3.5% to State Transit Assistance** - Investing additional diesel sales tax of \$216 million in the State Transit Assistance Program, as proposed in SB 1 and AB 1, will be a meaningful down payment toward the larger investment needed to improve operation of existing transit service for individuals who rely on public transit to meet their daily needs.
- **Mitigate Pollution from Goods Movement per SB 4** - As outlined in SB 4, investments in electrification of freight trucks and equipment, and in freight corridors consistent with the Sustainable Freight Action Plan, would ensure cleaner air and reduction of harmful particulates for communities burdened by the freight industry.
- **Invest \$25 million for Sustainable Transportation Grants** - For years, regions have lacked the planning resources necessary to implement SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008) successfully. With the right criteria in place, this program will improve regional agencies’ ability to develop strong plans to implement climate and equity goals in their Sustainable Communities Strategies.

**However, we oppose any deal that does not also include the five key principles outlined below:**

1. **Advance Social and Economic Justice** - A specific provision should ensure significant investments from this package--not only from the ATP or GGRF programs--provide meaningful benefits for low income communities and people of color who are disproportionately in need of greater mobility, and bear the brunt of the health and safety impacts of our transportation system. This is especially true as vulnerable low-income individuals will pay more than their fair share of the regressive taxes proposed. No transportation investments should impose or increase harmful burdens to air quality or public health of communities, or result in displacement of households. This funding package also presents a great opportunity to create jobs for individuals with barriers to employment.
2. **Dramatically Increase Sustainable Funding for Operating Public Transit** - A significant revenue stream -- on the order of \$1 billion a year -- should be invested in boosting public transit operations and reducing fares, to provide high-quality, efficient transit service especially for low-income individuals and families.
3. **Align Transportation Investments with Our Air Quality & Climate Standards** - Transportation is the single largest emitter of air and climate pollutants in California. To attain federal, health-based clean air and our 2030 and 2050 climate standards, we must prioritize investments that reduce vehicle miles traveled, while also improving air quality, physical health, and access for those without a car. Any funding that could potentially expand freeways or add new road capacity must be tracked and mitigated with projects that contribute to attainment of our air quality and climate standards.
4. **Increase Expertise and Accountability in Decision-making** - The California Transportation Commission is responsible for oversight and approval of federal and state transportation dollars, and serves in an advisory role to the Legislature on transportation policy. As outlined in AB 179, future appointees to the Commission should be required to have expertise in social equity, sustainable transportation, and related policy areas to ensure accountability in investment of new and existing transportation revenue streams to advance state policy goals.

5. **Oppose Any Rollback of CEQA** - The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) allows agencies to review and develop critical mitigation strategies for environmental impacts created by transportation projects. CEQA compliance improves project outcomes, by offering opportunities to inform the public about project benefits, and for the public to inform the project. Sidestepping CEQA will heighten residents' suspicion about projects and undermine a review process designed to protect California's residents and valuable natural resources.

A funding package including these five reforms will ensure progress toward a transportation system that provides clean, affordable access to opportunity for all Californians, and that makes our communities healthy and safe places to live and work while addressing air quality and climate change. We look forward to working with your staff and other transportation stakeholders to find compromise on a revised transportation deal.

Sincerely,

**National & Statewide**

Jeanie Ward-Waller, Policy Director  
California Bicycle Coalition

Tony Dang, Executive Director  
California Walks

Joshua Stark, State Policy Director  
TransForm

Chanell Fletcher, Associate Director  
ClimatePlan

Kyle Jones, Policy Advocate  
Sierra Club California

Kimberly Chen, Government Affairs Manager  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)

Bill Sadler, California Senior Policy Manager  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH, Director  
Center for Climate Change and Health  
Public Health Institute

Rico Mastrodonato, Sr Government Relations Manager  
The Trust For Public Land

Richard Marcantonio, Managing Attorney  
Public Advocates Inc.

Julie Snyder, Legislative Advocate  
Planning & Conservation League

Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO  
PolicyLink

Laura R. Cohen, J.D., Director, Western Region  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Kristen Pawling, LA Urban Solutions Coordinator  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Bill Magavern, Policy Director  
Coalition for Clean Air

Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)

Amy Vanderwarker, Co-Director  
California Environmental Justice Alliance

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Senior Director, Air Quality and  
Climate Change  
American Lung Association in California

Phoebe Seaton & Veronica Garibay, Co-Directors  
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability

Manal J. Aboelata, MPH, Managing Director  
Prevention Institute

Jena Price, Legislative Affairs Manager  
California League of Conservation Voters

Benjamin D. Winig, Vice President, Law & Policy  
ChangeLab Solutions

Joel Ervice, Associate Director  
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention  
(RAMP), A Project of the Public Health Institute

Lisa Hershey, Executive Director  
Housing California

Matt Schwartz, President & CEO  
California Housing Partnership

Orson Aguilar, President  
The Greenlining Institute

John Shaban, President  
Gamaliel of California

James K. Knox, Vice President, Government Relations  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

## **LA County & Inland Valley**

Jessica Meaney, Executive Director  
Investing in Place

Gloria Ohland, Policy & Communications Director  
Move LA

Tamika L. Butler, Esq., Executive Director  
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

Michele Hasson, Policy Advocate/Specialist  
Center for Community Action & Environmental Justice  
(CCA EJ)

Bryn Lindblad, Associate Director  
Climate Resolve

Emilia Crotty, Policy & Program Manager  
Los Angeles Walks

Steve Gerhardt, Project Coordinator  
Walk Long Beach

Claire Robinson, Managing Director  
Amigos de Los Rios

Taylor Thomas, Research & Policy Analyst  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Wesley Reutimann, Project Director  
Bike San Gabriel Valley

Megan McClaire, Director of Health Equity  
Advancement Project

## **San Joaquin Valley**

Rev. Earl W. Koteen, Member, Coor Cmte  
Sunflower Alliance

Kevin D. Hamilton, CEO  
Central California Asthma Collaborative

Katelyn Roedner Sutter, Environmental Justice  
Program Manager  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton

Sopac McCarthy Mulholland, President and CEO  
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Genoveva Islas, Program Director  
Cultiva la Salud

Margarita Rocha, Executive Director  
Centro la Familia

## **Sacramento & North State**

Kirin Kumar, Executive Director  
WALKSacramento

John Deeter & Ralph Propper, Transportation, Air  
Quality & Climate Change Committee Co-Chairs  
Environmental Council of Sacramento

Emily Sinkhorn, Deputy Director  
Redwood Community Action Agency

Neil Davis, RN PHN, Director  
Walk & Bike Mendocino

Anne Wallach Thomas, Director  
Shasta Living Streets

Lino Pedres, President  
Capital Region Organizing Project

Tim Hornbecker, Executive Director  
The Arc of California

## **Bay Area**

Bob Allen, Policy & Advocacy Campaign Director  
Urban Habitat

Jim Elias, Executive Director  
Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Alisha O'Loughlin, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

Shiloh Ballard, Executive Director  
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Nicole Ferrara, Executive Director  
Walk San Francisco

Dave Campbell, Advocacy Director  
Bike East Bay

Dave Campbell, Board Member  
Walk Oakland Bike Oakland

Brian Wiedenmeier, Executive Director  
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Alvaro Palacios Casanova, Environmental Scientist  
and Strategist  
Center for Environmental Health

Eddie H. Ahn, Executive Director  
Brightline Defense

Evelyn Stivers, Executive Director  
Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County

Peter Strauss, Executive Board Member  
San Francisco Transit Riders

Omar Medina, President  
North Bay Organizing Project

Rev. Hubert Ivery, President  
Genesis

Harry Chomsky, Core Member  
Albany Strollers & Rollers

Odie Dancer, Founder  
Pathway's to Right-of-Way's Inc.

### **San Diego**

Joy Williams, Research Director  
Environmental Health Coalition

James D. Stone, Executive Director  
Circulate San Diego

Nicole Capretz, Executive Director  
Climate Action Campaign

Andy Hanshaw, Executive Director  
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition

Randy Van Vleck, Active Transportation Manager  
City Heights Community Development Corp.

Ken Herman, President  
Justice Overcoming Boundaries

### **Central Coast**

Mike Bennett, Executive Director  
Bike SLO County

Eve Sanford, Advocacy Associate  
Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition

Eva Inbar, President  
Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

Janneke Strause, Executive Director  
Bike Santa Cruz County

Rick Longinotti, Chair  
Campaign for Sensible Transportation

Debbie Bulger, Coordinator  
Mission: Pedestrian

Beverly Shelton, Family Coordinator  
A to Z Families for Safe Streets