

September 1, 2009

Scott Haggerty
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth St
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: STP/CMAQ funding allocations

Dear MTC Chair Haggerty, Programming and Allocations Committee Chair Kinsey and Commissioners:

We are writing to express our strong concerns with the MTC proposed funding allocations for the Transportation 2035 "Core Programs" under STP/CMAQ Cycles 1 and 2, as were put forth in the June 23, 2009 staff report. We feel that these recommendations short-change the Bay Area's commitment to climate protection.

The Transportation 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which MTC adopted in April 2009, recognizes the enormity of the climate challenge we face and clearly shows that infrastructure investments alone will not meet the region's climate goals; focused growth and creative demand management solutions are also needed.

The T2035 plan, developed over more than two years with much publicity and an extensive public process which resulted in input from thousands of Bay Area residents, calls for:

- Fully funding the Transportation Climate Action Campaign for \$400 million in the first five years of the plan,
- Increasing funding for the Regional Bicycle Network to \$1 billion over the course of the plan, and
- More than doubling funding for the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) program to \$2.2 billion over the course of the plan.

Yet the proposed STP/CMAQ funding allocations provide only 17% of funding for the well-publicized, popular, and needed Transportation Climate Action Campaign and funds the popular Regional Bicycle Network and TLC programs at levels lower than previous years.

The Transportation Climate Action Campaign was originally submitted to MTC by the Joint Policy Committee (JPC), comprised of the JPC's four regional agencies. There was wide support from MTC Commissioners and the public for this program during the development of the Regional Transportation Plan. In particular, we wish to remind you that the Transportation Climate Action Campaign was proposed as a five-year program due to the urgency to be proactive about addressing the significant contribution that the transportation sector makes to climate change and the interest in pursuing a number of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate the relative effectiveness so that there might be additional focused investments in climate programs in the 2013 RTP.

Under SB 375, the region will need to achieve ambitious greenhouse gas emission reductions from transportation. Therefore, it is critical that we move forward with the Climate program now, during Cycles 1 and 2 of the STP/CMAQ programming. We understand that due to funding constraints it is not feasible to allocate funds at the levels anticipated in the RTP at this time. However, since revenue projections have not changed substantially, we are very concerned that the current proposal does not reflect the intention of the Commission to fund a five-year Transportation Climate Action Campaign at the beginning of the RTP.

As such, we propose that the Commission:

1. Prioritize investment in the Transportation Climate Action Campaign by investing as many STP/CMAQ dollars as possible in this program after meeting basic commitments to other programs as described in recommendations 2-4 below. We believe that a minimum of \$200 million should be invested within the six-year STP/CMAQ cycle.
2. Provide at least the same level of funding as in previous years for the Regional Bicycle Network (\$8 million/year) and Transportation for Livable Communities (\$27 million/year) programs.
3. Maintain the June 23 staff recommendation for Transit Capital Rehabilitation and Regional Streets and Roads Rehabilitation.
4. Fund the Freeway Performance Initiative proportionally as compared with the other regional programs as described in the RTP and use the Prop 1B loan repayment to fund the Freeway Performance Initiative, freeing up \$70 million in STP/CMAQ funds for other uses.

The majority of cities in the region have voluntarily chosen to become part of the FOCUS program by nominating one or more Priority Development Areas. Early allocation of funding for the TLC program, strategically directed to the PDAs, is critically important to ensure continued commitment from these cities to the focused growth program. Focused growth is a long-term strategy for reducing vehicle trips and associated greenhouse gas emissions and for creating affordable transportation choices for all, including low-income residents and communities of color. Therefore, early investments in land use such as those included in the TLC program are critical for enabling our region to meet the long-term state greenhouse gas reduction goals of bringing emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

STP/CMAQ funds are limited but provide flexibility that other funding sources do not. Therefore, we must allocate them strategically. We urge the Commission to identify other funding sources for projects that may be funded through other revenue sources. That is why we propose that the Freeway Performance Initiative could be partially paid for through the repayment of MTC's \$70 million loan of ARRA funds to the Proposition 1B program.

MTC has been praised for its public outreach process, and its commitment to climate protection. Now is the time to move forward with fulfilling the commitments in the RTP.

Sincerely,

Bob Allen
Transportation & Housing Program Director, Urban Habitat



Michael Allen
Chair, Accountable Development Coalition



Kim Baenisch
Executive Director, Marin County Bicycle Coalition



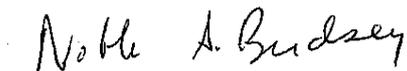
Judith Bell
President, PolicyLink



Kari Binley
Executive Director, Sustainable San Mateo County



Rocky Birdsey
Advocacy Director, Marin Center for Independent Living



Andrew Casteel
Executive Director, Bay Area Bicycle Coalition

Andrew Casteel

Manish Champsee
President, Walk San Francisco

Manish Champsee

Stuart Cohen
Executive Director, TransForm

Stuart Cohen

Christine Culver
Executive Director, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

Ch. Culver

Mike Daly
Sierra Club Representative, TransForm

Mike Daly

Wendy Hilberman
Executive Director, Napa County Bicycle Coalition

Wendy Hilberman

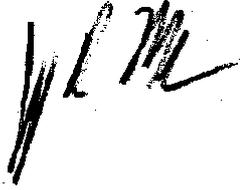
Deb Hubsmith
Director, Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Deb Hubsmith

Ian Kim
Green-Collar Jobs Campaign Director, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Ian Kim

Jeremy Madsen
Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance

Handwritten signature of Jeremy Madsen, consisting of stylized initials 'JM'.

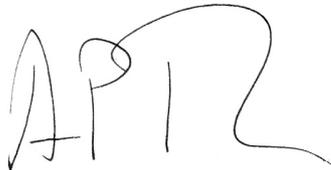
Robert Raburn
Executive Director, East Bay Bicycle Coalition

Handwritten signature of Robert Raburn in cursive script.

Diane Spaulding
Executive Director, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California

Handwritten signature of Diane Spaulding in cursive script.

Andy Thornley
Executive Director, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Handwritten signature of Andy Thornley, consisting of stylized initials 'AT'.

Corinne Winter
Executive Director, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Handwritten signature of Corinne Winter in cursive script.