



Post Office Box 1526 | Sacramento, CA 95812-1526

March 14, 2022

Mayor and Council Members
City of Sacramento
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via email (listed below)

SUBJECT: March 15 City Council Agenda Item No. 12.
Transportation Priorities Plan Prioritization Criteria, Metrics, and Points

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the City's plan to prioritize transportation projects. ECOS recommends:

- 1) The schedule for developing the TPP plan should be accelerated so projects can be eligible for funding sooner and built sooner.
- 2) SacRT's transit system should be the backbone around which the City's transportation projects are selected, to make existing transit station areas and transit corridors more walkable and livable. This approach is consistent with state law (SB375, SB743), regional policies (SACOG Blueprint, Green Means Go), and it would enable the leveraging of federal grants.

Over the past year, the City has surveyed the public and identified priorities for equity, air quality, access to destinations, safety, and maintenance. These good priorities will have the most effect from the climate, equity, and mobility points of view if they are applied along major bus routes and around light rail stations.

We can make more of our transit infrastructure in Sacramento. Consider the Place de l'Homme-de-Fer in Strasbourg, France in which buildings frame the space and the large canopy creates the place. People enjoy being there, and we can make places like that here.



At the City Council's February 8 workshop, SACOG's James Corless said the City needs a vision that clearly lays out the benefits to climate and social and racial equity, in order to be competitive for Federal Infrastructure funding.

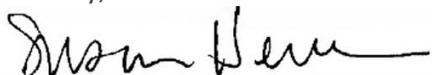
Active transportation improvements with transit and transit-oriented development (TOD) can yield:

- Convenience and a healthy and car-free lifestyle. By funding walkability and safety projects near transit and modifying land use and zoning to support high density TOD, daily shopping can be just a short walk away, with local and regional destinations accessible by transit.
- Equity improvements. SacRT's transit system connects a range of neighborhoods. Transportation improvement projects can be selected for lower income areas that have been historically disadvantaged.
- Good transit ridership results, and less GHG emissions. The decades-old analogy of pearls on a necklace for TOD is still a good model for Sacramento and most other cities. Robert Cervero of UC Berkeley noted that as opposed to origins and destinations that produce peak-hour commuters, TODs along transit corridors produce transit riders throughout the day:

"Another important ridership dimension of TODs is their mixed-use attributes. Some destinations, like offices and residences, produce trips during peak hours when trains and buses are often full. Others, like entertainment complexes, restaurants, and retail shops, generate trips mainly during off-peak hours, helping to squeeze efficiencies into the deployment of costly rail services. When mixed-use TODs are aligned along linear corridors—like **"pearls on a necklace"**—trip origins and destinations are evenly spread out, producing efficient bi-directional flows. . . This is in contrast to many U.S. settings, where peak-period trains and buses are filled to the brim in one direction but nearly empty in the other. Mixed and balanced land uses ensure mixed and balanced traffic flows."
[Transit-Oriented Development in the United States: Experiences, Challenges, and Prospects. Transit Cooperative Research Program, TCRP Report 102. 2004]

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Herre
ECOS President

Mayor - Darrell Steinberg, Chief of Staff Kelly Fong Rivas, kfrivas@cityofsacramento.org

Vice Mayor - Jay Schenirer, District 5, jschenirer@cityofsacramento.org

Angelique Ashby, District 1, aashby@cityofsacramento.org

Sean Loloee, District 2, sloloee@cityofsacramento.org

Jeff Harris, District 3, jsharris@cityofsacramento.org

Katie Valenzuela, District 4, kvalenzuela@cityofsacramento.org

Eric Guerra, District 6, eguerra@cityofsacramento.org

Rick Jennings II, District 7, rjennings@cityofsacramento.org

Mai Vang, District 8, district8@cityofsacramento.org

City Manager - Howard Chan, hchan@cityofsacramento.org

Assistant City Manager Public Works - Hector Barron, hbarron@cityofsacramento.org

Jennifer Venema jvenema@cityofsacramento.org

Jennifer Donlon Wyant jdonlonwyant@cityofsacramento.org

publiccomment@cityofsacramento.org