

# SAC MOVES

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## Partner Organizations

2021-2022:



AARP

ACT



RiderShip for the Masses



SARA



Sacramento Regional Rail Working Group

Sacramento Splash

Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter

Sierra Club, Sacramento Group

SKK Enterprises

The 50 Corridor TMA



March 15, 2022

To: Mayor Steinberg and City Councilmembers

Re: March 15 City Council Agenda Item No.12, Transportation Priorities Plan

For the past two years, SacMoves has been leading a broad-based coalition of business, labor and community groups united behind a common vision that Sacramento should have an innovative, seamless, and diversified transportation network offering a wide range of accessible, affordable, and efficient mobility choices coupled with supportive land uses, better air quality, safer neighborhoods, and a stronger and more equitable economy. To that end, we have consistently advocated for the inclusion of projects and policies in transportation, land use, and climate action plans for the City, the Sacramento Transportation Authority, SACOG, and the greater Sacramento region that are consistent with the groundbreaking work of the Mayors' Climate Change Commission.

Once again, we write to implore you to act swiftly to take comprehensive and bold action to transform transportation in the City and the region. Such a transformation is nonnegotiable if we are to begin to respond to the imminent threat of climate change; it is also essential in fostering equity, addressing traffic safety, increasing the livability of our neighborhoods, and improving air quality.

Just a few weeks ago the Council held a workshop titled Climate and Transportation. Yet the Transportation Priorities Plan before you, which proposes analyzing 700 transportation projects that have been proposed by council members over the past twenty years, would appear to adopt the status quo and does not establish addressing climate change as one of the criteria. Our city is in dire need of a transportation plan that reflects the current century. **Again, we urge you to direct your City Manager to set aside staff and resources to develop and implement a comprehensive active transportation and public transit framework for the city.**

That being said, we offer the following comments on the criteria proposed in the plan before you. The criteria themselves are all important aspects of analyzing transportation projects. **In particular, the coalition is pleased to see equity as one of the proposed criteria.** It is essential that we prioritize investments in our underserved communities. Only then will we achieve an equitable and healthy Sacramento.

However, the criteria do not adequately address the climate crisis or the critical need to become competitive for increased state and federal funding.

As the City Council acknowledged in December 2019, climate change constitutes an emergency. In Sacramento, transportation is the source of over 50% of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Yet, our efforts to curb its impact on our environment remain woefully inadequate. “Air quality,” which is important and is one of the proposed criteria, is affected by greenhouse gas emissions but is not a proxy for addressing climate change. **In order to meet our local and regional climate goals, the criteria must include the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled.** The Criteria must also include competitiveness for state and federal and matching funds. We have heard consistently that the City of Sacramento does not receive “its share” of available state and federal funds. With the influx of funding for transportation infrastructure, along with clear priorities on climate change, land use, and equity that have been established by both the state and federal administrations, **it is imperative that the City not squander this opportunity and that projects be selected based on their competitiveness for the available funds.**

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. While we continue to push for bolder action on these issues, we are appreciative of your staff’s efforts, particularly in the area of engagement. We remain hopeful and eager to work with you and your staff on a transportation and transit framework that reflects the vision we all have for a sustainable city.

Yours truly,

**SacMoves Coalition**

Anne Stausboll, former Chair, Mayor’s Commission on Climate Change

Steve Cohn, President, Breathe California Sacramento Region

Roger Dickinson

Angela E. Herring

Glenn Jackson Jr.

Becky Heieck, Jibe

Rosanna Herber, SMART Steering Committee

Ali, Doerr, 350 Sacramento

Emel Wadhvani, Midtown Neighborhood Association

Debra Banks, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA)

Civic Thread

Doug Thompson

Susan Herre, President, ECOS

Glenda Marsh, Chair, SMART

Julia Burrows

cc: Howard Chan, City Manager

Michael Jasso, Assistant City Manager

Hector Barron, Assistant City Manager

Lucinda Willcox, Program Manager, Public Works

Jennifer Donlon-Wyant, City Transportation Planning Manager

Jennifer Venema, City Climate Action Lead