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Members of the task force: I watched the video of meeting number 9, agenda item 8, on reducing costs for major transit projects. It is on that topic I would like to add a public comment.

Staff recommendations presented on the two slides have value, but I believe they are not nearly sufficient. I reviewed the letter sent to you by the group Californians for Electric Rail and I believe those recommendations are much more fundamental. They also align closely with recommendations from the NYU Transit Cost Project.

As we are finding out with efforts to reform land use and zoning, nibbling at the edges will not produce substantial results. I believe this is a singular point in time where big changes are possible because so many people are now aware of how we have inadvertently built a governance structure that almost guarantees failure.

I encourage you to be bold: study Spain, study Italy, study the other countries leading at producing cost-effective, high ridership HSR and transit projects. Bring their best practices here! Let's copy how to build big projects that contribute to an integrated statewide transportation plan and deliver them on time and within budget.

Kind regards,

Mark + iPad